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# SOLENT 70

SATURDAY 29TH MAY, PORT HAMBLE and the offshore racing season is with us again. Despite a seven month lay off during the winter month, long enough to prepare a raceboat one would have thought, there nevertheless appeared to be more drivers on the spectator boat than actually racing. As the afternoon progressed, and the wind speed increased, I suspect that more than a few of those brave souls who raced were wishing they hadn't.

The entry gave a foretaste of what promises to be a well supported season. Several new boats appeared, together with some familiar old ones, either sporting a new owner, or a new paint job or, in some cases, both!

Class I had the sole support of Derek Pobjoy in Uno Mint Jewellery, whilst in Class II Derek had very sportingly lent the diesel Pobjoy Mint to Ted Tollman and Nick Cripps to enable the former to acquire his licence. Penthouse Rizla now owned by Michael Blunt and renamed Miss Four Seasons Roofing was entered but failed to start. Clearly Michael has had to purchase a larger boat in order to have room for the name! The Class II entry was completed by Roger Allen in British Buzzard, David Hagan with the faithful Apache and an exciting looking newcomer in the form of B.E.F. owned by Jeff Phillips and powered by a single 482 cu. in Mercruiser. This 29 ft. Souter was generally thought to be the old H.T.S.II brought out of retirement and revamped.

Class III was better supported, and most interest centred around Nigel Powell's new 21ft. stepped Phantom together with Phil Jones' similar but unstepped version. Ex Captain Birdseye, an 18ft. Phantom was seen to be renamed Just fKicks but failed to race. It was good to see another new monohull in the shape of Moody Blue, an 18ft. Marshan. Amongst the IIIc cats, The International Factor driven by Class IV graduate Tony Lefwich was making a comeback. This Stapley was last raced two years ago by Nigel Powell, as Potent Pussy.

By the time the race started the wind had increased considerably and although everyone looked fairly comfortable on the Hill Head line, sea conditions worsened towards the forts at the eastern end of the Solent. Privilege of first retirement went to Howard Wrethams' Phantom aircraft carrier, Phantasize, two yards over the start line the engine decided it had done enough, and decided to call it a day.



Peter Bloomfield & Alan Baldwin on their way to another victory.

The uncomfortable conditions didn't seem to worry the Class I and II monsters. At the end of the first lap Pobjoy Mint, Uno Mint, Apache and British Buzzard thundered over the line, in that order, with just yards separating them. A few minutes later the first of the Class III field appeared in the familiar shape of Scanlite hotly pursued by Nigel Powell's Hot Gossip. Next came the Stapley IIIc club headed by Tony Lefwich with Terry Evans in Concord and John Corbin in his as yet unnamed Stapley cat. Peter and Janice Armstrong were next to appear in Tangerine Dream followed by a wallowing Jus Gus which promptly retired with a split bow tank.

Lap 1 seemed to account for most of the retirements including B.E.F. Phantom 007, Moody Blue and Kaydore. Kaydore's retirement seemed to have been occasioned by driver, Steve Beck's strange decision to take up Family Cruiser racing in mid-race, more of which anon. Jeff Phillips and J. Leeks's B.E.F. proved to be an expensive introduction to the season when their engine overheated and blew after 1/2 a lap! At the end of lap 2 Apache and Uno Mint were still scrapping for the overall lead having pulled out quite a margin on British Buzzard and Pobjoy Mint. Scanlite and Hot Gossip were still leading Class III with Carlo showing that he had lost none of his rough weather driving ability by pushing past Scanlite on several occasions - no mean feat for a boat with half Scanlite's power. When Concord and The International Factor completed their second lap they both slowed past the committee boat in the forlorn hope that the race would be curtailed - no way lads, this is a U.K.O.B.A. race! Terry Evans sensibly decided to call it a day there and then, and Tony Lefwich plodded on a little further before retiring.

#### Cracked Oil Feed Pipe

As the conditions changed from bad to worse, so the retirements came in. Lady Arran's Skean Dhu departed as did Pobjoy Mint, the latter blowing an engine after

gamely racing on with a cracked oil feed pipe to the turbo-charger that happened on the 2nd lap, and Apache also blowing an engine in its brave attempts to keep up with Mr. Pobjoy. By the end of the race all but eight boats had retired and it is interesting to ponder that of those eight, five were purpose built offshore racing machines, the other three were family cruisers. U.K.O.B.A. had decided to throw the race open to its own family cruiser class, indeed our own intrepid

associate editor Sue Drinkwater was allowed to ride shotgun on Geoff Lindsay's Fletcher Zingaro until it stopped to pick up the driver of the stricken Kaydore and was subsequently forced to retire with a broken cocktail cabinet - seriously!

Overall race honours went to Uno Mint which also took Class I, followed by British Buzzard the only remaining Class II contender. Peter Bloomfield drove an exemplary race to take Class III overall from Nigel Powell who took IIIc.

#### RESULTS

- Class I: 1st Uno Mint - D. Pobjoy 1.48.10 race average 48.48 knots.  
 Class II: 1st British Buzzard - R. Allen 1.48.44 race average 48.37 knots.  
 Class III: 1st Overall and 1st IIIc Scanlite - P. Bloomfield, 1.56.01 race average 34.09 knots.  
 2nd Overall and 1st IIIc Hot Gossip - N. Powell 1.59.43 race average 33.42 knots.  
 3rd Overall and 2nd IIIc Tangerine Dream - P. Armstrong 2.16.23 race average 23.77 knots.

#### U.K.O.B.A. FAMILY CRUISER CLASS

- 1st Overall: 1st Class B Tesco Checkout - J. Symes 1.36.36 race average 23.09 knots.  
 2nd Overall: 1st Class C Knips of Hamble - J. Moore, 1.43.53 race average 21.91 knots.  
 3rd Overall: 1st Class A Extendir - C. Stewart, 2.10.31 race average 17.44 knots.



British Buzzard flies ahead to take Class II.



Nigel Powell making an exciting debut in Hot Gossip



In-fighting from the Pobjoy boats!