

## FLYING FIFTEEN

BILL SHAND of the Gippsland Lakes club in Victoria won his third successive Australian Flying Fifteen championship with Reliance. Shand was quickly into form, winning the first two races before the other 16 crews in the series settled down to the conditions on the Swan river.

Shand was narrowly beaten by local skipper John Galvin sailing Shiraz in the third heat. Then after winning the fourth heat and clinching the series, Reliance finished third in the last heat.

Reliance was built to win races - her fibreglass hull is down to the class minimum of 350lb., plus the 400lb. iron keel. The hull is just a shell, with fibreglass stringers moulded into the bottom and sides and no bulkheads as there were in most of the other boats in the series.

Both first and second placed boats were fibreglass but this seemed incidental as the windshifts on Melville water made a fair assessment of boats very hard - but it did prove to be a great test of crews.

Barry Court, husband of tennis player Margaret Court, was forward hand for Esperance W.A. skipper Nils Blumann who won the final heat with his boat Snap.

2 CH  
FLYING FIFTEEN: 1 Reliance (W. Shand, Vic) 1, 1, 2, 1, 3, 3; 2 Shiraz (J. Galvin, W.A.) 2, 4, 1, 4, 2, 14; 3 Fip (P. Hurley, N.S.W.) 3, 2, 7, 10, 7, 34, 7; 4 Snap (N. Blumann, W.A.) 6, 6, DNF, 8, 1, 37, 4; 5 Pfelice (J. Harvey, W.A.) 8, 8, 9, 2, 4, 39; 6 Saba (A. Tregonning, W.A.) 5, 3, 5, 9, DNF, 40, 7; Scaramouche (H. Bell, W.A.) 4, 5, 6, 6, 6, 41, 4; 8 Ponce de Tigre (T. Tyson N.S.W.) 7, 11, 11, 3, 8, 49, 7; 9 Pamela Jane (S. Austin, W.A.) 12, 14, 16, 5, 5, 58; 10 Goonawarra (R. Bishop, W.A.) 9, 10, 12, 7, 11, 61.

Modern  
Beating  
March  
1971



## FLYING 15

**V**ICTORIAN Bill Shand, making his first trip to Perth, showed his mastery of the Flying 15 class in Australia by winning the national title for the third year in succession when the five-heat series was held on the Swan River in January. Shand, who sails *Reliance* with his brother Hal, has been in the class since 1962 and in that time he has contested six national championships. He did not come to Perth on the last two occasions when the championships were won by West Australia's Alex Tregonning. His victory in January, of course, makes Shand the first helmsman from another State to win the national Flying 15 title in Perth waters. An indication of his dominance in the last three seasons is given in his number of heat wins in the national championships.

Of 17 heats sailed in the last three years, Shand has won 11 and in the last two series he has clinched the title before the start of the final race. In the recent championship, Shand got away to an excellent start by winning the invitation race and then the first two heats. A second placing in the third heat and another win in the fourth put Shand in an unbeatable position. He finished with the loss of only three points and a winning margin of 11 points over West Australian John Galvin, who gave a consistent display in Shiraz with his brother Jim as crewman. The Galvins had a win,



two seconds and two fourths in the championship heats and their steadiness also earned them the W.A. title for the 1970-71 season, the series being sailed in conjunction with the national championship.

Pat Hurley and Simon Hill, one of two N.S.W. crews that came to Perth for the championship, finished third with Fip and Nils Blumann, of Esperance, last year's W.A. champion, came fourth and was runner-up for the State title. An interesting point that came from the series was that the first three boats on the final points tally had glassfibre hulls.



LEFT: The brothers Shand, Bill and Hal, sailing *Reliance* to victory in the Australian Flying Fifteen championships.



# PERFECTIONIST SAILING WINS FLYING FIFTEENS 1971

**B**ILL SHAND of Victoria, described by one of his opponents as a perfectionist yachtsman, won three of the five heats of the Australian Flying Fifteen championship with his boat "Reliance" and had sealed the series after four of the five heats.

The series was sailed on the Swan River in Perth—winds were from light to moderate and varied from west to south-west—quite often to the despair of competitors.

Runner-up for the title was local skipper John Galvin who sails *Shiraz* and lost 14 points as compared with *Reliance's* three.

Both first and second boats home were built in fibreglass. Shand had taken a lot of trouble to ensure that his boat was as light as possible—there were no bulkheads at the front or back. Stringers were very light and all weight was right down the bottom of the boat.

Shand became the first skipper in the history of the class to win three consecutive

Australian titles. He hopes to sell his boat and start sailing another new Fifteen which he and his brother have built when he returns to Gippsland Lakes.

Third in the series went to Sydney skipper Pat Hurley who sails *Flip* and lost 34.7 points. Only three interstate boats competed.

The first heat was won by *Reliance*, due largely to Shand's ability to pick the wind shifts.

*Shiraz* was second.

Shand continued to dominate the series (he had also won the invitation race) by winning the second heat by 2m 30s, the biggest margin of the series.

Sailing *Shiraz* expertly in the moderate breeze, Galvin was able to beat Shand by 27s in the third heat. This was a battle of tactics between the two. *Reliance* was going faster downwind but *Shiraz* was picking up on the windward legs.

After the lead had changed several times Shand established his supremacy in the fourth heat and *Reliance* beat *Felice* (John Harvey, WA)

and *Ponce de Tigre* (Tony Tyson, NSW) home.

Three wins and a second at this stage sealed the series for Shand, who has his brother Hal as for'ard hand.

The Esperence club in WA has a big fleet of Fifteens and Nils Blumann, who won the State championship last season, came good in the final heat to win after a keen tussle with *Shiraz*.

