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LA 3972

"Ripple"—Diminutive Winner, 1953

Twenty-four yachts, the second largest fleet ever, started in the ninth Sydney to Hobart Race. Of all these yachts, "Ripple," competing in her second race, took the handicap trophies with a course time of 5 days 12 hours 58 minutes and 36 seconds.

A mishap at the start, involving "Wild Wave," "Josephine," "Kurrewa III," "Horizon" and "Nimbus," caused considerable consternation, but no serious damage was done and the fleet got on its way, "Josephine" leading from "Wraith of Odin" and "Ruthean" at the Heads. For the next 24 hours, all yachts made excellent time in the medium north-easterly breeze.

Shortly after mid-day on the second day, a vicious southerly gale hit the fleet with very little warning. The leaders, "Wild Wave," "Ruthean" and "Nell Gwyn" were the first to experience it. Shortened down to storm canvas, the fleet battled south between Montague Island and Eden. The wind held till soon after midnight when it began to ease, allowing more sail to be carried. The wind lightened off more as the day wore on till later it went to the north-east, backing to north-west then veering again. Crews were kept busy gybing all night long.

Well down the Tasmanian coast, "Wild Wave" was leading with "Solveig" and "Kurrewa III" about 90 miles to seaward of her. However, only twenty miles behind was "Ripple," one of the babies of the fleet, in fourth position. These placings remained unchanged till Tasman Island was rounded, when the light weather flyer, "Josephine," passed first of all "Ripple" and then "Kurrewa III," but could not get to the leaders, "Wild Wave" and "Solveig." Before "Ripple" crossed the line she was passed by "Ruthean" and "Horizon," but had enough time up her sleeve to beat "Solveig" on handicap by 1 hour 27 minutes and 25 seconds.

"Wild Wave," first to finish, was disqualified for a breach of the rules at the start and "Solveig" was declared first home.

OFFICIAL PLACINGS

(Times are given in days, hours, minutes, seconds.)

Pl.	Yacht	Owner	Div.	El. Time	T.C.F.	Cr. Time
1	"Ripple"	R. Hobson	2	5-12-58-36	.6633	3-16-12-12
2	"Solveig"	T. & M. Halvorsen	2	5-7-12-50	.7048	3-17-39-37
3	"Horizon"	S. Berg	2	5-10-41-46	.7016	3-19-41-47
4	"Kurrewa"	J. A. Clark	2	6-6-25-6	.6426	4-0-39-32
5	"Nimbus"	A. L. Cohen	2	6-5-23-15	.6571	4-2-9-45
6	"Brilliant"	B. Warming	1	5-21-59-7	.7130	4-5-14-15
7	"Josephine"	R. A. Houghton	1	5-7-25-51	.8068	4-6-48-40
8	"Gipsy Queen"	A. C. Eden	2	6-5-7-10	.7013	4-8-34-39
9	"Kurrewa III"	P. & J. Livingston	1	5-7-27-20	.8258	4-9-15-10
10	"Ellida"	J. Halliday	2	6-15-6-14	.6620	4-9-19-36
11	"Nocturne"	J. R. Bull	1	6-0-52-46	.7319	4-10-2-14
12	"Ruthean"	A. V. & I. Toll	1	5-8-58-9	.8252	4-10-25-31
13	"Wraith of Odin"	B. R. O'Brien	1	5-21-8-32	.7744	4-13-18-2
14	"Onrust"	D. Tober	2	7-5-18-30	.6574	4-17-55-56
15	"Warana"	P. R. Warner	1	7-0-13-0	.7195	5-1-1-55
16	"Nell Gwyn"	F. Hickman	1	7-2-16-57	.7306	5-4-24-30
17	"Flamingo"	W. Carthy	2	8-2-9-16	.6590	5-7-21-16
18	"Isis"	R. May	2	8-21-16-0	.6359	5-15-36-58
19	"Wanderer"	E. Massey	1	7-11-1-59	.7679	5-17-28-46
20	"Patience"	A. B. Wilson	2	8-18-45-0	.6684	6-7-15-7

Disqualified: "Wild Wave" (Tasmania).

Retired: "Mistral II" (Tasmania), "Pavana" (S.A.), "Janzoon" (N.S.W.).



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1952's

Light

Weather

Unlike all other events, light variable winds, interspersed with flat calms, plagued contestants over most of the 680-mile course, resulting in a slow, nerveracking race. It was the South Australian yacht, "Ingrid," owned by J. S. Taylor, that emerged well to the fore in the fleet and her low rating saw Bob Bull's "Nocturne," which had been first to finish, ousted from first place.

In pleasant sailing conditions, seventeen yachts crossed the line and worked their way out the Heads, led by "Ruthean," "Pavana" and "Landfall." The nor'easter did not live up to its earlier promise and faded out, leaving the yachts becalmed off Bulli and best by thunder storms. Strong southerlies came in early the following day, but dropped again.

So it went on, with the wind shifting from north-east to south-east and all the time very light. "Lauriana" was Radio Relay Ship and was keeping close contact with the yachts and reporting their slow progress. Off the north coast of Tasmania, "Nocturne" led the fleet ahead of "Nirvana" and "Wraith of Odin," but "Ingrid" was close behind.

