

Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron

Protest Hearing

and

Request for Redress

Gondwana vs Catapult (SASC)

Saturday 21st March 2009

Hearing at RSYS at 1800 on Wednesday 25th March

Protest Committee: Chris Harper, David Flakelar, Peter Davison

The protest submitted by Gondwana was found to be valid. Catapult was not represented at the hearing.

Facts Found:

1. Gondwana was competing in Division 2 of RSYS SIS. Catapult was competing in racing conducted by Sydney Amateur Sailing Club.
2. During the last minute of her starting sequence, Gondwana was on Starboard tack, close hauled and approaching the RSYS line to start. Catapult was racing, close hauled on port tack and on a collision course with Gondwana.
3. As the boats approached, Gondwana twice hailed "starboard". Catapult did not alter course.
4. Believing a collision was imminent, Gondwana altered course to port to attempt to pass astern of Catapult.
5. Then Catapult altered course by sharply bearing away to pass astern of Gondwana.
6. The bow of Catapult collided with the port side of Gondwana and caused considerable damage. The hull was penetrated below the toe rail and the toe rail was separated from the deck and several sheets were severed. . There were no injuries.
7. Catapult retired from racing.
8. After examination of the damage, Gondwana continued racing although she was in excess of two minutes late at the start. There was further lost time on the first spinnaker leg while spinnaker lines were re-rigged.
9. Gondwana finished 6th on scratch and was 6th on corrected time **(Margaret:Please check)**.

Rules Applicable: 10, 62.1(b)

Conclusion : As give-way boat, Catapult failed to keep clear and caused significant damage to Gondwana. Whilst she was able to continue racing, Gondwana's position in the race was made worse through no fault of her own.

Decision: Redress is granted. Gondwana's elapsed time in the race is to be reduced by three minutes.

Chris Harper

Chairman