

as well as boats from Gippsland Lakes, Bendigo, Geelong and Melbourne.

As can be seen from the results Bill & Hal Shand from the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club had a comfortable victory yet the places in many of the events were well spread, boats from Sydney, Lake Macquarie, Esperance, Perth, Canberra, Geelong and Bendigo finishing in the first ten places. Generally the fleet was tightly-bunched with many close finishes. In one heat the first seven boats crossed the line with five seconds between them. The weather was unusual for Gippsland in being fairly light, although two races were sailed in 15-20 knot winds. The invitation race was marred by an electrical storm which struck the fleet near the finish of the race, damaging three yachts and severely damaging a cruiser following the fleet.

Bill Shand continued his dominance of the Trophy with his fifth win. This is a remarkable performance considering the high standard of many of the helmsmen that have sailed Fifteens over the years. As is usual the most consistent boat was the winner. Shand's places were 1,2,16,1,2,3,2. Second were Laurie & Judy Bach, also from Gippsland Lakes, not entirely due to local knowledge as Laurie & Judy were third in the 1975 Victorian Championships held at Mornington.

FLYING FIFTEENS

THE 14th Australian Championship series for the Coweslip Trophy in the Flying Fifteen class was held at the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club, Paynsville, Vic. There were 42 starters with boats from Perth & Esperance (14), Sydney, Port Hacking and Lake Macquarie and Canberra

One of the features of Fifteen racing today is the number of husband and wife teams there were three such combinations in the first ten places with Peter & Ann McAuley coming third and Mike & Maureen Jinks tenth.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held during the Series. The meeting elected Jim Carr from Victoria President and Geoff Black from WA Secretary. The next series will be held at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron over the Christmas/New Year period '76/'77.

RESULTS: 1. *Reliance III* (Bill & Hal Shand, Vic) 1,2,16,1,2,3,2 - 14.7 point (Shand hull, Speedspars, Brooke sails); 2. *Philanderer* (Laurie & Judy Bach, Vic) 2,1,4,20,6,12,5 - 50.7 (Shand hull Speedspars, Brooke sails); 3. *Innisfree* (Pete & Ann McAuley, Vic) 4,12,1,4,8,5,6 - 51.1 (Shand hull, de Havilland spars, Brooke sails); 4. *Taurus* (Terry Cole & David Harris ACT) 10,7,DNF,7,3,1,4 - 55.7 (Norma hull, Speedspars, Burke sails); 5. *Cervante* (Tony Wood & Richard Scott - Murphy WA) 14,3,8,3,10,20,3 - 67.1 (Shand hull Speedspars, Cassidy sails); 6. *Super Goos* (Noel Davies & Geoff Cummings, NSW) 11,10,3,17,14,4,7 - 69.7; 7. *Topaz* (Myle Gavin & Joe Drixll, Vic) 6,11,10,21,5,2,DNF - 84.7; 8. *Owl & Fuss-Cat* (Geoff Black & David Smallwood, WA) 12,17,20,6,1,10,11 - 85.7; 9. *Mach 1* (John Dickson & Dick Kennedy, NSW) 16,9,12,16,4,23,14 - 93.00; 10. *Fiasco* (Mike & Laureen Jinks, Bendigo) 3,19,2,14,17,11,20 - 93.7.

1976

RELIENCE WINS NATIONAL TITLE

Bill and Hal Shand, sailing Relience III, won the Australian Flying Fifteen Titles which concluded at Paynesville this week.

This was the fifth time that the brothers from Lindenow had won the title.

Another Gippsland Lakes yacht, "Philanderer" sailed by Laurie and Judy Bach, was second, and former United Kingdom champions, Peter and Anne McAuley, sailing "Innisfree," were third.

The invitation race (Offa Fox Memorial Trophy) showed promise of a close struggle between the Shands and a West Australian boat, "The Owl and the Pussycat."

However, as more heats were sailed, the Shand's consistent sailing showed through, and after six heats they were in an unbeatable position.

Local yachts, "George Gilt" (Bob Beard and Jeff Bannington), "Moonb" (George Beard and Ross English), and "Erica"

(Sandy McLeod and John Nielsen), all showed flashes of good form, but found the large fleet of 43 yachts difficult to handle.

