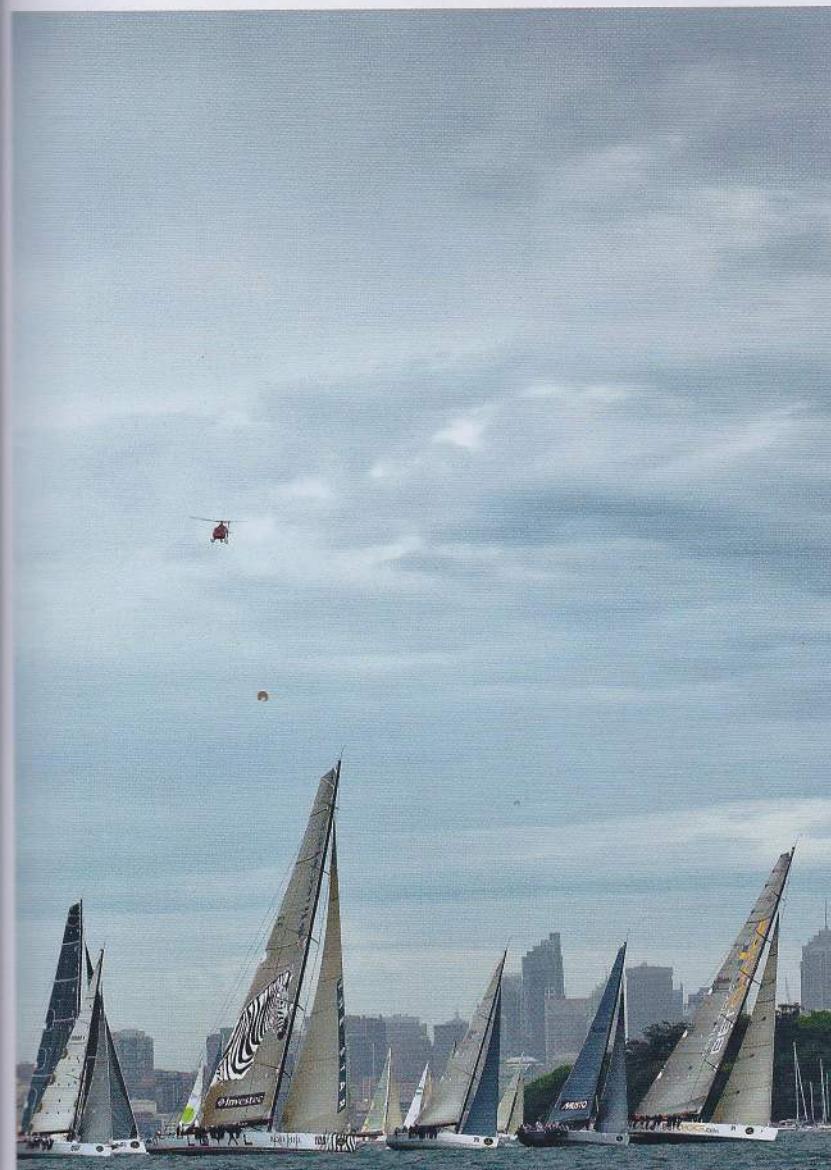


With her usual strong crew, *Wild Oats XI* sported new twin daggerboards and a 3Di square top main, made from the latest in North

ANTHONY BELL  
*Investec Loyal*

|||||

*Wild Oats XI* continued to lead *Investec Loyal* on Day 2. Late morning she was in 15 knots at Green Cape,



At the back of the fleet, Sean Langman, co-owner of *Investec Loyal*

**Left: Right from the starter's gun the Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race was set to be a tight race. The super maxis jostle with the smaller yachts to position themselves well as they go through Sydney heads.**



A large sailboat with a grey sail featuring the 'MUSTO' logo and 'SH 5252' is sailing on a choppy sea. A tall, rugged rock formation is visible in the background under an overcast sky.



"*Wild Oats XI* is such a fantastic, professionally-run campaign by the Oatley family and, to have them compete so fiercely, accelerated and heightened the value to us. They are the benchmark of super maxi racing in the world," he said.

*Loki* and *Hugo Boss*, 63ft and 60ft respectively, sailed the rhumbline to their benefits, and kept up an average speed of 18 knots. That action all but sealed the deal for *Loki*, after she sailed a flawless race to finish fourth on line at 3.20am on December 29.

