

RELIENCE RELIABLE

NATIONAL Flying Fifteen titles held at Pittwater, NSW, in unseasonable weather saw the defending champion *Relience II*, sailed by W. Shand of Victoria, give notice of her form early on by winning the Invitation race.

Wins in the second, third and fourth heats as well as a second in the fifth made her position virtually impregnable.

The sixth heat was a true test of seamanship for the defending champ. Running square, she was clouted by a 25-knot gust which jibed the main onto the spinnaker, pinning the skipper between deck and mainsheet and sending *Relience* into a wild broach.

For'ard hand Hal Shand let everything fly to go aft and untangle his brother. The boat still took second place to NSW skipper N. King in *Quartet*. *Relience* closed her grip on the title with a win in the seventh heat.

Final placings were: *Relience II*, 6; 2nd, *Quartet*, 22.4; 3rd *Kingfisher*, T. Stokes, Vic, 44.7; 4th, *Vagabond*, S. Brown, Tas, 45.7; 5th, *Sirocco*, J. Ruys, Vic, 59.7; 6th, *Wicked Wench*, C. Jousse, NSW, 74.4.

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FLYING FIFTEEN

FOR the second time in a row, Victorian Bill Shand walked off with the Flying Fifteen national title—and the Coweslip Trophy presented to the Australian fleet by Prince Phillip.

From the final point scores it looks as though he annihilated the opposition with a winning margin of 16.4, but in reality this is not a true reflection of the racing, which was quite close, and had second place-getter Nick King (also for the second time running) not broken a mast in the second heat, things might have been a lot closer.

Even so, Shand turned in a remarkable performance with four firsts and two seconds to count. Unlike previous years, his boat, *Relience II*—a glass moulding taken from his previous wood boat—was the essence of simplicity and all the usual twitches had been diced but for one innovation. This was a mast step mounted on ball-bearings and by a system of block and tackles mast movement in the gate, and hence bend, could be finely controlled.

Relience was using sails from the British firm of Bruce Banks in the light heats and Tasker gear in heavy weather, set on a De Havilland stick.

Second place-getter *Quartet* was also a very simply rigged boat, but, by contrast to *Relience*, she was using a big section, stiff, untapered spar with

Herrick sails. By the standard of the fleet she was almost old-fashioned, having a heavy glass hull and a plywood deck, however, no one can deny that she was going.

RESULTS — 1. *Relience II* (W. Shand, Vic.), 5-1-2-1-2-1, 6; 2. *Quartet* (N. King, N.S.W.), 3-DNF-4-3-3-3, 22.4; 3. *Kingfisher* (T. Stokes, Vic.), DNF-2-3-4-4-5-5, 44.7; 4. *Vagabond* (S. Brown, Tas.), 1-5-4-3-2-2-7, 45.7; 5. *Sirocco* (J. Ruys, Vic.), 2-4-5-7-6-DNF-8, 59.7; 6. *Wicked Wench* (C. Jousse, N.S.W.), 15-8-6-17-8-4-3, 74.4; 7. *Goose* (A. Liddett, Vic.), 10-9-2-DNF-19-3-6, 82.4; 8. *Flight* (P. MacGregor, N.S.W.), 4-7-13-9-10-10-10, 84.0; 9. *Fly* (P. Hurley, A.C.T.), 6-6-16-5-15-DNF-11, 93.4; 10. *Yanuka* (R. Alsop, Vic.), 8-3-7-8-7-DNF-DNF, 96.7.

LATE LUFF LOST YACHT TITLE

A luffing incident in the second heat of the Australian Flying fifteen championships at Sydney lost the title for Paynesville yachtsman Bill Shand, in Reliance.

Shand withdrew from this heat after finishing second, a result which, had it stood, would have given him the championships. As it was, he tied with a Sydney competitor with two firsts, a second and a third place each, but a count-back favored the Sydney yachtsman who had sixth place in the remaining heat.

In six races, Reliance finished no further back than third in a field of 16 contestants, and netted a nice bag of trophies for her skipper.

Throughout the series it was evident that local knowledge was on the side of the Sydney competitors on the tricky Pittwater course.

In the invitation race which preceded the championship proper, Bill and Hal Shand gave Sydney-siders an entirely new concept of heavy weather sailing in a Flying Fifteen to walk away to a win by a half-mile margin and tack their first trophy away in the bag.

MAST TROUBLE

Trouble struck while Reliance was being unrigged after this race and her aluminium mast snapped at the bounds.

