

WESTWARD TRIUMPHS IN THE KING'S CUP AT COWES

Big Schooner Sailed Home by Owner's Daughter: Velsheda's "Tow"

By MAJOR B. HECKSTALL-SMITH

COWES, Tuesday.

THE Royal Yacht Squadron regatta began to-day, the principal races being the King's Cup and Queen Mary's Cup.

His Majesty's cup, formerly confined to yachts belonging only to the R.Y.S., has for the last three years been open to members of all recognised British yacht clubs. The prize is offered for yachts of any rig or rating exceeding 60ft load water-line length, upon the time allowance scale of the Yacht Racing Association. It has thus become the "Derby" of yachting.

Mr. T. B. F. Davis won the King's Cup to-day with his splendid schooner Westward, defeating the whole class of cutters. It proved to be an ideal day for a schooner yacht to show her speed, because the northerly wind was strong and, except to round the marks, the yachts did not make a tack from start to finish.

AVERAGE OF 11.6 KNOTS

In these conditions the Number 1 40-mile course of the R.Y.S. was sailed by the schooner Westward in three and a half hours, and this glorious vessel covered the second round of the course at an average speed of twelve knots, maintaining an average speed of 11.6 knots for the entire course.

Many onlookers declared that there were moments when she was going fourteen knots. I believe this estimate to be justified. Mr. Davis, with two sailmakers, made the whole of the Westward's suit of sails in his native island of Jersey, and to-day the sit and general contour of the schooner's canvas was not surpassed by any racing yacht at Cowes.

So beautifully is this remarkable vessel balanced and trimmed that to-day, when reaching towards the finishing line at Cowes, a slim young girl, Miss Marjorie Davis, the owner's daughter, was steering her quite easily for the last few hundred yards of the race. This was for a brief period when the yacht was thundering along with the lee decks foaming in green water and the spindrift flying from her lee rigging screws like smoke.

INSPIRING SPECTACLE

The spectacle of the immensely powerful schooner when she crossed the finishing line, received her gun, and won the King's Cup, travelling at thirteen knots, with only the light hand of a girl upon the wheel, was most inspiring.

Expert yachtsmen might well wonder at the remarkable achievement of the veteran American naval architect, Nathaniel Herreshoff, who could design so fine a vessel.

Although it was one of those days in which Bermudian J class cutters seem but small fry compared with a noble schooner under full sail, I must say that Mr. W. L. Stephenson's cutter, Velsheda, sailed extraordinarily well. She was 9min 14sec ahead of the second cutter, Candida, and a quarter of an hour faster over this hard-reaching course than Britannia. Velsheda beat Shamrock V. and Astra by about two miles, and had it not been for the schooner Westward her performance would have been recorded as extraordinary.

The race began with a plain reach from Cowes to the Solent Bank Buoy. Candida, Shamrock V. and Velsheda cut the starting line at the highest speed. Westward was luffed head to wind on the line, and lost way. The order round the Solent Bank Buoy was: Velsheda, Candida, Astra, Westward and Britannia.

REMARKABLE "TOW"

As they reached to the east, almost abreast of Beaulieu River, Westward had gone through the lee of all the cutters. Upon passing the leading cutter, Velsheda, there occurred one of the most amusing and graphic instances of "towing" that I can remember.

It is a well-known fact that if a yacht of larger tonnage, sailing much faster than a smaller vessel, passes through the lee of the latter, and if the smaller yacht steers so as to put her bows close to the larger yacht's taffrail, the suction of the wake or displaced water of the bigger and faster

yacht will draw the slower yacht along, or "tow" her at the same speed as the leading yacht.

I have often seen this phenomenon over short distances. To-day Westward "towed" Velsheda in this way for more than three miles—from the Lepe to the Ryde Middle Bank. Velsheda kept exactly the same speed as the schooner, with her bows only a few yards from the schooner's counter.

PHANTOM ROPE BREAKS

Westward twisted and turned her helm in an effort to shake off the smaller boat, which was close to her tail, but very cleverly did old Capt. Mountefield keep Velsheda in the schooner's wake. The chase lasted a quarter of an hour before the phantom rope broke and the schooner left the cutter astern.

Immediately this "tow" was over Westward went ahead so fast that the King's Cup seemed sure to be hers. It rested with the three leading vessels, and they finished the first round—Westward, 12h 48m 58s; Velsheda, 12h 50m 2s; Candida, 12h 55m 6s.

