

Boating

New Zealand's

BOATS of 2009

RACING YACHT

1st

Elliott 9SS

Overload

Just as in the real world of yacht racing, the contenders in the racing division of our Boats of '09 feature ran an extremely close race.

Our winner was the Elliott 9SS canting-keeler *Overload*, a yacht that thoroughly impressed our reviewer with her blinding

speed, although she was mindful of the skill required to sail such a thoroughbred.

"Under jib top *Overload* felt like a dinghy: sensitive to trim, quick to accelerate, and her stiff, carbon construction feels the bumps." Although only 30-feet long, *Overload* performs like

a much larger boat: "... into the wind... she suddenly changed gears, and felt like a much bigger boat," our reviewer reported.

Her owners consider *Overload* a dual-purpose boat, for harbour and coastal racing. They proved her coastal racing mettle in the recent HSBC Premier Coastal

Classic, at the same time endorsing our panel's faith in her. *Overload* came in eighth over the line in Division One, first on handicap – not bad for a 30-footer. Our second and third racing yacht choices took out second and third places on handicap in the same event.