

Skipper needs nod from wife

JAMES BRESNEHAN | January 02, 2012 12.01am Font size: Email article:

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HE'S got a great boat, a crew champing at the bit, now only one thing stands in the way of Anthony Bell bringing Investec Loyal back to defend its line honours title later this year - his wife.

As the supermaxi's crew was showered in silverware at the official prize giving at the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania yesterday, Bell said he could not wait to have another crack at the title many believed he could not win.

But the Sydney finance millionaire must first get the nod from the "boss".

"When I first started this sailing thing, my wife Kelly said: How long will this go on for?" And I said: "Until we get a victory," Bell said.

"I thought that would buy me at least 10 or 20 years, so now I should probably go to her and see if she'll let me back down on that promise.

"It was one of those great experiences that you might get only once in every three lifetimes.

"So to do it, and taste victory, you'd have to be mad not to want to go around again."

Investec Loyal not only won the race by 3min8sec over five-times winner Wild Oats XI - the fourth-closest finish in history - their campaign also raised \$1 million for charity.

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"The primary thing at the start of our sailing campaign was about raising money for charity, and we've done that," Bell said.

"We believed in the boat when the critics said it couldn't go any faster and it can't win races. We proved everybody wrong."

Local hero Justin "Juggy" Clougher and crewmate Rob Scrivenor had the honour of collecting the line honours prizes, including the Illingworth Trophy, from Governor Peter Underwood.

Wild Oats collected a trophy as the first yacht out of Sydney Heads on Boxing Day, while the crew of overall handicap winner Loki collected the Tattersalls Trophy and skipper Stephen Ainsworth got a yacht master watch from Rolex.

IRC division four was an all-Tasmanian affair, with Wild Rose, skippered by Sydney-based Tasmanian Roger Hickman, the winner over Hobart yacht Whistler.

As the best-performed local yacht on IRC handicap, Whistler claimed the TasPorts Trophy and its navigator, skipper David Rees' brother Jonathon, received the City of Hobart Trophy.

Justin Well's green machine Dump Truck, also of Hobart, celebrated a super Sydney-Hobart by collecting second in

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