

OFFSHORE

with the
Y&Y team

Commodores' Cup triallists

THE FIRST weekend of Rolex Commodores Cup English team trials have taken place on the Solent. And despite only 13 boats turning out for the first two inshore races, competition for the three IMS team places is fierce. Competing boats include several golden oldies (but no 'Sunstone' this year - she's off world cruising!) David Murrin's 'Cetawayo' (a post war Laurent Giles design) and Tony Cox's 'Prospect of Whitby' (an aluminium S&S design) carry the 'evergreen' tag in 'Sunstone's' absence.

New boats vying for places include Oscar Strugstad's Rob Humphreys-designed 'Dawn Raid' and two boats from the drawing board of up-and-coming Irish designer Mark Mills: 'Quokka' (Peter Rutter's flyer which performed brilliantly at the Spring Series) and Peter Beamish's 'Aztec' which was Mills' launch-pad to fame a couple of years ago. Another

competing yacht was Richard Sydenham's Mumm 36 'Rum Runner' which was competing... but not actually entered for the trials themselves. This boat is part of Britain's efforts to get back into the international frame in time for next year's CM Admiral's Cup.

With the only Class 1 boat entered for the trials being Rob Goddard's Tripp 50 'Autodesk' (previously 'Falcon') these first trials are really about finding Class 2 and 3 boats and sailors.

In Class 2 'Dawn Raid', 'Quokka' and 'Prospect of Whitby' are the leaders (they were beaten by 'Rum Runner'... but, remember, she's *not* a triallist).



Photo - Peter Danby

In Class 3 'Prospect' and 'Marauder' (Alan Barton's Judel/Vrolijk design) are leaders. And, if you're scratching your head and trying to work out how 'Prospect' makes it into *both* Class 2 and

Class 3, it's because of the handicap 'overlapping area' designed to encourage classes to blend to bring in more entries.

With the next set of inshore races being on June 21st (the day *after* the Hoya Round the Island Race) we may have some idea of the ongoing trials situation quite soon. The first of the two offshore selection trials is the RORC's De Guingand Bowl this weekend with the next one being the Morgan Cup at the end of the month.

Tim Barrett, the owner of the top scoring CMAC Mumm 36 yacht 'Bradamante' is chairing the selection panel, with David Arnold from race organisers the Royal Thames YC and national keelboat coach, Bill Edgerton, joining Tim for the final selection process. **FC**

Nine teams confirmed

JUST AS WE GO to press the RORC has announced the number of challenges for this year's Rolex Commodores' Cup. Nine teams will contest the series which take place between July 20 and July 30. Belgium, Scandinavia and Spain are sending one team apiece, with England, the Netherlands and Scotland fielding two teams each. Late challenges may follow from the Channel Islands (one team) and Germany (possibly two teams). More news when we have it. **FC**

