

Great Bar Race brings Sydney Harbour to a standstill

The largest fleet yet assembled faced the starter in the December 1985 Annual Great Bar Race sailed on Sydney Harbour. Weather conditions were perfect for exciting sailing with a prevailing north-westerly of 15 to 20 knots gusting to 30 knots as Buckworth flagged away the competitors under the watchful eye of Dave Goode, the official handicapper.

The fleet comprised some 21 yachts of various shapes and sizes and included several Sydney/Hobart entrants and such aptly named boats as *Hoodlum*, *Riff-Raff*, *Fickle Tart II* and *Corfu* skippered by — you guessed it — that colourful Greek identity, Poulos!

Curtis didn't quite make the start line in *Dilemma* as his helmswoman manoeuvred him overboard with the boom and Moore J reached the finish line via St Vincents Hospital as a result of a similar indiscretion.

It was expected that the "bewigged keel" secretly fitted to *Witchdoctor* would give it a decided advantage, notwithstanding its 32 member crew. However, the strong winds completely split its headsail in the early stages of the race. This incident did nothing to interrupt the serenity of its champagne sipping skipper Pritchard QC, as his many juniors fought desparately to bring the 40 footer under control.

As the fleet bunched into Chowder Bay, Kelly, much to the consternation of his ophthalmic surgeon co-owner, Delaney, hoisted his gown as he drove for the Camp Cove buoy in *Blind Justice*. This daring tactic earned him a 20 minute penalty for flying a spinnaker contrary to race rules.

There was little in the race as the lead boats rounded the Camp Cove buoy and headed down to the Manly buoy and on to the final leg to Store Beach.

It is rumoured that some skippers didn't round the Camp Cove buoy! Whilst the race committee was anxious to hear any protest, no-one seemed prepared to produce the protest fee of 12 bottles of Dom Perignon.

The race committee is considering a number of options to ensure compliance with the race rules in this year's race including granting summary jurisdiction to Smythe J to deal with any offenders.

The finish proved exceedingly close with at least five boats finishing within two minutes. The winner was *Billycan* skippered by Catterns. McGuire J presented him with the "Great Bar Race Sailing Trophy" kindly donated by the Law Book Company. The runner up was Vernon in *Dancing Mouse* and Egan who skippered *Misty*. The skippers of the three leading boats were presented with pewters donated by the Bar Association. Wheelahan, who was to present these trophies, failed to attend the ceremony after the race committee refused his entry of a 250 hp speedboat.

The post-race social activities at Store Beach proved so enjoyable and riotous that the photographs taken by the official photographer, Moore J, had to be heavily censored.

The 1986 race will take place on the Harbour on Monday, 22 December and all skippers and crew are encouraged to commence early training for what, no doubt, will prove to be another exciting and memorable day.

— THE BOXING KANGAROO

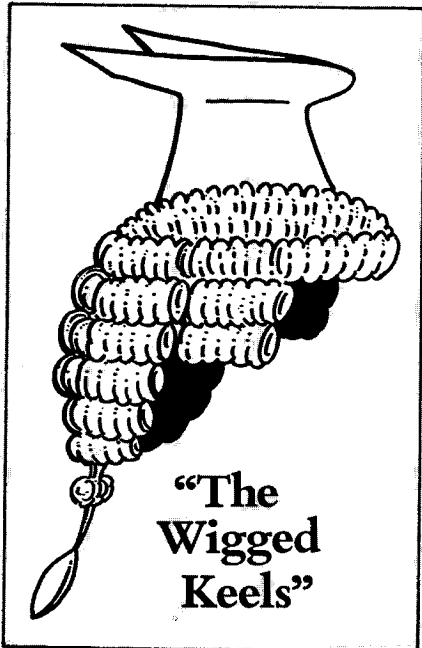
I, MYSELF WOULD
HAVE APPLIED THE
RULE IN HADLEY
V. BAXENDALE



Poulos
educates
Inglis
and Moore

*Norrish makes a naked submission.
Catterns marvels at his temerity.*

MAY IT
PLEASE
YOUR HONOUR!



HMMMMPH!



*Judge Maguire
is not impressed*