Blumann had a tale of woe to tell over this series. He had bought a new mast at the beginning of the season. When he tried this mast in the series he found it waving everywhere.

After checking, it was found that the aluminium had not been tempered and a new one was supplied for the third heat. In this race his for'ard hand Ken Edwards twisted his knee while setting the spinnaker for the first time and *Snah* was retired from the race.

Barry Court, husband of tennis player Margaret Court, sailed with Blumann in the fourth and fifth heats and when the new mast was rigged properly they won the final heat.



Please Return to Bill Shand

## FORECAST:

Friday and Saturday:  
Very hot and dry with  
freshening northerly  
storms ahead of a  
cooler southerly change  
winds Friday, thunder-  
Saturday.

# The

EAST  
GIPPSLAND

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1971

# THE SHANDS WIN YACHT TITLE AGAIN

Lindenow yachtsmen Bill and Hal Shand completed a hat trick when they won the 1970-71 Australian Flying Fifteen sailing championship on the Swan River, Perth, Western Australia, last week.

It is the third year in a row that the brothers have brought home the Duke of Edinburgh's "Coweslip" trophy, and the sixth year out of nine that the trophy has been awarded to Victorian yachtsmen.

Bill and Hal began their winning run by coming first in a special invitation, and claiming the Swan Brewery trophy, also an annual award.

There were five heats in the main championship, and each covered about 10 miles.

Winds were not as strong as expected, averaging between 15 and 20 knots.

With Bill as skipper and Hal as crew, Reliance II won the first three heats, came second in the fourth, and third in the fifth.

The last heat was the most exciting, though a little tragic for the Lindenow yacht. A mishap occurred when another yacht came in contact with Reliance II, slightly

• Skipper Bill Shand with the "Coweslip."

damaging her, and putting her further back in the race.

The Governor of Western Australia (Sir Douglas Kendrew) presented the Coweslip trophy to the brothers at an official ceremony on Saturday night.

Bill and Hal, members of the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club, were accompanied by their wives to Western Australia for the series, flying there and back. Reliance II travelled in a more down-to-sea manner, in a ship.

Commodore of the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club (Mr Terry Webster) said today that the Shand brothers' third successive win in the Flying Fifteen Championship was fantastic.

Their efforts were a great boost for yachting

on the Gippsland Lakes, and a credit to their persistence and tenacity, Mr Webster commented.

## IN MELBOURNE NEXT YEAR

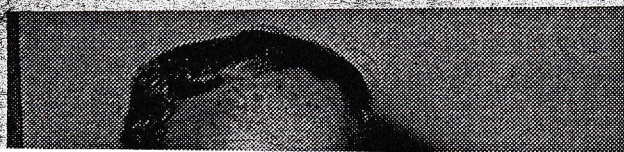
The championship is held alternatively in four States - Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Next year the event will be held in Melbourne.

The yacht was christened after another of the same name printed on a very old punch jug, a keepsake of the Shand family for a number of centuries.

Mr Bill Shand said that the jug, which is decorated with caricatures and symbols, was probably made during Napoleon Bonaparte's time. It became the possession of his family ancestors in either England or Scotland, for making several voyages.

Named after a yacht belonging to Prince Phillip, the Coweslip trophy was presented for annual com-





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Named after a yacht belonging to Prince Phillip, the Coweslip trophy was presented for annual competition by the Duke of Edinburgh when he opened the 1967 Commonwealth Games.

Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club hosted this year's trials, centered at Melville Water, on the Swan River.

In contrast to last year, when 39 yachts competed in N.S.W., only 18 took to the water.

Mr Shand said the fewer entries were due to the enormous distances which need to be covered by yachts from the east coast, where most Flying Fifteen yachts were to be found.

He also said that, for the first time, the Victorian Flying Fifteen Championships will be held over an Olympic course — same as that in the Australian Championships at Paynesville during the long week-end in March.

Other yachting activities on the G.L.Y.C.'s immediate itinerary are the contesting of three heats for the Flying Dutchman Provincial this month, and a Rainbow series during the Australia Day week-end.





**FFIA NATIONAL AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP 1971****Hosted by RFBYC Perth Western Australia**

Number	Boat Name	Helmsman	State	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	Points	Place
961	Relience II	W. Shand	VIC	1	1	2	1	3	8	1
1210	Shiraz II	J. Galvin	VIC	2	4	1	4	2	13	2
861	Scaramouche	H. Bell	WA	4	5	6	6	6	27	3
1049	Fip	P. Hurley	NSW	3	2	7	10	7	29	4
929	Ffelice	J Harvey	WA	8	8	9	2	4	31	5
965	Ponce de Tigre	A. Tyson	NSW	7	11	11	3	8	40	6
1138	Snap	N. Blumann	WA	6	6	19	8	1	40	7
863	Saba	A. Tregonning	WA	5	3	5	9	19	41	8
1161	Goonawarra	R. Bishop	WA	9	10	12	7	11	49	9
1160	Pamela Jane	S. Austin	WA	12	14	16	5	5	52	10
736	Saluki	R. Manser	WA	19	9	8	12	9	57	11
794	Coolalie	D. Gordon	WA	14	7	4	19	13	57	12
865	Solveig	J.A.T. Hobbs	WA	16	15	10	11	10	62	13
823	Priscilla	I. Lightfoot	WA	10	16	3	19	16	64	14
796	The Leprechaun	E. Pigott	WA	11	19	13	14	12	69	15
860	Sahiba	V. Proudfoot	WA	13	13	13	15	15	69	16
930	Shillelagh	E. Morris	WA	15	12	15	16	14	72	17
735	Southern Cross	J. Vincent	WA	17	19	17	13	17	83	18

=DNF

=DNS

=RTD