

THE Daily Telegraph

Underweight boat bother

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OLYMPIC silver medallist Matt Ryan was dumped to last place in qualifying for the men's coxless pairs at the Australian rowing championships after officials found his boat to be underweight.

Ryan and partner Alexander Scharp had finished a narrow second in their repechage, which would have earned them a place in the semi-finals today at Lake Barrington.

But race officials conducting random checks on the legal weight of their racing shell found the boat to be underweight and the pair was relegated to last place.

Bryn Coudraye and Richard Allsop won the race in 6min30.47sec to progress, along with Mitchell Estens and Terrence Alfred.

Fergus Pragnell and Tom Swann won the other repechage in 6.34.31, with second-placed pair Ned Kinnear and Tim Hennessey also going through.

In cold and wet conditions, Olympians Sally Kehoe and Sarah Cook notched a half boat-length victory to progress directly to the final of the women's double scull.

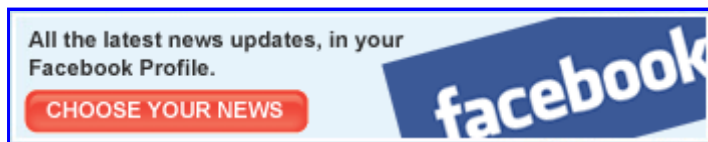
Kehoe and Cook won in a time of 6:35.28 with Pippa Savage and Anna McRae second and Lisa Szatsznajder and Emma McCarthy third.

The all-Queensland crew of Kimberley and Suzanne Brown won the second heat in a time of 7.31.60 to also progress to the final, which Kehoe and Cook will enter as favourites.

Jeremy Stevenson and Steven Fletcher, Kieran Kobelke and Christopher Riddell, and Brendan Long and Nick Hudson were the winners of the heats in the men's double scull.

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