

22nd Annual Hydro Tasmania Three Peaks Race

Media Release

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The pre-race favourite in the Hydro Tasmania Three Peaks Race has retired with equipment damage and crew fatigue.

Westbury-Mersey Pharmacy, skippered by Devonport's Terry Travers, anchored in Binalong Bay on Tasmania's north-east coast overnight to assess a damaged halyard and broken steering compass. This morning the crew decided to retire from the race and head to St Helens.

Travers' retirement has left two crews battling it out for top spot: 14m catamaran *Deguello*, skippered by John Brierley, and 14m monohull *Haphazard*, skippered by Nick Edmunds.

The pair is locked in almost match-race style competition as they go tack for tack in a light southerly and south-east swell. They are well within sight of each other and less than 10 nautical miles offshore of Friendly Beaches on the state's central east coast.

Haphazard is offshore and ahead of *Deguello* and appears to have a little more breeze and be moving slightly faster than its opponent.

They have about 30 nautical miles to go to Coles Bay, but with the breeze fading, could be four hours or more away. The pressure will then be on their runners to get their respective boats away first, as tactics will then come into play on the final sailing leg to Hobart.

As a fully-crewed entrant *Haphazard* must sail around Tasman Island, while racing multihull *Deguello* may take the shortcut through Dunalley Canal. However, the canal will not be opened between midnight and 4am. If *Deguello* arrives close to or during those hours, it will face the tough decision of whether to wait for the bridge to be lifted after 4am or round Tasman Island as well.

The fleet's trailing boats are east of Eddystone Point, so have a slow trip to Coles Bay ahead of them.