



## Round the Isle of Wight in under an hour. *Miss Enfield* wins the Bollinger Goblet. Report by Ray Bulman.

AFTER THE huge success of the *Daily Express* Cowes—Torquay—Cowes, it is hard to imagine that another event held within 24 hours could match the excitement and attract an equally large crowd of onlookers. The sarcastic showbiz term of “try to follow that” to the weaker turn would generally apply; but it was certainly not the case on August 31 for the *Daily Express* Round-the-Island Race for the Bollinger Goblet.

Well over 40 outfits started, but it was Tommy Sopwith driving the revitalized *Miss Enfield*—a retirement from the previous day—who streaked home at an average of approximately 65 m.p.h. to win not only the Bollinger, but the Thomas Nelson jackpot prize of £500 for the first craft to circumnavigate the Isle of Wight in under one hour. Powered by twin Mercruiser 482 sterndrives, this aluminium Don Shead-designed rig built by Enfield Marine of Wootton, did it easily in a time of 52 min 20 sec over the 57 statute mile course, so making up for the disappointment of the previous day. Don Aronow's *The Cigarette* however did not take part, and as I have it on good authority that she won the “big ‘un” well below full throttle, it would have been interesting to see the speed comparison.

Second overall, and also making up for her retirement the previous day, was Charles Gardner's *Surfury*, with Maurice Hardy third in

*Telstar* which put up an even better performance than she did in the Cowes—Torquay—Cowes.

The event was also open to the popular Class III competitors, and the first to finish in eighth place overall was Alf Bullen and Peter Bloomfield in the III(C) *Wicked Alf* that diced neck and neck for the line with the III(E) *Black Panther* (Earl of Normanton).

### Impressive start

The drivers approached the line in what can only be described as one of the most impressive starts of a powerboat race ever seen off Cowes. They roared through the penalty area with the majority well bunched up as they crossed the Squadron line heading west.

Once again Robin Bateman's little *Screwdriver* was up ahead right under the battlements with *Snoopy* (John Hobart), the South African catamaran *Meteor III* and Lady Aitken's *Seaspray* spread to seaward while way back at the rear came *Surfury* looking for a clear spot.

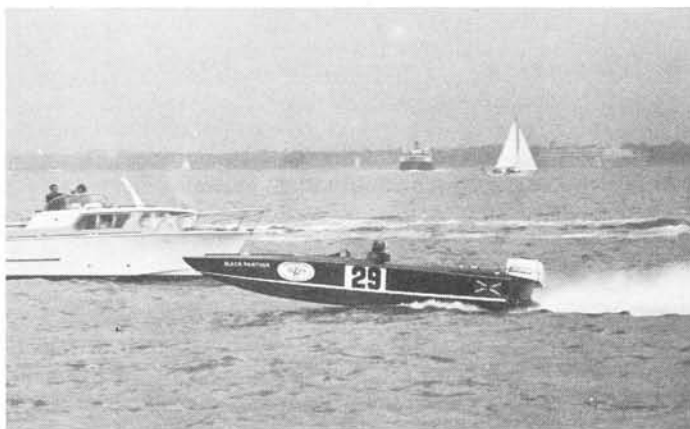
John Galliford's *Melodrama* was rather slow getting away. She was using one of *Avenger Toos* engines to replace a unit suffering from the previous race and turned back within eight minutes of the 12.30 pm start. But before the first mile was over *Miss Enfield* had taken first slot, and touching 70 m.p.h., virtually had it in the bag.

At Yarmouth, *Surfury* had moved up into second place with *Maltese Magnum Twin* a few seconds astern and *Meteor III* fourth. The first of the Class III's, *Wicked Alf*, was maintaining eighth place just ahead of *Screwdriver*, but shortly after the latter stopped momentarily and such were the speeds that by the time she restarted she had lost five places.

At St. Catherine's, where by now Tommy Sopwith had a tremendous lead, *Screwdriver* had moved back to eighth. The positions ahead of her remained much the same save for the South African outboard powered *Lucy* driven by Koenie Rontgen and his lady co-driver Sue Liddell. *Lucy* developed a bad leak near Freshwater and hurriedly pulled out. Another to retire was *Red Alligator* which lost some flywheel cogs off her starboard outboard and later, off Ventnor, *Scavenger* (M. Jensen) with overheating.

Thirty-eight boats were still in the running at Bembridge and the three leading positions remained the same, but with *Lucy*'s retirement *Telstar* was now fifth behind *Meteor III*. The result looked a foregone

The Don Shead-designed *Black Panther*, driven by the Earl of Normanton, which finished second in Class III.





Opposite: Weaving through the spectator fleet shortly after the start. Recognisable boats include *Psychedelic Surfer* (343), *Screwdriver* (246), *Meteor III* (250), *Gee* (185), *Snoopy* (044), *Thunderstreak* (955), *Miss Bovril* (289), and *Fordpower* (808).

*Miss Enfield's* crew acknowledge the winner's gun.

conclusion, and so it was for the first two but John Kennerley's *Maltese Magnum Twin* picked up a lobster pot passing Bembridge, which badly damaged her rudder.

Meanwhile *Miss Enfield* was running down close inshore from Ryde and crossed the line to great applause at 1.22 pm—a time almost impossible 12 months ago. But exciting things were still happening as *Telstar* opened right up in the last few miles overtaking *Meteor III* for third place. It was not until some time later that *Maltese Magnum Twin* made her appearance from the north to finish in sixth place behind the incredible budget-built *Snoopy*. □

## RESULTS

<b>1st overall</b>	<i>Miss Enfield</i>	T. Sopwith	Class OPI	Mercruiser 482 (2)
<b>2nd</b>	<i>Surfury</i>	C. Gardner	Class OPI	Daytona 500's (2)
<b>3rd</b>	<i>Telstar</i>	M. Hardy	Class OPII	Daytona 550
<b>1st Class III</b>	<i>Wicked Alf</i>	A. Bullen	Group C	Mercury 1000 BP
<b>2nd</b>	<i>Black Panther</i>	Earl of Normanton	Group E	Johnson GT 115 (2)
<b>3rd</b>	<i>Tarantula</i>	M. Gardner	Group D	Mercury 1250
<b>1st Class III(A)</b>	<i>Scarlot Harlot</i>	C. Stewart		Mercury 500
<b>1st Class III(B)</b>	<i>Young Love</i>	D. Love		Mercury 800
<b>1st Diesel powered finisher</b>	<i>Gee</i>	Hon. E. Greenall		Cummins VT8 (2)