

# MEDIA RELEASE

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*Twelve Foot Skiff Association*

## **NSW 12ft Skiff Association**

### **NSW State Titles 2007**

The 2007-08 NSW 12ft Skiff State Titles will be remembered for years to come. Held over two weekends, at 3 of Sydney's most famous skiff clubs, the series came down to a count back and was eventually awarded to Jonathan Temple and Richard Jones in O.

O had tied with Brett Hobson and Alex Johnson in Garde, both scoring two wins and two second places in a series that was reduced from six to five races.

Lane Cove and Abbotsford 12ft Skiff Club held the first three races of the series, with the Sydney Flying Squadron hosting the final three. They were held in predominantly light breezes, with the skiffs only using the biggest of the sail combinations.

Murray Press and Ben Gemmell on Gemmell Sails was the only other skiff to win a race, winning the long course race at Lane Cove comfortably. From then on, it was a fight between the experienced crew on O and the reigning state champions on Garde.

Garde lead up the last work of the last race and would have won the trophy if they had been able to hold the lead. O was able to squeeze around the top mark first and held Garde down a spectacular run under kite from Shark Island to the finish off Kirribilli.

Temple and Jones had spent countless hours over winter improving their boat and were happy, if not slightly surprised by their win. "The racing was really tight in all the heats but one, with no room for error; it was great racing. It was a shame the title was decided on a scoring technicality, but it shows just how close the racing was and how consistent each skiff had to be to win. Credit to Garde for their consistency to tie with us overall, but we are really excited to be back in the winners circle."

The NSW State Series is also the selection series for the NSW boats for the Australian Interdominion Team. Temple and Jones have decided not to travel to Wellington for the Interdominion Championships this year, so Garde will be the top seeded Australian boat. Brett, who is also the NSW Association president, believes the team will give the coveted John Brooke Teams Trophy a good shake this year. The team is looking forward to the event, which has not been held in Wellington for many years, this trip will be the first time to the windy city for many of the team members.

A huge thanks to the team sponsors Maersk Line, Australian Fumigation Services and J&J Robertson & Sons Pty Ltd, for all there assistance with getting the team across the Tasman. .

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