

STAUCH OUT-FOXES EUROPE'S BEST

SPRINGBOK TAKES ALL F.D. PRIZES AT
KIEL WEEK



Campaigning in Europe with great success — Carmen and Helmuth Stauch chat with Wibo Swart who, in his first overseas effort, is holding his own against world-class helmsmen. Helmuth looks like making the best showing ever put up in foreign parts by a Springbok yachtsman.
Photo: Barry Curtis.

ALL South African yachtsmen will be delighted to hear that Helmuth Stauch, his wife Carmen, and Wibo Swart, who are campaigning overseas for the European regatta season, have had handsome early successes.

After a dour struggle at Kiel Week, Helmuth cleaned up the opposition and won all the trophies in the Flying Dutchman class.

Wibo Swart, unawed by the array of Olympic talent ranged against him, took consistently high placings and finally came out eighth. A splendid effort by both boats.

By the time this appears in print they will have also done battle again at Lake Garda in Italy and Starnberg in Switzerland.

Everyone is holding thumbs.

The Stauchs have sent us an account of the racing and we start with the crucial final race.

Last Race of F.D.s

The weather forecast predicted force 3, so Hellie tried a new genoa jib which looked good, and the boat seemed to point well. We were leading on points, only *Fy-y* (Elvstrom) could beat us; but if they came 1st and we 5th we would win.



After good start, pulled ahead in first beat rounding the mark ahead. Wind dropped on reach and to my horror the flat genoa, which was not quite full size, did not draw well and I fell back to ninth place.

The wind dropped still more and we could pull up only two places on the run, starting long beat in seventh position. Course was shortened and we had little time to make up lost ground. Pulled up two places on beat, with Koglin and Kreidel pushing very hard. We all pulled up on the leaders on the run.

Unfortunately *Fy-y* had pulled ahead so we had to fight for fifth position to win points prize and Forde prize.

I attacked Wagner Kiel by attempting to break through his lee on last beat and succeeded in getting past to leeward, but noticed two following boats going for height. I therefore chose to let Wagner go and tacked to cover Koglin and Kreidel, finishing a few seconds behind Wagner in fifth position.

Result: 1st *Fy-y*, 2nd Dane, 3rd Wagner-Kiel, 4th Wagner-Hamburg, 5th Stauch, 6th Kreidel, 7th Koglin, 8th Wibo Zwart.

We thus won the two major trophies: Forde Prize, a floating trophy consisting of a beautiful silver platter, and First Points Prize which is a silver goblet, a replica of an historical

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old drinking vessel. We are naturally very happy to have won all the trophies in the F.D. Class, including the Adenauer Prize, which is a floating trophy to be won three times in succession, which we missed last year by one point against Mulka.

There were no less than five Olympic helmsmen in this class, including Sarby from Sweden, who did not get his boat going at all and was beaten by Wibo as well. Wibo's eighth place in final scoring is a very creditable effort, and is a good sign for the general standard of sailing in South Africa.

The overall standard in these races seemed to be higher than last year. People like Wagner, of Hamburg, who was a close runner-up at the World Championships at Rimini, finished third. He was usually well up, but apart from the first race, could never maintain a leading position. Koglin, who figured well in 1957 Championships, won one series of elimination races, finished behind Wibo.

We have now decided to have a shot against the Italian Champs at Lake Garda and after that against the Swiss at Geneva. Then August 29 Geneva, Le Havre (Douville in Dragon) and Attersee in September.

These are the dates of our proposed programme—but anything can happen.

[Reports of other races must be kept brief, but they give glimpses of the maestro to his foxiest.]

Sixth Race F.D.s

Very light changeable winds. After fairly good start, got to first mark in third position on port tack, had to give way to a group of boats on starboard, bringing us to eighth position which we kept for a long time.

After last beat wind dropped to nothing, while leaders engaged in luffing match, we sailed extreme course below mark with spinnaker, enabling us to approach mark on close reach after dropping spinnaker. Extra speed sufficient to carry us through lee of leaders and round this mark first. We kept position on last reach and beat to finishing line.

Wagner, of Kiel, lying second, could sail closer to wind and very nearly caught us port-starboard when we tacked for the line. We had another anxious moment when wind veered just before finish so we could not make line, Wagner to weather. We made short starboard tack and tacked again just under him crossing the line three seconds ahead. With *Fy-y* only fifth in this race we were left with useful margin of lead in final position.

