

**EASTER CRUISE AND REGATTA—ROYAL SYDNEY YACHT SQUADRON.**

For some few weeks back a regatta in connection with the usual Easter cruise of the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron has been freely discussed, especially by those more interested in yachting, the outcome of which was that, owing to the liberality of Mr. A. G. Milson (commander) and the Hon. R. H. D. White (vice-commander), assisted by members of the squadron, a most successful aquatic carnival was held in the vicinity of the Basin (Broken Bay). This charming place, with its safe anchorage and otherwise pleasant surroundings, was during Saturday last seen, perhaps, to better advantage than on any previous occasion. The outer basin, where the yachts came to an anchor, is a sheltered little nook on the western shore of Pittwater; the only breeze to be feared is an easterly. The strength of this, however, is fairly well broken by the regular coastline, which is only about a mile and a half distant. As is the custom with Sydney yachtsmen, several craft were got in readiness for the projected and long-talked-of Easter cruise, the regatta being the main topic in connection therewith, the necessary stores and paraphernalia were duly shipped and stowed on board the respective vessels prior to Thursday last, the day on which it was expected to commence the outside trip. The weather at this time, however, did not prove satisfactory to several, who preferred remaining quiet in the still waters of Port Jackson to a possible "rough trip" outside on the briny. The commodore (Mr. A. G. Milson), Mr. Hoare, and Mr. Thompson, nothing daunted, got underway early on Thursday evening, and after a quick run along the coast Barranjoey was rounded and things were made snug for the night. Mr. Dibbs's launch *Ena* also brought up during the evening, the quartet being the only occupants of the basin for the night. On Friday the number of yachts was increased by the arrival of *Violet*, *Bettina*, *Iona*, *Archina*, *Guinevere*, and the *White Star* (s.), the fleet being further added to on Saturday by the arrival of *Iona*, *Jess*, and several others, the squadron presenting a very pretty sight as they lay moored almost in a circle with the *White Star* in the centre. Scarcely, if ever, has the basin been so alive with craft, from the stately 40-rater *Era*, and the Hon. R. H. D. White's fine steamer *White Star* to the 10ft. canvas dingy, which flitted across the cove. There was the usual fleet of fishing craft bailing from Pittwater and its vicinity, the whole forming a most pleasing spectacle, especially to the nautical eye. The weather for the occasion could not have been better. The sun shone out brightly, and this, with a clear sky and moderate breeze, was all that could be desired for pleasure and racing purposes. The programme numbered half a dozen events, two of which were sailing and the rest rowing, all of which were very well contested. The *White Star* having on board a number of yacht-owners and other gentlemen followed the two sailing races, a most enjoyable time being the result. In the evening a large party of gentlemen assembled on board the commodore's vessel *Era* for dinner, after which the vocal powers, assisted by the piano, were made good use of, all present voting the commodore a jolly good fellow. On Sunday morning early a deal of amusement was caused by what appeared to be the original sea serpent moving slowly towards the yacht from out the inner basin. This proved to be on closer examination a string of about 20 dingies belonging to the various crafts, which had been collected in the early morning, when the various owners were soundly sleeping. These were eventually taken to the *Era*, and by the aid of her boats towed to the yachts and correctly distributed. The proceedings were greatly added to by the presence of several ladies, who seemed to take quite an interest in all that occurred. Their nautical knowledge in some instances appeared quite equal to that shown by some of the sterner sex. At gatherings of this kind the presence of the fair sex tends greatly to stimulate the efforts of those taking part in any contest that may be suggested. This was decidedly in evidence on Saturday last with the owners of several yachts who were taking part in the rowing races. Sunday was devoted to quiet visits, a large number finding their way on board the handsome *White Star* and *Era*, on board both of which the most lavish hospitality was extended. Long will the

white star and era, on board both of which the most lavish hospitality was extended. Long will the 1892 "Easter Cruise" be remembered by those who had the good fortune to take part in it. The success of the cruise, &c., is mainly due to the efforts of Mr. A. G. Milson (commander), and the Hon. R. H. D. White (vice-commander), both gentlemen having put themselves out considerably to further the interests of the squadron.

