

‘Wraith of Odin’ 1951 to 1997

The 1952 Hobart Race



The Mercury (Hobart, Tasmania)

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BATTLE FOR LINE HONOURS IN OCEAN YACHT RACE

THREE yachts –

Landfall (V.) Ruthean (Newcastle), and Nocturne (Sydney) last night were engaged in a battle of tactics in a light breeze less than 60 miles from Hobart for line honours in the Sydney-Hobart ocean classic.

The last report placed the leaders about eight miles from Cape Pillar, on Tasman Island, and this means the first yacht should cross the finishing line at Castray Esplanade about 9 a.m. today.

Front page pictures

These pictures of the leading yachts in the Sydney-Hobart race were pictured about 6 p.m. yesterday off Tasmania's East Coast, less than 70 miles' from the finishing line. They were taken by a staff photographer during a sweep by a plane specially chartered by "The Mercury." TOP: Victorian 44ft. yawl Landfall. BOTTOM: Left, Lake Macquarie 54ft. yawl Ruthean; right, 35ft. Sydney cutter Nocturne.

FIGHT FOR HANDICAP

The fight for the handicap title was being waged 60 miles behind the leaders. The 35ft. Sydney yawl Moonbi and the 38ft. South Australian ketch Ingrid were racing almost together before a north-easterly wind. They were making about six knots. Tasmania's entrants, Ken Gourlay's 35ft. cutter Terra Nova and Duncan McRae's 40ft. cutter Kintail, should contest other handicap places with Nocturne. Terra Nova last night was in fifth place 12 miles behind the 48ft. Sydney cutter White Cloud. Kintail was 20 miles behind Terra Nova in sixth place. The chief instructor of the Aero Club of Southern Tasmania (Mr. Lloyd Jones) flew a representative of "The Mercury" over the leading yachts at 6 p.m. yesterday. Only four miles separated the 44ft. yawl Landfall, the 35ft. cutter Nocturne, and the 54ft. yawl Ruthean. Wind was spilling out of the Landfall's spinnaker, but the breeze was billowing the spinnaker on the Nocturne, three miles to the east and two miles behind.

Ruthean, under full canvas, was doing well in the light breeze, but White Cloud three miles behind was making an all-out effort to catch the leaders. White Cloud was manoeuvring to catch every breath of wind, and making good speed in the conditions. Terra Nova, 12 miles behind White Cloud, was gunwale under, making better progress than the four yachts ahead of her. Kintail, 20 miles farther back, was sailing steadily before a freshening north-easterly.

Good Speed

The Halvorsen 'brothers' 34ft. sloop Solveig (Sydney) was three miles behind Kintail. She also "was making good speed in the fresh wind. Kurrewa III, the Livingston brothers' 58ft. ketch, had crammed on all canvas to make the best of the wind, and seemed to be sailing well. A gap of 15 miles separated Kurrewa III and Moonbi, but the tiny Moonbi was planing before a north-easterly, which was stronger at the rear of the fleet. Ingrid also was making about six knots five miles behind Moonbi. All yachts except Kurrewa III were steering a course straight for Tasman Island. Kurrewa III was making out to sea when the aircraft passed over her. During the day Ruthean made better progress than any other yacht. She was 16 miles behind Landfall at 8 a.m. and at 6 p.m. she was four miles astern. White Cloud improved her position from 17 to seven miles behind Landfall. Terra Nova made up 10 miles of her leeway during the day, but Kintail slipped 'back four miles.

Solveig's Move

Solveig lost three miles, but she overtook Kurrewa III. Moonbi and Ingrid lost about 15 miles. The biggest yacht in the fleet, the 64ft. Sydney cutter Nirvana last night was racing abreast of the 57ft. Sydney ketch Wraith of Odin, more than 75 miles behind the leaders. This map shows positions of yachts pinpointed in an aerial survey about 6 p.m. yesterday. In a sweep at noon yesterday, Mr. Jones located the 37ft. cutter Fortuna 10 miles behind Nirvana and Wraith of Odin. The Launceston staytail schooner Wanderer was five miles astern of Fortuna. Mr. Jones could not find the 35ft. Sydney sloop Ripple or the 35ft. sloop Kurara in flying sweeps yesterday. Capt. F. Simpson, pilot of the flying boat Star of Papua, said he had seen Ripple 40 miles south-east of Cape Barren at 1 pm. He also had seen Kurara off Eddystone Light. The weather last night indicated Terra Nova, Kintail and Solveig might catch the leaders, which were in danger of becoming becalmed off Tasman Island light. Terra Nova, Solveig, and Kintail were running before a stiff north-easterly. The first craft into Storm Bay will be helped by a south easterly breeze, which should freshen early this morning.