

INTERNATIONAL SIX-METRES

The International Six-Metre class, in their third year of their resuscitation, after 30 years without a class in England, have had perhaps their best year internationally since the formation of the Solent fleet in 1907.

In 1986 the Swiss visited for the Famous Grouse British Open Championships and came first and second. This year, with no less than ten British Six-Metres racing regularly, the Swiss came again and were outclassed. It was quite clear that the British Fleet had made a huge jump forward in speed and this was subsequently confirmed at the World Championships at Seawanhaka, Oyster Bay, USA in October, when 'Scoundrel', Bruce Owen, won the World Championships; 'Thisbe', owned by Bill Whitehouse-Vaux and sailed by Peter Bateman placed 5th; 'Battlecry', John Prentice sixth and 'St Kitts' Philip Walwyn placed eighth out of 23. To cap this 'Battlecry', chartered by Erik Maxwell and sailed by Lawrie Smith, representing the Royal Yacht Squadron, won the prestigious Seawanhaka Trophy. Overall this represented one of the most successful years internationally ever for Britain.

Two boats Scoundrel and Thisbe attended the European Regattas, taking part in the Ski and Six Regatta at Cannes, which was won by 'Gitana' owned by Benjamin de Rothschild. They then both reached the finals of the Hennessey Match Racing Championships, also at Cannes, when 'Thisbe' beat Scoundrel to win overall. In the Swiss Championship on Lake Constance Scoundrel finished second with Thisbe fourth in a fleet of 17. Scoundrel also visited Sandham to take part in the Sven Saler Memorial trophy.

In the Solent 10 British boats raced regularly off Cowes and at Hill Head in regattas run by the RYS and the CCYC. The class also took part in the Royal Southern Yacht Club's 150th Anniversary Regatta. The Solent points series was won by 'Blade', owned and sailed by Larry Marks, with 'Thisbe' second and 'Scoundrel' third. Two Classic yachts took regular part with 'Thistle', Tom Richardson, not only beating 'Mena', owned by Nigel Biggs, but also on many occasions finished well up amongst the modern boats both in the points series and in The Famous Grouse British Open Championships, with a best place of sixth.

'Kirlo' owned by Erik Maxwell and sailed by Lawrie Smith won the Famous Grouse British Open Championships in a fleet of 13 with 'Battlecry' second and 'Blade' third. The best placed Swiss boat was Fleau sailed by Bernard Hassily, who was elected ISMA President during the World Championships at Seawanhaka. Bruce Owen was elected international Vice-President at the same time.

For next year, the outlook is very optimistic. Two new boats are under construction: a new Battlecry for John Prentice and Lion for Tony Canning. The two Classic sixes will be joined by Sioma II owned by Jim Wanstell and Andy Cassell, and St Amour II which has been purchased from Switzerland by Richard Arden. It is hoped that Catherine and Kyria may join.

Next year both the British and the European Championships are to be held at Falmouth from 3rd to 17th July to be run jointly by the Royal Thames and Royal Cornwall Yacht Club when 26-30 boats are expected.

T C Street

Class Captain

Battlecry owned and sailed by John Prentice

'Scoundrel' which was designed by Pelle Petterson in 1986,
owned and sailed by Bruce Owen who won the 1987 World
Championships at Seawanhaka.

K82 Razzle Dazzle, Tim Street and Tim Russell crosses K81 Kirlo, owned by Erik Maxwell and sailed by Lawrie Smith during the British Open Championships.