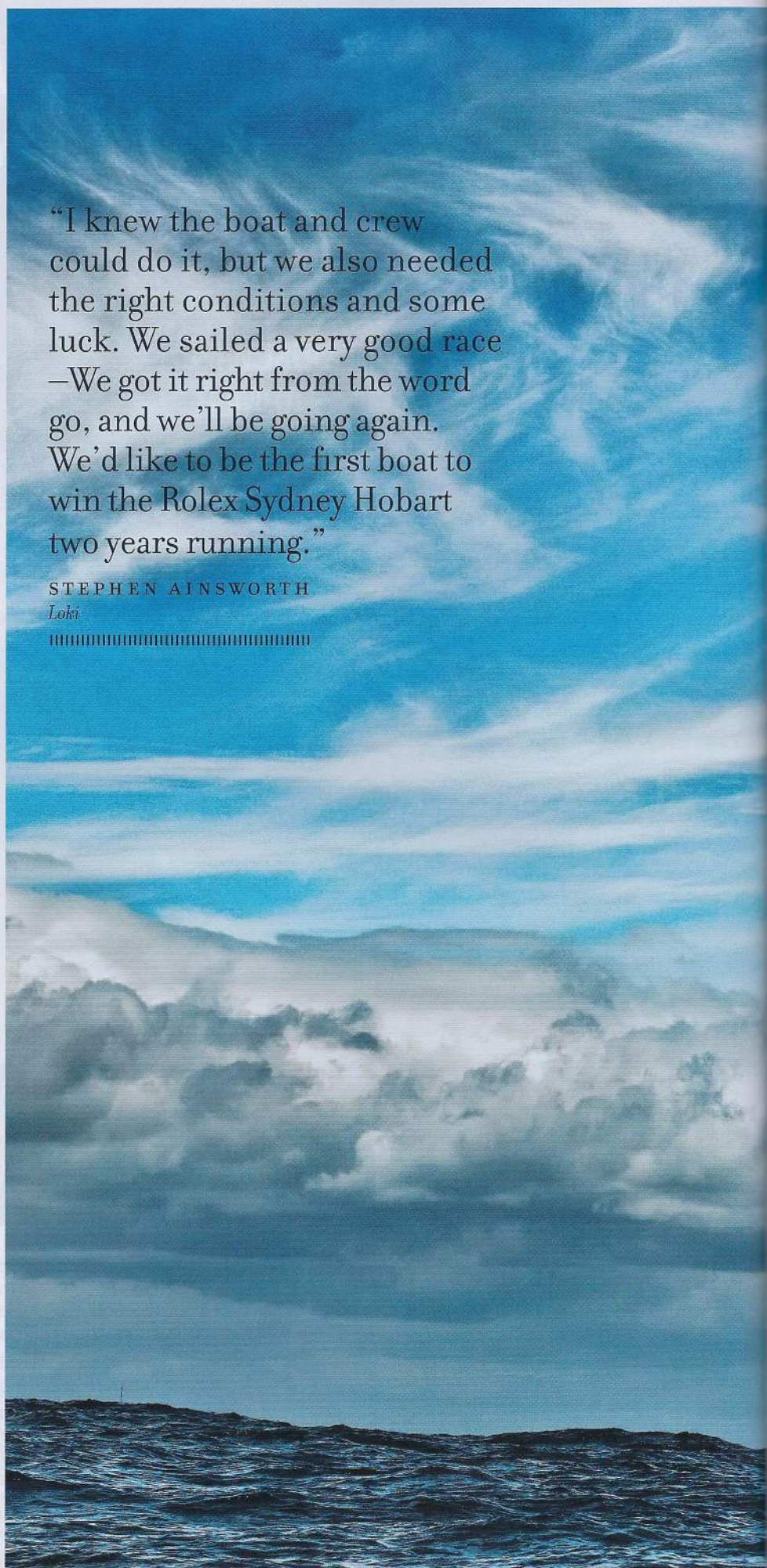
However, boats in the 40-50ft range were in the running, especially *Wild Rose*, which won the 1993 race overall under IOR in conjunction with IMS winner, *Cuckoos Nest*.

Clitheroe reported: "Good grief; another southerly. We were having a nice cruise across Bass Strait and to the east of Tasmania until the predicted southerly hit us around 2.00am.

"Crew wet and cold, but I've promised more jugs of rum for each hour they hang on the rail. Being a bunch of cheap buggers, that's likely to keep them there for days."

“I knew the boat and crew could do it, but we also needed the right conditions and some luck. We sailed a very good race – We got it right from the word go, and we’ll be going again. We’d like to be the first boat to win the Rolex Sydney Hobart two years running.”

Loki





a magnificent 9.8 nautical miles covered overnight.