On the second round the strength of the wind greatly increased. Velsheda made a sudden gain as they gybed round the Solent Bank buoy, but she dropped the cutters hand over fist on the remainder of the course and finished a fine and fast race 3min 26sec ahead of Velsheda. Mr. T. B. Davis and his skipper, Capt. Alfred Diaper Senior, handled the Westward with commendable skill throughout the day. Finishing times:

	H. M. S.
Westward	2 30 48
Velsheda	2 34 24
Candida	2 33 52
Astra	45 21
Shamrock V.	46 28
Britannia	49 30

Corrected times:

	H. M. S.
Westward (winner) (T. B. F. Davis)	2 30 48
Velsheda (second) (W. L. Stephenson)	2 33 52
Candida (third) (H. A. Andreae)	2 34 54
Astra (H. F. Paul)	2 38 37
Shamrock V. (C. R. Fahey)	2 42 56
Britannia (H.M. the King)	2 43 58

QUEEN MARY'S CUP

Mr. Frank Chaplin's yawl, Coral, sailed very fast to win Queen Mary's Cup for Royal Yacht Squadron yachts, a miscellaneous fleet which was led home by Mr. Walter Runciman's handsome schooner, Altair. Corrected times:

	H. M. S.
Coral (winner) (F. Chaplin)	2 47 34
Altair (second) (Hon. W. Runciman)	2 56 34
Thanet (third) (Viscount Gort)	2 58 33
Golden Hind (J. B. Kitson)	3 18 11
Arminel (Guy de C. Glover)	3 17 15
Rosemary IV. (I. Bell)	3 19 27
Carmela (G. E. W. Potter)	3 36 30
Cetonia (Lord Stalbridge)	3 45 20
Rona (W. D. Clark) gave up; Vera Mary (G. M. A. Hamilton Fletcher) not time.	

The twelve-metre race was won by Mr. Arthur Connell's Westra, but Mr. Hugh Goodson, in the Flica, made a very close fight. Finishing times:

	H. M. S.
Westra (winner) (A. C. & J. C. Connell)	2 44 55
Flica (second) (H. L. Goodson)	2 45 21
Miquette (third) (R. S. Grigg)	2 49 15
Veronica (Sir W. P. Burton)	2 52 11
Zelita (J. F. Carrington)	2 52 34

EIGHT METRES.—Saskia (winner) (K. H. Preston & R. Steele), 2h 36min 5sec; Sagitta (second) (C. E. & A. W. Nicholson), 2h 36min 26sec; Violeta (third) (M. H. Meson), 2h 37min 14sec.

ROYAL LONDON Y.C. REGATTA FOR SMALL CLASSES

The Royal London Yacht Club gave a regatta for the small classes while the big boats were sailing under the burgee of the R.Y.S. Many of the boats crossed the line with a reef in their mainsails owing to the fresh wind. Results:

SOLENT HANDICAP BY RATING.—Rainbow (H. F. Edwards) (winner), 2h 37m 40s; Noorna (Col. R. Sloane Stanley) (second), 2-40-3; Cresta (Mrs. A. E. Schnapper) (third), 2-40-4.

WEST SOLENT AND ROYAL BURNHAM RESTRICTED.—Oonah (H. Carron Scrimgeour) (winner), 2-59-35; Sapphire (Hon. Mrs. Cecil Brownlow) (second), 3-0-2; Squirrel (Mrs. O. Chetwynd) (third), 3-1-50.

SOLENT SUNBEAMS.—Mystery (Capt. Sir J. Dashwood and J. Fane) (winner), 2-59-5; Bryony (Col. Morrison Bell and Capt. A. Paget) (second), 3-0-25; Painted Lady (T. Beddington and G. Thomas) (third), 3-0-53.

SEAVIEW MERMAIDS.—Rosemary (A. Balmer) (winner), 3-14-0; Sirena (Col. G. Grey) (second), 3-15-0.

REDWINGS.—Curlew (Capt. Derek Gunston) (winner), 2-26-16; Redstart (H. C. Flower and Mrs. H. C. Flower) (second), 2-26-57; Mary Jane (Miss Moreton and Mrs. L. Phillips) (third), 2-28-40.

YARMOUTH CLASS.—Mamolia (Col. H. R. Hayter) (winner), 2-41-1; Francesca (Col. J. D. K. Rester) (second), 2-44-3; Puppis (R. Simpson) (third), 2-45-6.

X CLASS.—Jewel (E. A. Phillipson) (winner), 2-40-5; West Wind (Cmdr. Frankell) (second), 2-50-25; Palarica (H. S. Montgomerie) (third), 2-50-45.

14-FEET INTERNATIONAL DINGHIES.—Gyrinus (T. Thornycroft) (winner), 2-19-16; Magheralin (Mrs. H. Richardson) (second), 2-19-52; Emily (R. A. Mallet) (third).

CLUB BOATS.—Sylvia (C. Ratsev).