

W804 88/00 CMM-H1

NEW SOUTH WALES STATE CORONER'S COURT

STATE CORONER: J ABERNETHY

FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2000

5/98 - EVENT OF THE 1998 SYDNEY TO HOBART YACHT RACE

INQUEST INTO THE DEATHS OF JAMES MICHAEL LAWLER
 MICHAEL BANNISTER
 BRUCE RAYMOND GUY
 PHILLIP RAYMOND CHARLES SKEGGS
 JOHN WILLIAM DEAN
 GLYN RODERICK CHARLES

Mr A Hill assisting the Coroner
 Mr R Stanley QC with Mr P Santamaria for the Bureau of
 Meteorology
 Mr R Weber for Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
 Mr P Callaghan SC for Mr Kothe
 Mr A Shand QC for Mr R Purcell
 Mr A Colefax for Mr L Carter

PART HEARD

<CARL CAMPBELL WATSON(10.35AM)
 RESWORN, EXAMINATION CONTINUED

HILL: Q. Mr Watson, I think we finished off yesterday with you being up on deck of the Sword of Orion at about half past nine, ten o'clock on the Sunday morning, that Sunday twenty-seventh?

A. Correct.

Q. Do you recall that?

A. Yes.

Q. What was the weather like at that stage?

A. The weather at that stage had started to build in intensity. We were talking about alterations to our sail configuration, whether we needed to put another reef in the mainsail, go to a smaller jib with the advent of the weather building. This was discussed by people on deck and from memory we had a storm jib and a couple of reefs in the mainsail at that stage.

Q. I understand that at one stage the vang broke, is that right?

A. That's correct.

Q. Would you explain what the vang is?

A. A boom vang is an aluminium tube, a tube within a tube that has a spring at the base and if the main halyard broke or the main came down it would actually hold the end of the boom up off the deck, thereby alleviating it from hitting