

Press Release King of the Harbour Day 1

South Africa takes out the three man relay and Mocke leads after Day 1.

Conditions for Day 1 of the 2007 King of the Harbour were challenging, with the early south-easterly wind strengthening and shifting to the northeast for race start. This resulted in a side wind conditions for much of the 7km triangle, with a tail wind home over the last 3km.

Leading after the first leg was Oscar Chalupsky, paddling with some local SA ex pats, just ahead of Bevan Manson in the SA team. The NZ team paddler over the first leg was Fred Tarr who headed into the changeover in 4th place. The second leg saw Team SA consolidate there lead through Daryl Bartho's efforts, with Ben Fouhy closing to second at the last mark for the Kiwi's. Fouhy faded to third in the less familiar down wind conditions. The third and final lead saw Dawid Mocke open up an even greater lead for SA, the team finishing comfortably 3 and a half minutes ahead of the fastest Kiwi Mike Walker.

Leading times after Day 1 were Dawid Mocke first in 29:29, Walker 2nd in 30:40 and Chalupsky 3rd in 30:51. The results carry over into Day 2 , with the combined time determined the King of the Harbour champion for 2007. Katie Pocock posted the top female time of 33:46.

The outrigger section also saw some close racing, with Team Tui comprising Kingi Gilbert, Cherokee Dolan and Mark Malakai-Williams taking out the relay. The fastest three times were posted by Bernt Sommers, Gavin Clark and Kingi Gilbert respectively.