

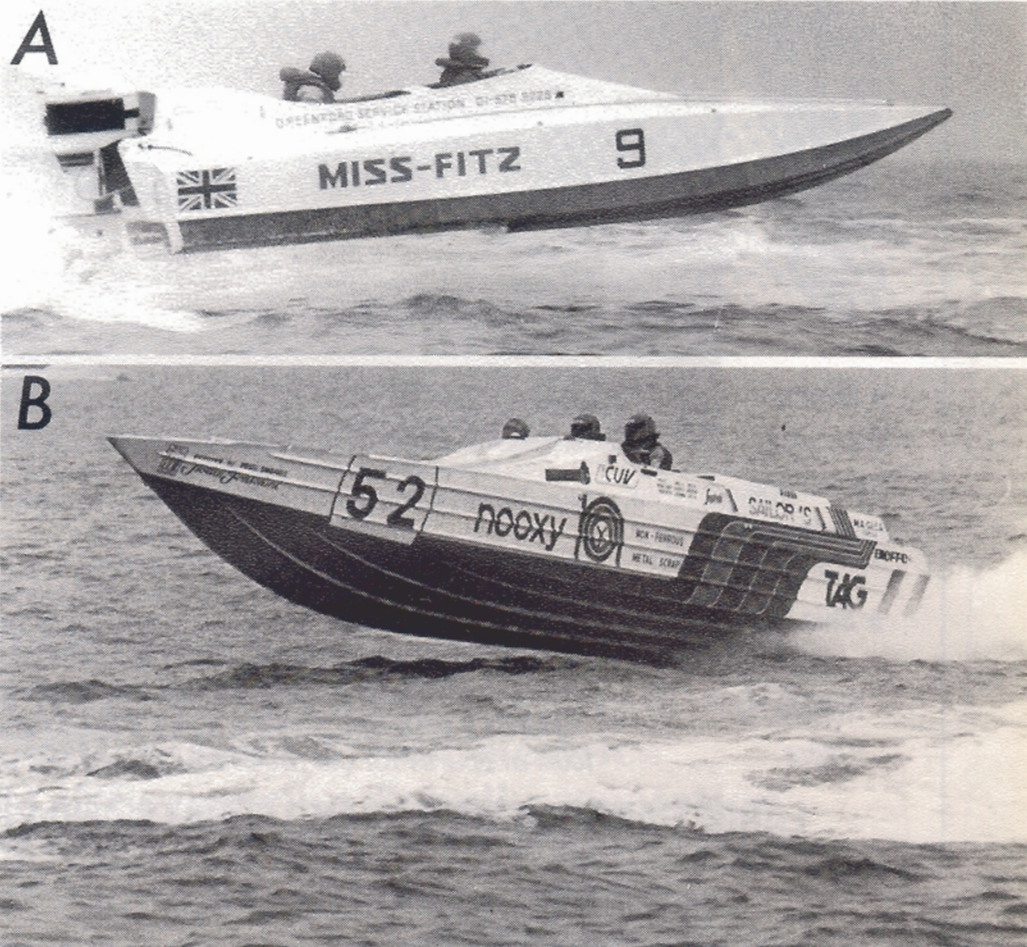
Needles trophy

With the cancellation of the Brighton Marina Race, The Royal Motor Yacht Club's Needles Trophy became the first venue for the British National Class I & II fleet, as well as the first International of the season. In less than perfect visibility and an oily calm Poole Bay, the race followed tradition by producing at least as many surprises off the water as on it.

Supported by Eldridge Pope under their Faust Lager banner, the R.M.Y.C. Needles Trophy comprised a multi-lap affair, running between Poole and Swanage in the west and Milford and Atherfield to the east, giving races of between 46 and 143 nautical miles. With Poole Town Quay devoted to its entirety to the boats and administrative razzamatazz, an international fleet numbering 58 boats arrived to scrutineer, amongst which much knowledgeable and uninformed interest centred upon Renato Della Valle's triple Cowes winner, Cinzano Bianco, Angelo Spelta's Nooxy and Lennart Bylock's Fabio Buzzi mono, Nitro. The British contingent was made up from the Bonner Jaguar Supercat, Robert Cook's Cigarette 35 Champagne Mumm and two veteran drivers out of retirement in the welcome forms of Ken Cassie in Alberto Smania's Ideal Standard and Ray McEnhill with the Fratelli Culpani in the 46 foot, Cougar monohull, Outsider.

