‘Wraith of Odin’ 1951 to 1997

The 1952 Hobart Race

The Advocate (Burnie TAS)
Saturday 27 December 1952

N.S.W. AND VICTORIAN YAWLS DISPUTING OCEAN LEAD SYDNEY.

The 54-ft. N.S.W. yawl Ruthean and the Victorian yawl Landfall were last night disputing the lead in the 680-mile Sydney-Hobart yacht race. They were reported well south of Wollongong, with about 600 miles to go. Macquarie street specialist, Dr. Frank Bellingham, who is on board the Lauriana, treated his first patient of the race yesterday - the skipper, Victor Meyer, who has a poisoned arm. Lauriana reported last night that Mr. Meyer was responding well to penicillin treatment.

Dr. Bellingham has a full medical kit with him and a stock of drugs. He will radio advice to other yachts needing it and, if necessary, the Lauriana will use her motors to go alongside them to enable Dr. Bellingham to go aboard. The start of the race was one of the most exciting in the history of the classic. More than 50,000 enthusiasts crowded ferries, yachts and small craft and vantage points on the harbor foreshores to watch the start at 11 a.m.

Several of the contestants came close to collision as they manoeuvred in the stiff north-easter for position. Skipper Duncan McRae, of the Tasmanian cutter Kintail, protested against another Tasmanian cutter, the 35-ft. Terra Nova, skippered by K. It. Goulay, for alleged interference. It was reported that the two yachts had touched. McRae registered his protest by hauling a handkerchief to the rigging. He called out to the starter that he was protesting against Terra Nova. The secretary of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia (Mr. D. Allworth) said last night that the protest would be heard in Hobart after the finish of the race.

Kintail's skipper would have to lodge a protest in writing within 12 hours of arriving at Hobart. Both parties would submit written statements to a board of inquiry set up by the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania.

There were a number of collisions between small craft watching the start and all available water police were rushed to the scene to untangle them. Ten passengers scrambled to safety when a 16 ft. launch trying to follow the yachts through the heads was swamped and swapped on the rocks. The launch was wrecked, but the engine was salvaged.

Ruthean covered the journey to the heads in the record time of 34 minutes.
The other contestants followed Ruthcan through the heads in this order:
Pavana (S.A.), Landfall (Vic), Wraith of Odin (Sydney), White Cloud (Sydney), Nocturne (Tas.), Kintail (Tas.),
Terra Nova (Tas.), Solveig (Sydney), Ingrid (S.A.), Fortuna (Sydney), Kurrewa III (Vic), Kurura (Sydney), Moonbi
(Sydney), Ripple (Sydney), Wanderer (Tas.), Nirvana (Newcastle^.
Ruthcan passed the heads at 11.34 a.m. and Nirvana at 11.47 a.m.
The Victorian yawl, Stormy Weather, which is not expected in Sydney until late to-day. has been scratched from
the race- Stormy Weather was reported yesterday near Montague Island, sailing towards Sydney. Mr. Frank
Barlow, an official of the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia, said a ship had reported by radio having
contacted Stormy Weather. All aboard were well. Earlier, at the request of Stormy Weather's owner, Mr. Mick
Markey, C.Y.C. officials notified police that Stormy Weather was overdue. Mr. Markey has flown to Sydney to
await Stormy Weather's arrival. Officials said that apparently Stormy Weather's speed had been over estimated.
The yacht's connection had estimated that with engine and sail, Stormy Weather could average seven knots
on the voyage from Melbourne to Sydney. The officials doubted whether she could make more than three knots
because of cur- rents and north-easterly winds.