

New Yorker Orders Ten 5.5-Meter Yachts Built

ESTIMATED COST TO BE \$100,000

Norwegian to Build 10 New
5.5-Meters—Facility Hopes
Use Them in Training

By JOHN RENDEL

An order to build ten 5.5-Meter yachts for the Sailboat Training Facility, Inc., was made public last week by Herman F. Whiton of New York, the organization's founder. They will be built in Norway by Bjarne Aas, who produced the International One-Design Class for Long Island Sound sailing twenty-five years ago.

The new yachts will serve a dual purpose. They will be part of the Facility fleet for the advanced instruction of young adults in the arts of the racing yachtsman. They will be a medium for developing skills in the class for the Olympic Games competition to be held in Tokyo in 1964. Whiton wasn't sure of the exact figure, but said that each boat would cost something under \$10,000, ready to race.

Although belonging to an "open" class that gives naval architects considerable latitude in design within prescribed limits as opposed to the strictly one-design classes in which all yachts are identical the new boats all will be the same. Whiton, although not primarily a naval architect, is an occasional designer and produced the design himself. He called the new 5.5s "one-design" boats that would be eligible for open competition.

Delivery Expected in April

Half the yachts are expected to be delivered late next April. The rest will be here before the 1962 season begins. The yachts will be under charter when they are not being used in the Facility program, Whiton said, but he was not ready to divulge to whom the boats would be chartered.

The Sailboat Training Facility has headquarters at 551 Fifth Avenue. It conducts seminars at various times during the season, with pupils paying a moderate fee. The present fleet consists of eight Internationals. As will be the case with the 5.5s, the boats are under charter for racing when not otherwise in use.

The 5.5-Meter Class has largely supplanted the 6-Meter for major small-boat international open-design competition. The boats carry three-man crews, including the skipper. They are just under thirty-one feet overall and just under twenty-three feet on the waterline.

The new boats will be built of wood, but will have coatings of fiber glass for durability and

ease of maintenance. The use of fiber glass over wooden hulls is a relatively new development in boats of the 5.5 size. The international rules do not forbid such construction, Whiton said.

Meetings and Dinners

The 210 Class and the Herreshoff S Class Association have set meetings and dinners for early December. The meeting of the International 210 Association will be at the American Yacht Club on Dec. 2. The meeting of the S Class will be at the Larchmont Yacht Club on Dec. 9.

The second annual frostbite regatta for juniors will be held by the Manhasset Bay Yacht Club next Saturday. The first race is set for 1:45 P. M.

Michael Costagliola of Sea Cliff, L. I. has been elected commodore of the Sea Cliff Yacht Club. The other officers are Alan R. Burtis, Glen Cove, vice commodore; Frank Cardman, Glen Head, rear commodore; Earl T. Miles, Westbury, treasurer and Jack Strandfeldt, Glen Head, secretary.

The German championships in the Star Class were held in Berlin despite that city's critical political situation, it was reported by "Starlights." A decision not to change to another location had been made at the Austrian championship regatta. Five races were held on a lake and there were sixteen entries, including one from Sweden. Ten other entries that had announced their intention to sail withdrew, however. They included boats from Switzerland, Sweden and Austria. The winner was Bruno Splieth, the 1961 Kiel Week victor who was runner-up in the European championships.