A hurried trip through Sydney peak-hour traffic lanes brought her crew to the De Havilland works half an hour after closing time, but, after some hard talking, arrangements were made for the spar to be replaced the following morning.

De Havilland riggers had the new stick rigged just in time for the return trip to Pittwater to be made. The yacht prepared and her crew to take the water for the first heat.

With the wind still near gale force, Reliance proved that her performance of the previous day was no fluke by again walking away from the rest of the fleet to a most convincing win.

COSTLY ERROR

In the second race conditions were lighter. Reliance, down third on a shy, was in reach, was gradually working her way past the second yacht, which appeared to be making no effort to attack her.

Shand, lulled into a false sense of security, omitted to hail the other craft that her right to luff had expired, and she suddenly swung into the wind. Reliance was too close and too far ahead to be able to dodge, and so withdrew after finishing the heat in second place.

A win in the third heat, followed by a second in the fourth heat, had Reliance well in the running with one heat to go.

The breeze was very light and fluky in this heat, and Reliance had a stiff fight all the way with a Sydney Fifteen for second place.

Reliance covered every tack of her opponent on the last windward work to the line until she was nicely placed for her last leg to the finish.

Here the Sydneysider got a nice lift which moved him ahead. Reliance, moving much faster through the water, just failed by two feet to regain the lead, and so finished this heat in third place.

Complete results are not yet available for the Killycat and Sabot championships.

YACHTING AT PAYNESVILLE

For variety, the club race at Paynesville took the form of a tail-chase. Koorin, as pacemaker, sailed a lap of the course to set the plane, and then each yacht started on its own handicap time, calculated from the usual handicap tables.

Forty-nine minutes seemed a long time between first and last

starter, but the weekly handicaps were justified when apart from D. Huntington's Skat Too, which managed to knock up a four-minute lead, the next 19 yachts finished with only seconds between successive placings.

Next Sunday is the club picnic, details of which are advertised in this issue.

Points racing resumes on January 17.

1970



Australian National Championship Results

1969 - 1970 sailed under the Burgee of Avalon Sailing Club

There were 31 entries for the eighth Australian Championships with New South Wales, Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory all represented.

Bill and Hal Shand won their second championship with four bullets. Nick King of New South Wales was placed second for the second time in two years, he was unfortunate to break his mast in the second heat.

Unfortunately we do not have a full set of results for this series, however, the first place getters were:

Place	Boat #	Boat Name	Helm	Crew	Home State
1	961	Relience II	Bill Shand	Hal Shand	Vic
2	706	Quartet	Nick King	No record	NSW
3	878	Kingfisher	Tom Stokes	No record	Vic

Avalon S.C. 1970

LIST OF ENTRIES.

<u>SAIL NUMBER</u>	<u>BOAT NAME</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>SKIPPER</u>	<u>RECALL NUMBER</u>
572	Berjaya	N.	P. Shaw	1
662	Vagabond	T.	S. Brown	2
690	Cheri	N.	R. Krastins	3
703	Flight	N.	J. McGregor	4
706	Quartet	N.	N. King	5
743	Frith	N.	J. Black	6
758	Five-Up	N.	B. Smart	7
772	Yanuka	V.	R. Alsop	8
867	Molly-O	V.	O. McCutcheon	9
871	Sirocco	V.	J. Ruys	10
878	Kingfisher	V.	T. Stokes	11
929	Ffelice	W.	J. Harvey	12
942	Optimist	V.	B. Gooley	13
951	Filibuster	V.	R. Murray	14
952	Diholaina	V.	T. Brealey	15
954	Sina Lua	V.	P. Andrew	16
958	Affray	V.	G. Miller	17
961	Reliance II	V.	W. Shand	18
965	Ponce de Tigre	N.	A. Tyson	19
969	Mariah	V.	W. Hood	20

LIST OF ENTRIES. (Continued).

<u>SAIL NUMBER</u>	<u>BOAT NAME</u>	<u>STATE</u>	<u>SKIPPER</u>	<u>RECALL NUMBER</u>
1033	Pterodactyl	N.	B. Milton	21
1045	Patachou	N.	D. Helsham	22
1049	Fip	N.	D. Hurley	23
1055	Nicked Wench	N.	C. Joosse	24
1056	Noojec-y	N.	E. Richardson	25
1058	Dudina	N.	G. Stewart	26
1067	Enterprise	V.	D. Hinkley	27
1104	Alicia	N.	L. Westman	28
1121	Anja	V.	W. Joosse	29
1126	Aphrodite	N.	A. Woods	30
1140	Windward	N.	J. Hurley	31