Fifth Race F.D.s

Easterly wind, force 6-7, terrific sea. Perfect start off weather mark. Led to first mark, poor visibility and could not see weather mark, overstood it by a few hundred yards. Tacking, had to reach for mark, putting us in sixth position. Pulled up to fourth place on reach by sailing close and later setting spinnaker for the mark.

I do not remember ever experiencing such fantastic sailing with spinnaker up in such high seas. Surfing in front of wave the boats were completely out of water to midway of centre board. Landing in trough the danger was that the bow would cut under, happening to a number of competitors resulting in capsize.

Wibo sailed well, surviving this, since half the fleet was not able to complete the course. Wagner, Kiel, one of the favourites, did not even start. *Fy-y* was leading Fock, Denmark, Tieren third and Helli fourth.

On last reach, instead of first reaching set spinnaker imme-

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STAUCH'S TRIUMPH AT KIEL WEEK . . .

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diately after mark, sailing free to leeward of fleet, reaching up later to next mark, passing Tiran who at that point broke his rudder and retired and pulled up within two boat lengths of the Dane. Final beat no change.

Result: 1st Fy-y, 2nd Fock-Denmark, 3rd Stauch, 4th Dr. Kreidel, 5th Wibo Zwart.

Fourth Race F.D.s

In spite of Olympic course, the committee decided on an off-wind course. The change of wind anticipated did not appear, so it was a soldier's course, and we had no chance to improve on our 6th position, until a slight change of wind turned the second last leg into a beat, wind force 3. On short beat pulled up to third on heels of Wagner (Kiel) over the line. Poullain-Elvstrom won this race.

Third race of F.D.s

Again a perfect start for Helli on weather mark, close-hauled. About 10 boats attempted to fan in, three took note of our screams and gave way, the rest fanned in and rather spoilt our start. Elvstrom and Poullain barged in second time and touched Wibo and should have retired, but did not. This gave them first position at first mark.

The wind was light, about force 2, later faded to nothing. We expected wind from shore and extreme close reach, while others set spinnakers. We got wind with a German boat and both of us drew ahead. Rounded next mark second.

Wind dropped, allowing 12 boats to come up and pass us. We jibed and sailed for an opening which allowed us to sail without being covered, reaching third mark of course in second position. Leading was Nobard Wagner, German Piraten Jolle champion for past few years, having beaten Elvstrom and other cracks in this class.

The wind changed, making beat to weather mark look as if it could be laid in one leg. Wagner sailed close-hauled making for the mark. Elvstrom and others went about to gain height and weather position and we chose to sail free on close reach below mark, anticipating possible wind shift.

The latter happened.

We rounded in lead five minutes before Wagner and 10

minutes before rest. Nothing changed on run down and beat, except that Wagner seemed to sail very fast rounding weather mark one minute behind us. Two reaches and short beat to go, a win seemed certain for Adenauer Cup—most coveted dinghy trophy at Kiel Week.

In points Elvstrom had lead on us and we had to beat him by two places for this trophy. At this stage he was three places behind, so all was fine.

The wind fell flat, Wagner drew level on reach, the rear boats got freak puff and, to my horror, I saw Elvstrom coming up high to weather with speed. I went about, taking me away from mark, in an attempt to get to the wind, just managing to reach next mark with Wagner and Elvstrom.

Elvstrom had inside position in luffing match. Wind dropping to nothing, the bulk of the fleet—about 20 boats—came up in a block. A few minutes later practically everybody overtook us. A breeze came through, and being to leeward, our position seemed hopeless.

Possibility of wind shift to east and decided in desperation to sail for this. Jibed and sailed away from fleet, except three stragglers who had same idea. To our relief this breeze came through and the boats in this former leeward position drew ahead to round last mark about 30 seconds in front of next group.

At this mark about 150 dinghies of other classes had conglomerated, causing a shambles. Last leg to line turned into dead run with all these boats behind the leaders. Tense 10 minutes to reach finishing line, about 15 seconds ahead of line. Next boats finished within five seconds.

Since Elvstrom came seventh and Tirieau sixth, we won the Adenauer Cup with handsome margin. Wibo sailed last leg of course extremely well (Hartebeestpoort weather) to finish fifth.

Adenauer Cup: 1st Hakahana II—Stauch, 2nd Kammibaaltse—Tirieau, 3rd Fy-y—Elvstrom.

As transport of Dragon to Hanko has been cancelled, we are taking our F.D. instead. Another ship wants £100 to take the Dragon to Oslo—too much! And then we must bring it back again for the same price! Not even the rich H.W.E. would pay this!

(More news of Helmut in our next issue.)

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