

NEWS FROM ROHI AND JACK

DAY 1- 2008 TORNADO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Day 1 presented fine and sunny. Rohi and Jack, the youngest team in the championships, got into the water at 11 am as per plan. This early start was to test the boat as they had been out of the water for 6 days. Several days of the previous week had been taken up with gear repair and boat preparation, *then* nobody sailed for a few days as Auckland was battered by 30 – 60knot winds!

What a *good* plan that proved to be! After about 15 minutes on the water the main sheet traveller car broke and the boys still had time to get back to shore, borrow a replacement and hit the water again before most of the other teams had even launched! Great thinking!

Race 1 began at 1pm and the boys got a good start. Observers witnessed several incidents of crew or helmsman overboard! The conditions were shifty throughout the race with a 10 knot breeze interspersed with gusting to 20+ knot bullets. Our team crossed the finish line in 25th place out of the 52 boats. As the second Australian team over the line they were not so very far behind the first Australian team, Darren Bundock and Glen Ashby (the current Olympic silver medal holders and ISAF ranked No. 1), who crossed in 15th place. Behind the boys were several Olympic qualifying teams from Great Britain, China, Austria, Brazil, Spain, Poland, Venezuela, plus 7 New Zealand Teams and the remaining 5 Australian teams. Unfortunately, fellow Territorians, Damian Ford and Mark Edmunds, experienced main sheet troubles at the start line and didn't complete Race 1.

Race 2 began at about 3.30pm and the boys got jammed in on the start line. The upwind leg saw them choosing what turned out to be the wrong first tack leaving them in an unfavourable position and well back in the field. They fought back throughout the race and worked their way up to finish in 34th place. Not very happy with this race they are looking to getting back in the 20s tomorrow. But competition is hot – the best in the world!

At the end of Day 1 they are sitting in 30th place out of the 52 Open (and very experienced competitors) but we think first in the World Youth division, their original target.

Mention should go to the great hospitality from our mates, the Kiwis, who greeted all sailors at the end of the race with a huge hunger-diminishing pasta meal from a local eatery sponsored by the local council.