

***Maserati* and Giovanni Soldini back on the offensive in fourth position after windless hiatus**

**Expected to arrive in Hobart tonight**

**Line honours in 71<sup>st</sup> RSHYR go to 100' *Comanche***

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Rolex Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race

After spending several hours mired in a windless bubble, Giovanni Soldini and the *Maserati* team have picked up speed again and are now making 10-12 knots. *Ragamuffin 100*, which the Italian VOR 70 engaged in an incredible match race yesterday, was more fortunate, and is now in third, 40 miles ahead.

In the meantime, the two Australian boats immediately behind *Maserati*, *Ichi Ban* and *Chinese Whisper*, managed to stay in the wind and have closed the gap with her to only around 15 miles.

Giovanni Soldini explained the situation: "The weather forecast models proved unreliable: both put the bubble about 50 miles further north, but in actual fact, it arrived right over our heads. We tried our best to catch even the slightest breath of air to get towards the pressure but, as ever, Aeolus, the God of Wind, decided when we emerged. One thing is certain though: the six or seven hours we spent becalmed will cost us dear. We're now flying the spi in a 15-knot wind and gybing along the coast".

American boat *Comanche* has taken line honours in the 71<sup>st</sup> Rolex Sydney Hobart Yacht Race. Designed by Verdier Yacht Design & VPLP and helmed by skipper Ken Read, the 100' crossed the finish-line at 21:58:30 local time (10:58:30 GMT, 11:58:30 Italian time), having covered the 628 miles between Sydney and Hobart in 2 days, 8 hours, 58 minutes, 30 seconds.

A total of 32 boats retired in all in this edition, including *Wild Oats XI* and the VOR 70 *Black Jack*.

*Maserati* is now just 100 miles from the finish and is expected to sail into Hobart tonight.



Video footage and still photographs from the boat can be found at [www.maserati.soldini.it](http://www.maserati.soldini.it) and on the following social networks: Facebook (Giovanni Soldini Pagina Ufficiale, over 40.000 friends) and Twitter @giovannisoldini (over 127.000 followers).

*The challenge is sponsored by the main partner, **Maserati**, after which the yacht is named, and by co-sponsors **Swiss Bank BSI** and **Unipol SAI Assicurazioni**.*

*The official suppliers to the challenge are **Z Zegna** (clothing), **Vodafone Italia** (telecommunication services and official website development) and **Boero Bartolomeo S.p.A.** (specialist hull paints and enamels).*

*Also aboard Maserati are **Eataly** (provisioning), **Beta Utensili** (all professional tools), **Corderia Lancelin** (specialist lines and cables), **Jeppesen** (cartography), **B&G Navico** (technical assistance with onboard instrumentation), **Cantiere Picchiotti of La Spezia** (Maserati's home base ashore), and the **La Spezia Port Authority** (Maserati's home port afloat).*

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