



*Saba, 1967 Flying Fifteen Australian champion.*

## THREE-MAN BOAT WINS

THE fifth Australian Championship for Flying Fifteens was conducted by the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club over an Olympic type course on the Swan River.

The Carnival was an outstanding success, with variable winds, which sometimes suited the three man boat, and at other times favored the two man boat.

Local yachtsman, Alex Tregonning, skipper of *Saga*, won the championship and Prince Philip's Coweslip Trophy. *Saba*, a brand new boat, was only completed two days before the start of the championship, and had not competed in a race before the first heat. On her first outing *Saba's* rudder broke, and it was replaced by an old sentimental relic from *Sheba*, with which he won the first Australian Flying Fifteen Championship. The only other alteration made was the re-positioning of the mast. Splendid teamwork from Eric Smith and sheet hand Jim Buchanan, plus good starts, enabled everything to go according to plan.

The runner-up *Classic III* sailed by Russell Wilson, with 16-year-old crewman, Stephen Comme, did well to fill second place as a two man combination. Russell Wilson hails from Melbourne and is having his first season in WA. He carried a full sail, but would have preferred a flatter one.

Third placegetter *Southern Cross*, skippered by John Vincent, with crewmen Creigh O'Connor and Robin Sandover, was another consistent performer.

The strongest visitor was the defending champion Bob Boynton from Victoria who, with Chris Withers, sailed *Fidelity*. Bob smilingly admitted that he didn't mind parting with the title for a while, but intended picking it up again later on. He enjoyed his visit to the West, praised the control of the championship and the high standard of the competitors. Bob said he would arrive in Perth earlier next time to gain more local knowledge. Local yachtsmen would also like to know more about the sudden wind shifts. One point all competitors must be well clued up on is the way to go on the windward beat to the top mark. You have three ways from which to choose, the southern or Lucky Bay side of the river, the north or Nedlands side, or the centre of the river. To pick the right one depends upon the accuracy with which you assess the wind in relation to the mark.

Quite a lot of ground was covered at the annual meeting and much accomplished for the good of the class. Victorian Bob Boynton was elected president for the next 12 months.

After a general discussion it was moved and carried "that in future Australian Flying Fifteen Championships be raced under National FF rules." This means that at the next carnival in Melbourne the rules will be strictly adhered to and all the Flying Fifteens must have a two man crew. This move may be the means of gaining International status for the Flying Fifteens. To gain International status it is necessary for at least four countries to observe the National rules. Australia is the fourth!

1. *Saba* (A. Tregonning, WA) 54; 2. *Classic III* (R. W. Wilson, WA) 94; 3. *Southern Cross* (J. P. B. Vincent, WA) 174, then followed *Simit* (A. J. Locke, WA); *Salome* (G. J. Pearse, WA); *Fidelity* (R. T. Boynton, Vic); *Flight* (J. R. Dickson, NSW); *Aeolian* (G. J. Crabbe, WA); *Shiraz* (J. R. Galvin, WA); *Scaramouche* (J. R. duP. Rousset, WA).

(22 started)

—JIM SHARPLES



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

**B**ACK in 1949-50 Flying Fifteen designer Uffa Fox took a trunk-line call from faraway Perth — the caller was avid yachtsman John "Tally" Hobbs ringing to get Fox to explain a design detail.

Hobbs, working far into the night building his Flying Fifteen, suddenly struck a problem that seemed to defy answer.

He took the most obvious (and expensive) course, called the famous international designer at his Cowes home and had the problem straightened out within a few minutes.

The startled Fox received the call at 7 a.m. British time and recalled, through a friend who later visited Perth, that the impulsive gesture on Hobbs' part disturbed a rather personal part of his early-morning bathroom routine.

The long-distance call helped launch the first Flying Fifteen built in Western Australia.

The boat, eventually christened *Serena* by Hobbs, was built to the old style with ribs every two inches and required fastenings to be driven and roved in thousands — altogether 8000 fastenings went into her.

The resourceful Hobbs invited his friends in to help each Sunday morning, but on one proviso — that none should touch one drop of the keg he provided until they had driven home and roved at least 100 fastenings.