On rounding Tasman Island, "Landfall" was leading from "Nocturne" and "Ruthean." However, sailing wider than the others, "Nocturne" took the lead and still plagued by the light, fickle airs they had experienced throughout the race retained it to cross the line first, 6 days 2 hours 34 minutes and 47 seconds out of Sydney. Then followed "Landfall," "Ruthean" and "White Cloud."

"Ingrid" and "Moonbi" had been in close company and both looked capable of beating "Nocturne" for the handicap prize. Only half a mile from the finish, "Ingrid" had overhauled "Moonbi" and beat her by three minutes over the line. Placings were: First, "Ingrid"; second, "Moonbi"; and third, "Nocturne."

OFFICIAL PLACINGS

(Times are given in days, hours, minutes, seconds.)

Pl.	Yacht	Owner	El. Time	T.C.F.	Cr. Time
1	"Ingrid"	J. S. Taylor	6-17-07-22	.6575	4-09-56-18
2	"Moonbi"	H. S. Evans	6-17-10-23	.6654	4-11-14-40
3	"Nocturne"	J. R. Bull	6-02-34-47	.7337	4-11-32-44
4	"Ripple"	R. C. Hobson	6-22-58-30	.6541	4-13-13-06
5	"Kintail"	D. Macrae	6-11-15-01	.7048	4-13-25-13
6	"Kurura"	J. A. Clark	7-05-51-54	.6359	4-14-33-39
7	"Landfall"	J. Richardson	6-03-00-25	.7539	4-14-49-43
8	"Solveig"	T. & M. Halvorsen	6-12-05-40	.7114	4-15-02-44
9	"Terra Nova"	K. Gourlay	6-06-58-20	.7381	4-15-25-57
10	"Fortuna"	W. Fesq	6-18-03-14	.6923	4-16-11-24
11	"White Cloud"	G. Brenac	6-06-20-56	.7694	4-19-40-42
12	"Ruthean"	A. V. Toll	6-03-45-46	.8252	5-01-56-02
13	"Wraith of Odin"	B. O'Brien	6-17-02-42	.7744	5-04-42-48
14	"Wanderer"	E. Massey	6-23-27-40	.7505	5-05-40-46
15	"Pavana"	G. Mayne	6-17-40-13	.7634	5-06-39-09
16	"Kurrewa"	F. J. Livingston	6-17-05-27	.8445	5-16-02-28
17	"Nirvana"	S. G. Heaton	6-20-29-29	.8432	5-18-31-57



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Records Go in 1951

This race made yachting history, for the first three boats to finish—"Margaret Rintoul," "Lass O' Luss" and "Struen Marie"—all broke the course record set by "Morna" in 1948. All the boats sailed over the finish line within an hour of each other. First home was "Margaret Rintoul," and had she carried her spinnaker as often as weather conditions permitted, she might have easily clipped more hours off the record passage. As it was, she clocked 4 days 2 hours 29 minutes 1 second—clipping 3 hours 32 minutes 20 seconds off "Morna's" record.

The 35-ft. Sydney sloop/cutter, "Struen Marie," owned and skippered by Tom Williamson, was superbly handled throughout the race, to win the George Adams (Tattersall) Cup on corrected time, with an hour to spare from the runner-up. This was the 33-ft. sloop "Lahara," skippered by owner, Des Ashton, and flying the flag of Port Moresby Aquatic Club. Third place went to 41½-ft cutter, "Lass O' Luss," skippered by owner, John Colquhoun.

"Struen Marie," built specially for the Hobart race in 1951, to the Robert Clark design, did remarkably well to snatch Australia's coveted yachting trophy in her first season. Actually, this race was won and lost on the Derwent. "Lahara" was there in winning position, but became becalmed and fell back to second place.

Yachts were escorted for the first time by a radio mother ship, the 57-ft. ketch, "Kurrewa III," a veteran of Trans-Tasman and Honolulu races as well as the Hobart race. "Kurrewa" provided the most dramatic episode of the whole race when her co-skipper, Frank Livingston, contracted blood poisoning in the middle of Bass Strait. After an unsuccessful attempt to drop drugs to her from a flying boat, Livingston was put ashore at St. Helen's and rushed by ambulance plane to Melbourne for treatment.

OFFICIAL PLACINGS

(Times are given in days, hours, minutes, seconds.)

Pl.	Yacht	Owner	El. Time	T.C.F.	Cr. Time
1	"Struen Marie"	T. Williamson	4-3-38-35	.6805	2-19-48-26
2	"Lahara"	D. Ashton	4-7-24-59	.6652	2-20-47-33
3	"Lass O' Luss"	J. Colquhoun	4-3-12-5	.7509	2-22-1-35
4	"Fortuna"	W. Fesq	4-5-54-38	.6923	2-22-33-10
5	"Ellida"	J. Halliday	4-14-51-58	.6603	3-1-13-18
6	"Solveig"	T. & M. Halvorsen	4-7-24-25	.7081	3-1-13-21
7	"Nocturne"	J. R. Bull	4-5-33-34	.7337	3-2-30-51
8	"Margaret Rintoul"	A. W. Edwards	4-2-29-1	.7606	3-2-54-24
9	"Irene"	H. Hughes	4-10-46-10	.7105	3-3-51-35
10	"Nimbus"	A. T. Cohen	5-3-25-10	.6564	3-9-0-45
11	"Wanderer"	E. Massey	4-10-46-35	.7679	3-9-59-37
12	"Pavana"	G. Mayne *	4-7-43-1	.8166	3-12-41-43

