

back in 1979 she also got the gun when racing as *Bumblebee 4* and owned by John Kahlbetzer. The official line honours result was: 1. *Ragamuffin*; 2. *Condor*; 3. *Brindabella*; with the NSW TAB paying out more than \$140 for \$1 on its firstever Yacht TAB trifecta.

Although *Ragamuffin* became line honours winner by default, with skipper Fischer commenting "well, they really did win the race" it was a fine effort by the veteran yachtsman and his equally veteran maxi. This was Fischer's 22nd Sydney-Hobart and his crew included many yachtsmen who have sailed with him for many years, among them Tony Ellis who was sailing his 23rd Sydney-Hobart, Mike Summerton on his 20th, John Noakes his 19th race.

Fischer said he was an unlikely starter in the 1991 race because of his commitments as one of Australia's two challengers for the America's Cup, with the challenger eliminations starting off San Diego in January, 1992.

For Gary Appleby, a Sydney-based businessman who now lives at Budderim on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, first place overall in Class I (IOR) was the ultimate victory after some frustrating earlier races to Hobart. It was certainly his ultimate with the Farr One Tonner he built originally to represent Australia in the 1985 Admiral's Cup in England and which has since represented Australia with success in the Southern Cross Cup, the Kenwood Cup and the One Ton Cup.

He now plans to campaign the yacht in the autumn races to Queensland, including the Caltex Sydney-

Continued on page 11



MAXI-CHASERS
Bobsled from Sydney and Helsal II from Adelaide cross tacks as they head to sea in the 1990 NorTel Sydney-Hobart. (Pic — David Clare), while further into the 630 mile race, the British Maxi Rothmans plunges into a huge sea in Bass Strait. (Pic — Rick Tomlinson)

DAY

3

SOUTH Australian sloop *Helsal II*, skippered by Keith Flint to sea off Tasman Island as she enters Storm Bay. (Pic — David Clare).

Sked Five
(06.00/28 Dec.)



AS the maxis were dashing across Bass Strait overnight, into the path of a "low" that had earlier played havoc with the fleet setting sail in the races from Melbourne to Devonport and Hobart, the wounded were heading for Eden. The casualty list by the 0600 sked had reached 14.

In the early hours of Day 3, *Rothmans* was continuing her record-breaking bid, with every chance of making it the ultimate race — taking line honours and bettering *Kialoa's* long-standing record winning overall on corrected time.

By morning a fast two-sail reach across Bass Strait with the 35-knot south-wester on her starboard beam had taken *Rothmans* to a 30-mile lead over the Australian maxis and placed her well ahead of *Kialoa's* record-breaking position.

At the 0600 sked, *Rothmans* was abeam of Lady Barron on Flinders Island, just off the north-east tip of Tasmania, and 211 miles from Hobart. At that stage, the 80-footer needed to average 10.3 knots and reach Hobart by 3.30am the next morning (Saturday) to break the record — it looked well within her reach.

There was also a new overall leader, *Sagacious V*, with *Rothmans* second, *Beyond Thunderdome* third (but not for

long), followed by *Western Port Venture*, *Anduril* and *Fujitsu Dealers*.

The retirement list now read: *Ariel* (USSR), *Einstein* (Vic), *Firetel* (NSW), *Inch by Winch* (NSW), *Insatiable* (NSW),

Leroy Brown (NSW), *Madeline's Daughter* (NSW), *Northern Securities* (Tas), *On the Beat* (NSW), *Oz Fire* (NSW), *Prime Factor* (NSW), *Ultimate Challenge* (Vic) and *Zumdish* (Vic).

PROGRESSIVE POSITION REPORT Schedule: 5. Date: 28 Dec 1990. 06.00 HRS:

CLASS 1 (IOR)

Yacht	Overall Posn.	State/Country	MAX	A	B	C	D	Dist. To. Sail
SAGACIOUS V	1	NSW			1			314.6
ROTHMANS	2	UK	1					211.6
BEYOND THUNDERDOME	3	UK			2			319.9
WESTERN PORT VENTURE	4	VIC			3			322.9
ANDURIL	5	NSW			4			337.3
FUJITSU DEALERS	6	NSW			5			341.3
BRINDABELLA	7	ACT	2					244.4
ILLUSION	8	VIC				1		353.0
CHUTZPAH	9	VIC				2		354.0
KINGS CROSS SYDNEY	10	NSW			6			349.4

CLASS II (IMS):

DOCTOR WHO	1	TAS		1				10.7
NEVER A DULL MOMENT	2	NSW		2				10.2
LIGHTWAVE	3	QLD			1			10.1
EMMA	4	NSW					1	10.1
MIRRABOOKA	5	TAS		3				10.1

CLASS III (IMS):

FUJITSU DEALERS	1	NSW		1				11.2
RATTLE & HUM	2	JAPAN		2				10.9
SWEET CAROLINE	3	HK		3				10.7
BRINDABELLA	4	ACT		4				10.5
HAMMER OF QLD	5	QLD		5				10.0

Corr Speed