"I was telling my Hobart novices that they were lucky to see Tasman Island in the sunset, but I was sad they would miss the Organ Pipes. Little did I expect they would see them at sunrise," exclaimed Clitheroe, who fell from fourth to 18th overall, one place behind *Victoire*, because of the lull.

Incredibly, *Two True* finished equal 12th with the same corrected time as fellow Beneteau 40, *Lunchtime Legend*; the new yacht of Queenslander Robbo Robertson.

*Wild Rose* finished seventh overall at

year-old Reichel/Pugh 63 was designed "to be an ocean racing boat – and to get through a bad Hobart." *Loki*'s highlights include winning the CYCA Blue Water Pointscore and Audi IRC Australian Championship in 2010 and breaking race records throughout two seasons.

Michael Bellingham, Ainsworth's navigator of 11 years and the Ocean Racing Navigator of the Year, gave a rundown: "We got a great start and headed out to sea in clear air – so crew morale was high.

"Lots of boats were in touch with us in Bass Strait. The 28th was a big day, because the fleet compressed a bit.

but credits his crew, which included sailing master Gordon Maguire, Bellingham and Anthony Merrington.

Other points of interest in this great race comprise Tony 'Clark' Cable contesting a record 46th race aboard Damien Parkes' *Duende*. "It was very disappointing not finishing. We had experts aboard working hard to fix the engine, but it wasn't to be."

Adrienne Cahalan competed in her 20th Hobart, the most by any woman. At 84, Syd Fischer was the oldest competitor sailing his 43rd race, and crewman Tony Ellis his 45th. On Fischer's yachts they have racked up a record 39 together.

At 18, single-handed round the world sailor Jessica Watson was the youngest skipper in the race. She was joined by other 18-year old first time skippers, Chris Percy and Peter Langman – although neither has anywhere near her vast ocean experience.

Watson's *Ella Bache* crew enters the record books as the youngest ever to contest the race after they finished the Sydney 38 Division in second. The crowd that surrounded Watson in Hobart was phenomenal.

Martin Power's *Bacardi* sailed her 27th race, equalling Phillip's *Footie Witchdoctor*'s record.

There were many father and son combinations; among them three generations of Robert Scrivenors, the latest aboard *Investec Loyal*, while dad did duty on the Radio Relay Vessel. Like other young sailors in the race, Robert is a product of the CYCA's Youth Academy.

Three fathers and six sons sailed on the American yacht *Carina*. Owner, Rives Potts, Rear Commodore of the New York Yacht Club in Newport, paid his respects to the CYCA and the race in his email to Commodore Garry Linacre.

"I want to thank you very, very much for all the help you gave us and the warm hospitality you and all of your members showed us. The welcoming given to us by the CYCA and the people of Sydney exceeded our wildest expectations," Potts wrote.

"From the great personal service from David Kellett and Peter Wrigley on boatyard and customs issues, to the terrific job Dan Dawick did in processing our paperwork, to the cooks, the girls at the front desk and in the media tent... we could not have asked for more.

"You have a beautiful club and it is clearly well managed under your good leadership. I can promise you, we will be back. All of us agree that the whole experience was the best racing experience that we have ever had," ↓



3.26pm on December 30, well outside the 8.12am time needed to overcome *Loki* for the win.

"It's the fulfilment of a dream," Ainsworth said of *Loki*'s triumph. You enter the race every year hoping and give it your best shot every time," he said of winning on his 14th try.

"I knew the boat and crew could do it, but we also needed the right conditions and some luck. We sailed a very good race – the critical part was always going to be the Tassie coast. We looked and saw where those in front of us were and knew we were well placed.

"We got it right from the word go, and we'll be going again. We'd like to be the first boat to win the Rolex Sydney Hobart two years running," said Ainsworth, who was crowned CYCA Ocean Racer of the Year in December.

The CYCA member said his three

The smaller boats caught up time on us and the bigger boats sailed away a bit."

As *Loki* reached the Tasmanian coast, Bellingham says: "We decided to gybe against a shift to get into pressure quicker. We knew the wind was there; we saw the bigger boats get it. We could see a sea breeze down to Wineglass Bay.

"At Maria Island was a south/easterly, so when we got to Wineglass, we gybed and dropped our kite and kept moving. We sailed the rhumbline course with *Hugo Boss* – but she went too close to shore and we didn't – we were smoking."

Bellingham and Ainsworth agreed the race was probably won on the Tasmanian coast. Winning the Tattersall's Cup has capped off *Loki*'s many great successes and Ainsworth is now proudly wearing the reward of a new Rolex Yacht-Master timepiece,

#### RECORD BREAKERS

Jessica Watson's *Ella Bache* crew enters the record books as the youngest ever to contest the race with an average age of 19 years old.