

## Race Report

### ORCV Melbourne to Devonport Race 2018 (The Rudder Cup)

In 2014 I was googling for information about the Sydney to Hobart Ocean Race when I bumped into Sailonline.org.

I noticed that the Melbourne to Devonport Race was announced. I live in Devonport so I clicked on GO TO RACE and that was it, my first SOL race. I came 36<sup>th</sup> SOTP and got hooked.

I have had a 7 month break from SOL until this race got me interested again.

I rounded the Queenscliff mark in the top few this year and maintained a good position across the Strait, tending a little east of the qtVIm preferred track. About 6 hours out from Devonport we had gybed south and I found myself closely 2nd to azur, the top ten were - as usual - very competitive.

This being the only SOL race in which my home town featured I sniffed a notable opportunity to win.

The wind was mainly westerly about 14kts, FR\_vostro was behind and downwind of me with a faster angle to the line but I thought I had him covered.

azur was about 0.4nm ahead and 1nm west of me, I had a slightly faster angle to the line. I set a course at a faster angle again, which over several hours took me to less than 0.1nm behind but ate up the 1nm separation till we were overlapped, I thought that if azur maintained course and I wanted to continue to get to the front I would end up further west of azur and the finish, with a slower angle to the line in winds falling to 9kts, so I gave up and settled for 2nd. To my surprise as we approached the line azur was heading a little west and ended up bbq'ing briefly but tragically for 3<sup>rd</sup>. I finished 21 secs ahead of FR\_vostro. A happy result.

Devonport is a city of approx. 30,000 people on the Mersey River. It is essentially a country town and notable as the Tasmanian home port for the Bass Strait, roll-on, roll-off Ferries which cross daily to Melbourne.

The Mersey Yacht Club on behalf of the Tasmanian Laser Association is hosting the 2019 Oceania and Australian Laser Championships 1st to 8th January 2019

Thanks to the SOL Team.

Billy  
29/12/18

## **The Rudder Cup**

In 1907, Thomas Fleming Day, editor of the American magazine "Rudder" wrote to his friend, the Commodore of the Geelong Yacht Club, T. A. Dickson, suggesting a race across Bass Strait to Tasmania in order to promote the sport of yachting. Day struck a trophy worth 60 guineas, a fortune at the time, as a prize for the winner.

More than 100 years later, yachts are still racing across Bass Strait for the honour of winning the Rudder Cup. The Rudder Cup is Australia's oldest ocean race and the 5th oldest organised ocean yacht race in the world, predating the Fastnet by nearly 20 years and the Sydney to Hobart race by nearly 4 decades.

The inaugural race was run from Port Phillip Heads to Low Head at the mouth of the Tamar River, a distance of 198 nautical miles. This first race was won by the 14.6m yawl Thistle skippered by Edgar Newland with a crew that included his wife and daughter. Conditions were reported to be very rough, so much so that Mrs. Newland refused to relinquish the Rudder Cup so as to dissuade other yachtsmen from attempting such a dangerous race.

This original trophy came to light again in the 1960's when it was presented by Edgar Newland's son to the then Cruising Yacht Club of Victoria, now the ORCV, to be used again for the dash across Bass Strait. Today, the trophy is presented to the winner of the annual post-Christmas dash across the paddock (Bass Strait) race, currently to Devonport.