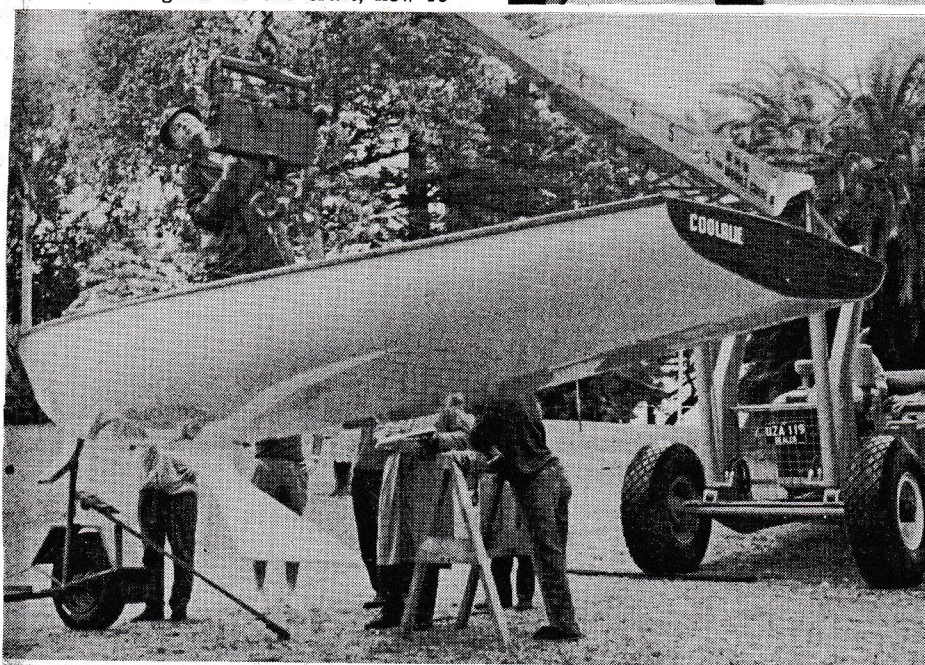
The quality of workmanship must have been good for the craft, now re-

named Phyrne, is still sailing in the southern seaport of Esperance.

She is just one of the fast-growing fleet of Flying Fifteens in W.A. and may be among those that make the start when the Australian championship is held on the Swan River between January 1 and 7 next.

Host club will be Royal Freshwater Bay, which possibly has the largest club fleet of Fifteens in Australia with 15 boats regularly sailing and three more to be built during the winter. Another six are being built in Albany while Esperance has four regularly sailing.

**JOHN HOBBS got Uffa Fox out of bathroom to solve Flying 15 building problem.**



**COOLALIE**, new Flying 15 owned by Doug Gordon, is one of the many W.A. boats being weighed in preparation for national championship. About 25 starters are expected.

Among the top skippers are Bob Rousset (*Scaramouche*), John Vincent (*Southern Cross*), Alex Tregonning (*Sheba*), Garry Pearse (*Salome*) and Graham Crabbe (*Aeolian*).

It now seems certain that about 25 Flying 15s will contest the series.

The national title, carrying with it the Coweslip Trophy donated by the Duke of Edinburgh during the 1962 Empire Games in Perth, already has attracted keen interest from other States, and at least six craft are expected from the East.

Among them is Victorian Sir Osborne

McCutcheon's *Molly-O V*, which finished third in the last national championships in Hobart.

By coincidence his previous craft, *Molly-O IV*, will also be in Perth, having been entered by N.S.W. Flying Fifteen president A. R. Tyson.

W.A. hopes of winning the championship will be high, with such fine performers as State champion Bob Rosset in *Scaramouche* and close rival Jon Vincent in *Southern Cross*.



**FFIA NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP 1967**  
**Hosted by RFBYC Perth Western Australia**

Number	Boat Name	Helmsman	State	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Points	Place
863	Saba	A. Tregonning	WA	1	8	2	1	1	13	1
768	Classic III	R. Wilson	WA	7	1	4	2	7	21	2
640	Simit	A. Locke	WA	4	7	5	5	4	25	3
735	Southern Cross	J. Vincent	WA	5	9	8	4	5	31	4
703	Flight	R. Dickson	NSW	11	4	3	10	11	39	5
641	Salome	G. Pearse	WA	8	6	6	15	8	43	6
796	Shiraz	J. Galvin	WA	3	18	19	7	3	50	7
795	Somali	K. Bowden	WA	6	16	15	8	6	51	8
862	Aeolian	G. Crabbe	WA	9	24	10	3	9	55	9
572	Molly-O IV	A. Tyson	NSW	15	5	7	14	15	56	10
929	Ffelice	J Harvey	WA	2	24	24	9	2	61	11
868	Ffidelity	R Boynton	VIC	24	3	1	13	24	65	12
370	Silhouette	D.Tregonning	WA	13	12	17	12	13	67	13
886	Samantha	S. Brown	TAS	16	2	9	24	16	67	14
794	Coolalie	D. Gordon	WA	12	10	12	24	12	70	15
865	Solveig	J.A.T. Hobbs	WA	10	14	16	24	10	74	16
860	Fiona	H. Roesinger	WA	14	17	14	17	14	76	17
861	Scaramouche	J. duP.Rousett	WA	24	13	11	6	24	78	18
736	Saluki	R. Manser	WA	24	11	10	11	24	80	19
371	Shemara	D.Clements	WA	18	19	21	19	18	95	20
701	Spennia	M. Michael	WA	17	24	20	18	17	96	21
930	Jedda V	J. Martin	WA	24	15	18	16	24	97	22
737	Serena	G. Wilson	WA	24	24	24	24	24	120	23

=DNF

=DNS

=RTD