With no foreign competition, the Toleman's Propeller Shirts, Dick Strutton's newly Sabred RHS and the Armstrong's Brut were joined by Len Hall in Cossack, Clive Baker in Telstar, Dick Steele in Pegasus, Bob Storey's Vodaphone Venture and Graham Stuart in Warrior. The IID European fleet of G & W Racing, Clarke Group, Agfa Bluebird and Robin Hood were joined by Tosti Brut from Italy while the massive proportions of the IIIC fleet dominated even the Cruiser Classes. After a delayed start and uncertainty about the position of early course layed marks, the fleet went east, led after four miles by Supercat. After 26 miles of racing, Cinzano bested her and was thus unable to observe Bonner, Sampson and Hunting rotate their 38 foot cat and stop in its own length, to the detriment of things mechanical but not things physical.

Cassir, Smania and Irving suffered a broken transmission, as did equipe Cinzano whilst due to a failed oil system union, Champagne Mumm did not actually get beyond the start line. Nooxy, with Mrs. Spelta on the chart table stormed away from Outsider, both powered by Isotta Fraschini diesels, ahead of Bylock, Buzzi and Dag Pike in the quad Iveco rig and indeed, finished in that order. Propeller Shirts popped a motor, Cossack and Pegasus never got on the pace and Telstar's navigation had to be seen to be believed and whilst RHS pushed hard, it was Double Two's day ahead of Warrior, Vodaphone and Brut. Tosti Brut duly romped away with the IID race from G & W and Agfa, but little separated the top five while Miss Fitz scampered home ahead of Hooper & Ashby, Power Prime and Poco Homes in a near blanket finish. Derrick Mortimor cleaned up in IIIB whilst in the cruisers, John Copeman's Practical Photography took NCA, Make-a-Break took NCB,



Drysider took SCA and Ian Morton's Shadow Warrior took the laurels in SCB.

In the protest room thereafter, much animosity was generated and with Robbie Hood and Brian Champion's disqualification at the start for dangerous driving, most people left Poole a little battered by the day, if not by the sea conditions.

Top: The massive proportions of the Class: IIIC fleet, led home by Miss Fitz, dominated even the cruiser class. Photo: Photomarine.

Below: The combined talents of The Spelta family and Diridoni brought Nooxy home first in Class I. Photo: Colin Taylor Productions.

RESULTS

CLASS				
I	Nooxy	Spelta/Spelta/Diridoni	Isotta Fra	64.69 knots
	Outsider	McEnhill/Culpan/Culpan	Isotta Fra	63.05 knots
	Nitro	Bylock/Buzzi/Pike	Iveco Fiat	62.66 knots
II	Double Two Shirts	Hill/Hicks/Lawson	Sabre Ford	60.23 knots
	Warrior	Stuart/Standish/Carr	Mercury	55.81 knots
	Vodaphone Venture	Storey/Kidd	Mercury	49.76 knots
IID	Tosti Brut	Foldi/Liva	Iveco Fiat	56.26 knots
	G&W Racing	Grimshaw/Smillie	Mercury	54.83 knots
	Agfa Bluebird	Standring/Campbell	Mercury	54.56 knots
IIIC	Miss Fitz	Gorry/Whybro	Mercury	50.14 knots
	Hooper & Ashby	Yeoman/Leachman	Mercury	50.05 knots
	Power Prime Racing	Bloomfield/Moore	Mercury	49.98 knots
IIIB	Dell Buoy	Mortimore/Jordan	Yamaha	38.50 knots
	Capitol Marine	Keyser/Wills	Yamaha	38.22 knots
NCA	Practical Photography	Copeman/Kattau	Volvo	40.70 knots
	Goodmans Penthouse	Smith/Smith	Iveco Fiat	34.91 knots
NCB	Make-a-Break	Hillman/Chapman	Volvo	34.96 knots
SCA	Drysider Too	Powell/Smith	Mercuriser	35.84 knots
	Creatborn Group	Hillman/Bowman	OMC	31.75 knots
SCB	Shadow Warrior	Morton/Fletcher	Mercuriser	42.63 knots