General Handicap Race, for all yachts of the R. S. Y. S., cruising sails, and jib-headed topsails only. First prize, £5; second prize, £2 10s. *Thelma* (yawl), Mr. J. F. Hoare, scratch, 1; *Guinevere* (cutter), Mr. H. S. Harden, 10 minutes, 2; *Electra* (yawl), Mr. H. L. Thompson, 5 minutes, 3. Other starters: *Bettina* (sloop), Mr. P. W. Crough, 4 minutes, and *Iona* (cutter), Mr. Woolcott Wailey, 15 minutes. The course for this race, which covered a distance of about 11 miles, was as follows:—From a flying start at noon from a line between the *Era* and a mark boat, down to and around Elliott Island, thence round the *Era* (moored in the basin), around a boat off Barranjoey, and back to flagboat in the basin. The start was effected punctually to time by the "bow chaser" of the commodore's ship, the report making the bay re-echo again. *Bettina* was first away, followed by *Thelma*, *Iona*, *Electra*, and *Guinevere*. The wind came light from the S.W., which carried them out of the bay in the same order. When off Mackeral Beach the *Thelma* overhauled the *Bettina*, and passed her shortly after. The *Guinevere* treated the *Iona* similarly; the latter drew up again at West Head. The two leaders, *Thelma* and *Bettina*, were so far making a good race of it, and at the island there was only a few lengths between them. The order coming over a wind was—*Thelma*, *Bettina*, *Electra*, *Guinevere*, and *Iona*. The breeze freshening, came about 8 K., in which the yachts stood seaward for about 1½ mile. Both *Thelma* and *Bettina* went further than was necessary to make the basin. The *Electra* and others which had fallen somewhat astern, in seeing the error made by the leaders, came in stays at the same time, and by doing so had, when West Head was abeam, almost overhauled them on the long stretch back. The *Thelma* opened up the gap, while the rear lots had come somewhat on the *Bettina*. From the mouth of the basin in to the flagboat the positions were further changed. The wind came all round the compass. The *Electra* and *Guinevere* both passed the *Bettina* before reaching the *Era*, and the times of rounding were as follows:—*Thelma*, at 1h. 54m. 10s.; *Electra*, 2h. 1m. 14s.; *Guinevere*, 2h. 3m. 16s.; *Bettina*, 2h. 4m. 51s.; and *Iona*, at 2h. 14m. 32s. On the lead to the boat off Barranjoey the *Bettina* got a start opening out, and passed *Electra* and *Guinevere*, and in this order they rounded the mark—*Thelma*, at 2h. 16m. 52s.; *Bettina*, 2h. 20m. 39s.; *Electra*, 2h. 20m. 25s.; *Guinevere*, 2h. 20m. 43s.; and *Iona*, at 2h. 40m. 29s. On the way back to the finish *Thelma* increased her lead, while the *Electra* drew up with the *Bettina*. The former's top-sail sheet, however, carried away. This was the means of allowing *Bettina* to hold her own to the finish, which was passed by the *Thelma* at 2h. 41m. 29s.; *Electra*, 2h. 51m. 56s.; *Bettina*, 2h. 53m. 52s.; *Guinevere*, 2h. 56m. 16s.; and *Iona* shortly after out of her time. Thus *Thelma* and *Guinevere*, sailed by their owners, secured first and second prizes respectively.

Boat-fide Fishing Boat, of Pittwater, under ordinary working canvas, for prizes of £5 and £2. Course same as

for yachts.—*Katie*, 22ft., W. Boggan, scratch, 1; *Little Bill*, 20ft., J. Smith, 2 minutes, 2; *Kingfisher*, 22ft., J. Hastie, scratch, 3. The limited number of entries in this race was due to the fact that several of the craft having run a freight of fish to the metropolis, were unable to get back in time to take part. However, a lot of interest was evinced in this contest, which proved a close and exciting one. They crossed the line together, and in rounding Elliott Island only a few lengths separated them. *Katie* had her work cut out to shake the *Little Bill* off, which was sailing very well. The manoeuvring of the fishermen as they neared the "doldrums" was worth seeing, advantage being taken of every puff, no matter where it came from. The flagboat was eventually passed as follows:—*Katie* at 2h. 42m. 50s.; *Kingfisher*, 2h. 51m. 15s.; *Little Bill*, 2h. 52m. 45s.

Yachts' Dingy Race, over 11ft., handicapped, for amateurs; prize, a trophy. Start at 3.30. Course: From flag-ship round the fleet.—*Ena* (Mr. T. W. Cape), 1; *Electra* (Mr. Thompson), 2; *Ena* (Mr. Hixson), 3. Other starters: *Ereos* (Mr. Cookshott), *Archina* (Mr. Sharpe), *Bettina* (Mr. Roxburgh). This race, in which there were several fouls, proved an easy win for Mr. Cape, who, followed by Mr. Thompson, made the pace all round the course, eventually winning by two lengths from *Electra*.

Race for Dingies 11ft. and under. Course: From flag-ship, round *Ena*, *Archina*, and *White Star*, and back. Prize, a trophy.—*Era* (Mr. F. W. B. Love), 1; *Thelma* (Mr. C. Pearson), 2; *Ena* (Mr. Cape), 3. Other starters: *Archina* (Mr. A. A. Griffiths), *Violet* (Mr. Lambton), *Guinevere* (Mr. Shaw). This was most exciting from start to finish. *Era's* dingy, which was well rowed, took the lead and retained it throughout, *Thelma* and *Archina* being next in order. The latter was passed by *Ena*, and the winner kept up a good pace all round, and won easily by about 10 lengths.

Race for Yachts' Hands, in yachts' boats or dingies, handicapped. First prize, £1 10s.; second, 10s. Course: From flag-ship once round the fleet.—*Era*, 8ft., two hands, 1; *Era*, dingy, one hand, 2; *Electra*, dingy, one hand, 3.

From flagship once round the fleet.—Eva, gig, two hands, 1; Eva, dingy, one hand, 2; Electra, dingy, one hand, 3. Other starters: White Star, Bettina, and Archua. Eva, gig, at the word "off" was first to move, the dingy rowed by Wrixon following. Before half the course was covered, Electra quietly worked into third place, and if the distance had been twice round instead of once, the result might have been reversed. Bettina appeared to be rowing a waiting race, and when her occupant began to really exert himself the race had finished, and he was then in the rear. The win was an easy one right through for the gig by fully 20 lengths.

Gig and Dingy Chase, 10 minutes, for amateurs, for a trophy.—Gig (Mr. Cape), 1; dingy (Mr. T. W. Cape). More excitement was caused by this than any previous event during the day. From the gunfire until the time had almost elapsed both hunter and hunted were kept hard at it. The dingy for a time kept round the flagship, there not being sufficient length to get way on before you were either round the bow or stern. The monotony was broken when the dingy made a bold attempt in open water, the gig being in hot pursuit. On rounding the White Star, Mr. Roxburgh, of the gig, got on board the steamer, and as the dingy came under her stern made a spring. Its occupant immediately taking to the water was captured before gunfire denoted time was up. This closed the racing, which throughout passed off most satisfactorily.

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