An electrical storm during the invitation race struck three yachts, without serious damage. However, a Bull's cruiser, following the race, suffered damage from a direct hit.

Prior to the start of the final heat at least four yachts could have taken out second or third position.

After an exciting race, "Philanderer" crossed the finishing line less than 10 feet in front of "Innisfree," to seal second place. "Taurus," from Canberra Club, was placed fourth.

Generally, the fleet was closely bunched, with yachts from Western Australia, Mornington, Davey's Bay, Bendigo, Canberra, Port Hacking and Port Macquarie taking places in heats.

Sir Osborne McCutcheon, a past national Flying Fifteen champion, presented the trophies at the Paynesville Motel during a most successful evening.

Much praise was passed on the G.L.Y.C. for the excellent organisation of events and catering for the competitors.

Final points results:—
"Relience III" (Bill and Hal Shand) 14.7 (1, 2, 16, 1, 2, 3, 2); "Philanderer" (Laurie and Judy Bach) 50.7 (2, 1, 4, 20, 6, 12, 5); "Innisfree" (Peter and Anne McAuley) 51.7 (4, 12, 1, 4, 8, 5, 6).

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1976 National Championships

Extract from NSW FIS
Assocn. Mid Season N'letter
Feb. 1976

The National Championships at Paynesville, Victoria, ran from 29 December 1975 to 7 January 1976 and attracted forty two starters; thirty from Victoria, four from Western Australia and eight from NSW (including five from ACT).

The fleet was of consistently high quality, with well presented boats keenly sailed. Nine races were sailed on Lake Victoria in winds which were strong for the early races but eased of each day until on the last day the winds were extremely light and fickle. Except for the third heat which was declared "no race" due to a very confused start the series was well run and provided valuable experience for all participants. The final results were:

| <u>Race</u> | <u>First</u> | <u>Second</u> | <u>Third</u> |
|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Invitation | Owl & Pussy Cat (WA) | Reliance III (Vic) | Taurus (NSW) |
| 1st Heat | Reliance III (Vic) | Philanderer (Vic) | Fiasco (Vic) |
| 2nd Heat | Philanderer (Vic) | Reliance III (Vic) | Cervantes (WA) |
| 3rd Heat | Super Goose (NSW) | Owl & Pussy Cat (WA) | Don Quixote (WA) |
| 3rd Heat | Reliance III | | |
| 4th Heat | Reliance III (Vic) | Don Quixote (WA) | Cervantes (WA) |
| 5th Heat | Innesfree (Vic) | Fiasco (Vic) | Super Goose (NSW) |
| 6th Heat | Taurus (NSW) | Topaz (Vic) | Reliance III (Vic) |
| 7th Heat | Firefly (NSW) | Reliance (Vic) | Cervantes (WA) |

Final Results

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| 1975/76 National Champion | "Reliance III" | W. Shand (Vic) |
| Runner Up | "Philanderer" | J. Bach (Vic) |
| Third | "Owl and Pussy Cat" | G. Black (WA) |

Canberra News

Five Canberra crews journeyed to Paynesville to compete in the 14th national championships. They were Terry Coles and David Starris (Taurus), Mark and Maureen Hopkins (Firefly), Paul Cohen and son Paul (Shalom), John and Myra Rowling (Quartet) and Ron and Lorraine Reid (Lochinvar). Overall Taurus was 4th, Firefly 15th, Shalom equal 16th, Quarter 18th and Lochinvar 27th.

The series was well conducted by the Gippsland Lakes Yacht Club. Lake Victoria provided a good expanse of water for racing and the winds were generally good. The only unfortunate incident to mar proceedings was the resail of the second heat. This cost Lake Macquarie's Noel Davies a win and Canberra boats Taurus and Quartet a second and third respectively.

Most of the Canberra contingent felt reasonably happy with their performances. It was significant that Taurus and Firefly won the sixth and seventh heats when the winds eased toward the end of the series. Obviously sailing on an inland lake must have some benefits.

The majority of competitors from Victoria and Western Australia had relatively new boats. This tended to emphasise that NSW fleets are generally composed of older boats and has prompted several

Canberra skippers to plan new yachts for next season. Mark Hopkins has already sold Firefly to David Goudie of Port Hacking, John Rowling is open to offers for Quartet and Rex Warner is considering swapping Moonraker's old hull for a new one.