

The Gods laughed - Racing 3 December 2016.



Course number 8 gave Number 3 Pile as the first mark after the start. Above you see not just Ian Curtis but Pile Number 3, West Channel. I don't have a picture for Pile Number 3 South Channel, nor do I have one for Number 3 in the Sorrento Channel. But various competitors obviously thought of different piles as the first rounding mark; so we had the astonishing sight of vessels crossing the start line from different sides.

Having made a surprise trip back to Drysdale to retrieve a forgotten jib, Nellie was late to the start and decided to follow the majority towards the West Channel Pile.

Drizabone thought the obvious choice was the South Channel and was soon out of sight in the Far South.

The sole Division 3 competitor, the mighty Imagine, also stormed off to the south and was much later observed returning from the Remote East under spinnaker at a great pace.

Tintagel started in a very light breeze, her crew staring in amazement as Drizabone crossed the start line from the other side. Boomaroo, Kinsale 3, Tiercel, and Valentine in second Division had the advantage of a strengthening breeze for their start and soon overtook Tintagel.



Nellie on another day.



Not much wind, plenty of tide.



The mighty Imagine looking, as always, mighty.

The beat to West Channel Pile Number 3 was a long one, tacking against a strong flood. The next leg to Drapers was also against the tide. Then followed a rapid return to Grassbeds. At Grassbeds the OOD (Ian Lee) roared the advice to each vessel that it had sailed the wrong course.

Consternation!

A bit of radio discussion followed over what the course was, and lockers were ransacked for red flags.

But the OOD, in a masterstroke, short circuited all discussion and searching for red flags by declaring the race abandoned, lifting the finish mark, and steaming for home.

Thanks to our race officers - Ian and Jock Lee, and Jennifer Gilbert.

The Irwin Trophy will be re-sailed with Ray Maki 4 10-12-2016.

