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

Disqualified: "Wild Wave" (Tasmania).

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

