

INTERNATIONAL 5.5 METRE CLASS ASSOCIATION

PAST PRESIDENTS: 1980-83 H. M. KING OLAV V OF NORWAY
 1972-80 ROBERT H. SYMONETTE
 1971-72 KEVIN J. MCCANN
 1970-71 ERNEST B. FAY
 1963-70 H. R. H. CROWN PRINCE HARALD OF NORWAY
 1960-63 OWEN AISHER

NEWSLETTER

What happened in the 5.5's in '85? (and early '86 for that matter). The answer is lots of activity with something in it for everybody. This article only deals with series in which three or more nations competed.

The nation with the largest number of 5.5's produced the World Champion in 1985 for the second successive year. Phil Durr sailing Z130, "Naryl", an older Chance design with Swiss Sobstad sails, won impressingly (four firsts, a second and a third) at Newport Beach, California, at an event splendidly conducted by the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club.

Nylandska Jaktklubben (N.J.K.) - the donors of the Scandinavian Gold Cup - has invited participation in Helsinki on the occasion of the 125th Anniversary of the Club in July 1986. Commodore Per Donner and Arne Lemstrom of Jaakko Poyry Oy, Helsinki, put together a syndicate, commissioned Hans Groop, and built L31 "Helena". Exceptionally well sailed by a young crew with lots of Soling experience - Tom Jungell won the Scandinavian Gold Cup at Newport Beach in the only series that has gone to seven races since the Cup has been in competition in the Class. Prior to winning the Gold Cup "Helena" won the U.S. Championship at Texas Corinthian Yacht Club at Kemah in August. The same crew went on to win the Australian Championship in January at Newport, Australia. Her sails were from the Melges loft in Helsinki.

"John B VII", BA 1, sailed by Robert Symonette, John Rumsey and Robert Penticoff, won the 1986 World Championship in Australia in an exciting come from behind last race by 2.7 points. "Helena" was second with "Busy Bee", BA 11, third. "John B VII" was designed and built in 1985 by Warren Muir of Australia and used North sails to finish fourth in the 1985 World's and a combination of North and Melges and Hovdan in Australia. "Busy Bee" is a 1980 Luders design built for Symonette as "Pop's John B" was also third in the 1981 World Championship in Nassau when sailed by Symonette.

The Australian Gold Cup in December 1985 in Sydney Harbour was won by KA 32 "Skagerak" a pre-1980 Luders design built in Australia, owned by Carl Halvorsen, and sailed by Cameron Miles.

The two other series in 1985 in which three nations competed were both in Hanko. Both were won by BA 7 "Ballymena" sailed by Symonette, Vince Brun and Martin Whittingham-Jones. "Ballymena" is a 1979 Muir designed and built and used North (San Diego) sails. In the King Olav Cup first place resulted in a tie (1.2.3. each after discard) with BA 11 "Busy Bee". In third place was "Helena". The Ocean Cup again saw "Busy Bee" second. Third place again saw a tie (after discard) between H.M. King Olav in Ernie Fay designed "Norna XI" and Finn Ferner in "Bingo II". "Bingo" was designed by Luders for the U.S. Olympic trials in 1968!

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 8038 ZURICH
 SWITZERLAND

WORST RACE

DROPPED

11.7 1

24.4 3

94.0 14

118.0 18

52.7 7

14.4 2

76.0 11

65.7 9

52.4 6

48.0 5

92.0 13

105.0 17

103.0 16

54.0 8

74.7 10

82.0 12

101.0 15

47.7 4

1.3

1.1

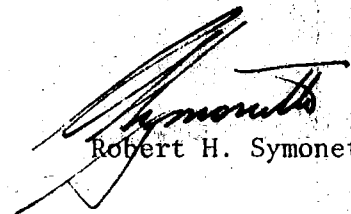
In Australia the Scandinavian Gold Cup was won by KA 41 "Jan VI" sailed by Bruce Ritchie. The boat is a Ben Lexcen design originally owned by Frank Tolhurst and had a "tomahawk" keel which has since been replaced. Sails used were Melges and Sobstad (Australia).

For the first time in many years no major series was won by a U.S. helmsman. No U.S. helmsman competed outside of the U.S. Within the U.S. Melges Boats built two fibreglass hulls off of "Warrior III". One is owned by Bob Mosbacher and the other by Tom Omohundro. Both used Melges sails. Mosbacher was second in the U.S. Championship and third in the World's. Omo was second in the World's. Class President, Al Cassel, represented the U.S. in the 1985 Gold Cup in Lexcen designed "Warrior III" using Melges sails. He won two races as did Felix Bibus of Switzerland sailing "Rana", a Lexcen design built in 1985 for many time World Champion and Gold Cup winner, Frank Tolhurst. This popular Australian has had to forego competition abroad for health reasons.

The three top boats in the 1986 World Championship ranged from the Luders "Busy Bee" - maximum displacement - to "John B VII" absolutely minimum. The weather ranged from 25 knots with large seas to very light - the light race being won by Z 150 "Tasman", owned by Karl Fassbind of Switzerland. This new Lexcen design finished fourth in the World Championship.

The schedule of principal events - outside of Switzerland as I do not have the Swiss schedule - will be the Ocean Cup and the King Olav Cup at Hanko late June/early July followed by the European Championship and Scandinavian Gold Cup in Helsinki starting July 7th. These two events form a part of the celebration of the 125th Anniversary of N.J.K. for which it is understood that, at least, two new boats are being built in Finland.

In 1987 the events now scheduled are the King Olav Cup, World Championship and Scandinavian Gold Cup in Hanko late June/early July.


Robert H. Symonette.

Encl.: 5.5 results - 1986 World Championship, Australia.

February, 1986.

WORST RACE	
VE	DROPPED
11.7	O'AU 1
24.4	3
94.0	14
118.0	18
52.7	7
14.4	2
76.0	11
65.7	9
52.4	6
48.0	5
92.0	13
105.0	17
103.0	16
54.0	8
74.7	10
82.0	12
101.0	15
47.7	4
1.3	1