

FINN WEEK SAILS INTO YACHTING CALENDAR

A Finn regatta can now be regarded as an established fixture on the South African yachting calendar. Finn owners who attended the Glinane Finn Trophy week in Durban during the Christmas holidays unanimously voted that the trophy should again be contested in Durban next Christmas, after which plans for future venues will be decided.

The decision to come to Durban again was not solely a compliment to the Durban sponsors, or an acknowledgment of the fact that at the moment this centre has the country's largest Finn fleet: the truth is the visitors recognised that here was the perfect solution to the annual holiday. After all, they were guaranteed "cut rate" accommodation at the height of the Natal season, good company, as much organised entertainment as they could "swallow", and a week of first-class sailing to boot. All four Durban clubs contributed to the social round. The prize-giving was held at the R.N.Y.C., with Mr. Rupert Ellis Brown making the presentation.

The event has yet to get the blessing of S.A.Y.R.A.—but no doubt the "old lady" will be persuaded to shake out a reef and recognise that the wind is fair for individual class boat regattas. Certainly a total of 31 entries (at fairly short notice) and a highly successful week of sailing is proof of a demand for the concentrated competition that such regattas can give. Particularly for an Olympic class boat, it is the best possible stimulant for better helmsmanship.

The Glinane Trophy began as an idea among Durban owners, fertilised by Transvaal enthusiasm transmitted through Bobby Nuttall, the former Transvaal champion, who is now resident in Durban. Hamish Campbell carried the onerous burden of organising secretary, and kept the plant growing. The generosity of Steve Glinane, a popular and well-known Durban Finn owner, brought it into full flower with the donation of a magnificent silver trophy—with a cubic capacity of more than a quart of champagne!

It remained only for the weather to be kind. This, perhaps, was expecting too much in view of the heavy winds that had been prevailing.

There was a sulky southerly on the morning of the first day when Ernie Morrison, of Natal, who was ultimately to win by a big points margin, scored his first victory. In

the afternoon it was blowing 30 knots, and only seven finished upright. The first two home—Hellmut Stauch and J. W. Louter—had the mortification of discovering that they had started ahead of the gun. This gave Hamish Campbell a well-earned first. Morrison touched a mark on the last leg and was disqualified.

The third and fourth races were sailed in moderate winds. In the morning Jimmy Whittle got the first gun with Morrison second. In the afternoon H. Boumann "came from nowhere" to win. Stauch and Morrison crossed together, with the former getting second place as he was to windward. Morrison exploited his knowledge of local tide and wind conditions to pull up six places in the last 200 yards of this race.

The fifth and sixth races had to be postponed owing to impossible weather. Unfortunately, Stauch (who is the current South African and Transvaal champion) was unable to stay on in Durban. At this stage he was ninth in the log. He had had an unlucky regatta, dropping the first race after a port-and-starboard protest, and the second through a false start.

Morrison won the last two races by a wide margin. On the week's performance there was no doubt that he is the country's ablest Finn helmsman—particularly in a "blow", when his heavy weight is a big asset. His was a plucky effort as he had been off racing through illness for a couple of weeks before the regatta, and sailed the last two rounds with an extremely painful knee.

LOG:

(1) 7270, E. Morrison, *Fortune*; (2) 5038, J. M. Whittle, *Funagalore II*; (3) 4735, R. G. Nuttall, *Finnomenal*; (4) 4325, A. P. Collins, *Fun*; (5) 4103, P. H. Barker, *Huckleberry*; (6) 4062, H. A. Campbell, *Finfoot*; (7) 4050, J. Louter, *Fox*; (8) 3889, R. H. Stephenson, *Fizz*; (9) 3480, D. Hegarty, *Flight*; (10) 3249, J. Brink, *Flamingo*; (11) 3219, R. White and H. Pearsons, *Finkilty*; (12) 2419, H. W. E. Stauch, *Forelle*; (13) 2367, A. Hunt, *Fame*; (14) 1850, H. A. L. Blogg, *Fairy Tern*; (15) 1833, S. F. Glinane, *Finesse*; (16) 1777, R. Vorster, *Funani*; (17) 1760, A. Park-Ross, *Flaxedil*; (18) 1720, G. Neill, *Fury*; (19) 1705, J. van Nimwegen, *Aquarius*; (20) 1678, D. Moffatt, *Fair*; (21) 1592, H. Boumann, *Flare*; (22) 1224, F. Deeble, *Finch*; (23) 1165, L. Massey, *Freia*; (24) 1057, W. J. C. Bowden, *Fiesta*; (25) 905, P. Hill, *Fractious*; (26) 893, R. Jones, *Frisky*; (27) 712, N. Stott, *Freon*; (28) 446, C. C. McIntyre, *Flash*; (29) 101, B. Jones, *Fantomme*; (30) 0, M. Cartwright, *Flevo*; (31) 0, L. Hobson Jones.

Below, Steve Glinane ladles out the "bubbly" from the Glinane Trophy for "Tiny" Walford and Mrs. Walford, while Ernie Morrison, the winner, and his wife look on.

On the facing page: 1. Gordon Neill, Rear-Commodore of Durban's R.N.Y.C., abandoned his Nicholson keeler and borrowed a Finn to sail for the Glinane Trophy. Here he is seen taking the opportunity to study his boat from a new angle. 2. How to gybe. Hellmut Stauch, reigning South African Finn champion, caught in an unusual pose. 3. Jan van Nimwegen of the Transvaal has everything under control, but disconsolate competitor in the background goes home well "reefed". 4. Bobby Nuttall, former Transvaal champion and now of Durban, wears that Victory Smile. 5. Minus Victory Smile, Bobby Nuttall comes home. 6. Dick Stephenson (Natal) made sure that his feet kept warm. 7. John Louter battles to keep Fox under control during one of the heavy weather races. 8. Jimmy Whittle, South Africa's "best-known runner-up" in Finns and 30 Square Metres, has a word with Hamish Campbell (right), whose hard work behind the scenes was responsible for the smooth running of the regatta. 9. Steve Glinane, wearing his familiar "yachting cap," sailed sedately into 15th place in the log.

