



Team Lexus back for race

Sailing

TEAM Lexus is returning to SA to take part in the 2007 Blue Water Classic and Lexus Lincoln Week event, with owner James Mayo at the helm.

James Mayo has an impressive background.

He competed in the 1995 America's Cup, was named the World Champion Yachtsman (Etchell Class) in 2000, and won the line honours and handicap in the 1987 Sydney to Hobart.

"My father did the first Sydney to Hobart in 1945. It took him 11 days. When I won it, it took three and a half days," he said.

Team Lexus consists of experienced sailors, with more than 30 Sydney to Hobart races between them.

The crew includes Sean Kirkjian (skipper and principal helmsman), Matthew Shillington (America's Cup sailor and Sydney to Hobart winner), and Marcus Burke (Sydney to Hobart winner and Australian and NSW Yachting Champion).

Team Lexus took part in the Sydney 38 division in the 2007 Sydney to Hobart, one of the most competitive divisions in the race.

In the past three Sydney to Hobart races, Team Lexus has finished in the top three places in their division in two of the races.

This will be the second Blue Water Classic/Lincoln Week that Mayo and Team Lexus have taken part in, and the crew look forward to the event.

"Port Lincoln is such a fantastic place to visit," says James Mayo. "The atmosphere during the regatta is vibrant and festive - it is fun for everyone, sailor or not."

"Last year we finished in the medal placings during Lincoln Week and regarded it as one of the best regattas in the country. The conditions were just perfect with beautiful surroundings and flat water."

He said the crew was planning on doing some fishing while in Port Lincoln and some diving with Great White sharks.