

# SOLENT

## 70

The 1978 offshore racing season is upon us. Hardly have we come through the traumas of '77, the depths of winter and the Boat Show than UKOBA treats us to their Solent 70, the first race on the new year's calendar and the pipe opener for a potentially interesting season in prospect. Traditionally, the Solent 70 falls into one of two categories. Abysmally poorly supported, indicative of a slowly starting season or supported better than even the organisers had dreamt was possible, indicative of a good turn out season-long. The season of '78 started with a bang.

Based at Rank Marine's Port Hamble, 22 boats in Classes 1, 2 & 3 came to scrutineering on a dull day but with the Solent as flat as a proverbial pancake, such a contrast from the end of last year. The Class 1 scrap was a two way affair, unusual in a world of Cigarette 35s and 39s, between two old 36s. Nicky Cripps, complete with his apparently never ending entourage of television types, had the newly named Colt Sapporo in its red/white livery in contention, co-driven by Colt Director, David Orr with brother Michael, all neat in malelot's blue sweater just a pace and a half behind. Pitted against the Japanese challenge was the old Gill machine, still called I Like It Too, but looking just the slightest bit tatter with its modified paintwork and crewed by that virtually unknown trio of Bryan Jardine, Barker Atkinson and Michael Bontoft.

### An Affair

Class 2 was a three way affair, between the Countess of Arran in the newly inboarded Ceal-na-Nara, with Derek Lloyd on charts, RHS sporting her new transmissions and new almost everything else, with the ever smiling Keith Heynes, Tim Cotton and Jim Brooker and Michael Blunt with his 24 foot Phantom, The Experiment, with her single Mercuriser.

Class 3 was interesting with a gaggle of new boats, new names and old familiars to contend with. 3D had the heavy metal on the game with Rob Cook's ill-fated Aquaglide hoping for better, Nigel 'Carlo' Powell guesting for McEnhill in Mac 1, waiting for his own new Phantom to emerge, another variation on the seemingly endless design for Tiger Tiger and John Robinson, the Harris boys in the ex-Nivea Super Scroo, Scanlite, a re-

emerged Red Alligator under the control of George Restorick and Geoff Robinson and the brand new Phantom 25 of Paul Sinclair and Vernon Luker, Jus Gus.

Pushing them hard in the flat was a fleet of 3C rigs, led by Stuart Higgs in Crisp & Dry, Concorde (ex-PussCkat) for Terry Evans, Chatd'eau (ex-Sheer Fear) for master Corbin, The Specialist (ex-Catapult) for the Nurse brothers, Kaydore (ex-Sourpuss) for Rodney Cox and Captain Birds Eye, Electric and Airey Puss. Hot 'L' & Dee made up Class 3B.

Officer of the Day, Alex Foster got the fleet off to a good start on time for a variety of courses giving 1 & 2 88.45 miles and 3 some 67.40 miles of Solent, between Lepe and Ryde to contend with. On a day that would have allowed gin to be drunk in perfect safety by any of the mark crews on duty, the classes were

headed on the first of their multiple laps by Colt Sapporo, Ceal-na-Nara, Aquaglide, The Specialist and Hot 'L' respectively. By half distance, Cook was suprising himself with the performance of a big Cougar and the family Harris were fairly flying along astern in Scroo. A case of name changing proving lucky. Another equipe not used to the heady delights of leading were the Nurse team, now thankfully separated from the black and white turbine and powered by the black outboard.

### Disasters

By three quarters distance, all that had changed however. Cook shed a propeller, complete with three inches of lower shaft on his starboard unit, Chatd'eau lost transmission and was ignominiously towed home by Geoff Lindsay, Kaydore was out of court through wrong-slotting a buoy, (a fate that would have have overtaken Cook as well had he finished), Concorde stopped and retired, the Blunt Experiment expired after some early promise and Fiona Arran took water into her electrics and lost fuel pressure to end her run.

A tired but glowing recently 21 Tina Lindsay presented the UKOBA prizes at the Solent Motel to the acclaim of all present, and the circus moves to Weymouth on May 14th.

### Solent 70 - Results

CLASS 1: 1 Colt Sapporo, Nick Cripps, 1.35.53, 55.53 knots. 2 I Like It Too, Bryan Jardine 1.41.31, 52.45 knots.

CLASS 2: 1 RHS, Keith Heynes 1.47.00, 49.76 knots.

CLASS 3D: 1 Jus Gus, Paul Sinclair, 1.12.47, 55.72 knots. 2 Super Scroo, Peter Harris, 1.15.13, 53.92 knots. 3 Scanlite, Peter Bloomfield, 1.16.46, 52.83 knots. 4 Mac 1, Nigel Powell, 1.19.29, 51.02 knots. 5 Tiger Tiger, John Robinson, 1.19.45, 50.85 knots.

CLASS 3C: 1 The Specialist, Ian Nurse, 1.14.33, 54.40 knots. 2 Crisp & Dry, Stuart Higgs, 1.15.45, 53.54 knots. 3 Airey Puss, Brian Sharp, 1.20.42, 50.26 knots. 4 Electric, Chris Strickland, 1.21.28, 49.70 knots.

3B 1 Hot 'L', Nigel Murray, 1.25.11, 38.70 knots. 2 Dee, Tom Mursell, 1.32.49, 35.52 knots.



Paul Sinclair

JOHN  
WALKER

