

Champion wins power boat race

WORLD CHAMPION
Vincenzo Balestrieri took first place in the W. D. & H. O. Wills International Power Boat race on the Solent yesterday.

He wins the Wills Speed Trophy and £1,400.

The Italian's Red Tornado streaked round the 160-nautical-mile course in 2hrs. 39mins.—an average speed of 60.6 knots (66 miles an hour).

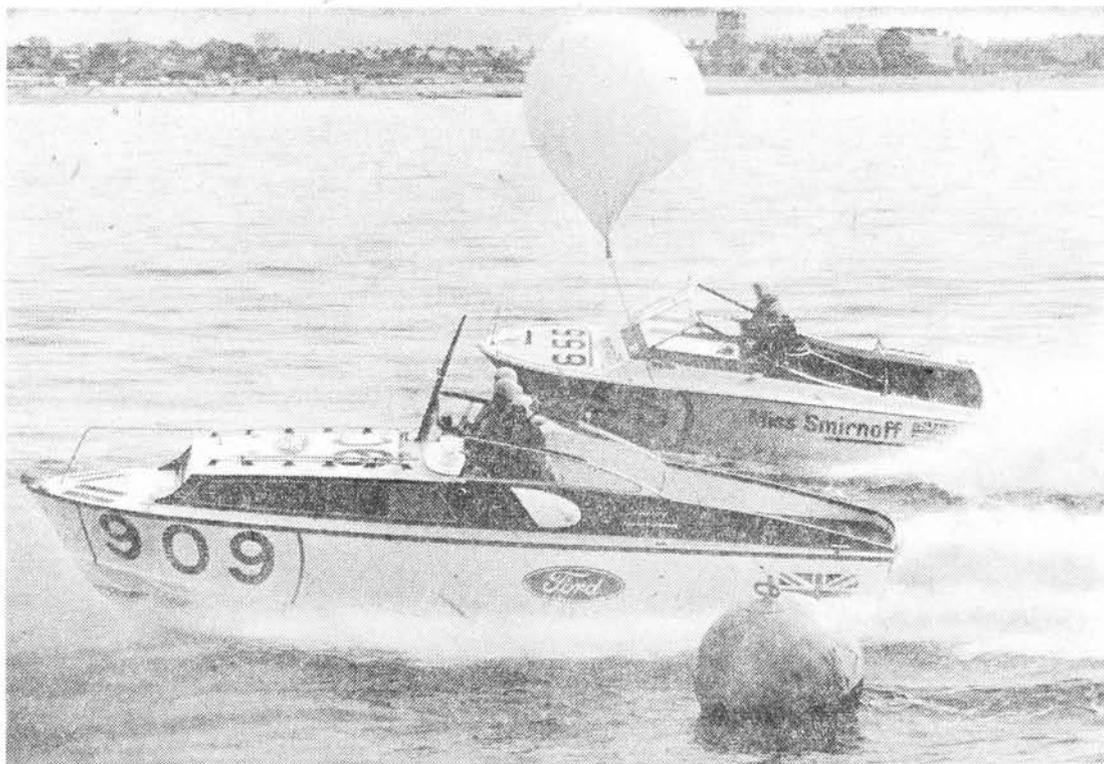
Afterwards a race organiser said: "This is certainly a British record, and it may well be a world record."

Two minutes behind the leader came another Italian, Francesco Cosentino, in White Tornado. He wins the £300 second prize.

Third was Volare II driven by James Beard. His time was 3hrs. 10mins. He wins a total of £600—two class prizes and third prize.

The race, for Class I and II powerboats, started from Southsea Pier, went north of the Isle of Wight to Weymouth, and returned south of the island to finish at Hillhead Buoy.

The Italians led from the start in conditions which organisers said were perfect for power boating.



Fordspeed, driven by J. A. Freeman, and Miss Smirnoff, driven by B. A. Peters, passing the first turning buoy off Southsea during the Wills International Power Boat Race to Weymouth and back. The race was won by the Italian world champion Vincenzo Balestrieri in Red Tornado. Fordspeed and Miss Smirnoff are entered for "The Daily Telegraph" and B P Round Britain Powerboat Race starting on July 26.

Powerboating

ITALIANS DICTATE IN 167-MILE 'SPRINT'

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

AN unconfirmed world off-shore speed record was set in the W. D. & H. O. Wills powerboat race held in flat seas off the South Coast on Saturday. The course of 167 nautical miles was from Southsea to Weymouth and non-stop back around the Isle of Wight to Southsea.

Current world champion, Vincenzo Balestrieri, of Italy, together with the American Don Pruett, drove the 1,200 h.p. Mercruiser-powered Bertram Red Tornado to victory at an average speed of 68 m.p.h.

Balestrieri led the field from start to finish, followed by fellow-countryman, Francesco Cosentino in an identical craft.

The Gardner brothers' Surfury, one of the main British hopes, retired off Lymington with engine trouble early in the race, and Tommy Sopwith's new challenger T2 failed to gain full engine power before the race.

First British finisher

The first British boat to finish was the Beard brothers' revolutionary catamaran Volare II, driven by twin Evinrude X115 racing outboards that develop almost 1,000 hp less than the winner's engines. Volare was 50 minutes behind the Italians.

Several craft, particularly in the production classes, where Lady Arran and Lady Aitken were racing, used this event as a test-bed for similar competition expected in *The Daily Telegraph* B P Round-Britain race, due to start in the same area on July 26.

But compared with the winner's time of 2hr 39min, the last of these crossed the finishing line over three hours' later.

Before the world record is confirmed, the course distance of 167 nautical miles will have to be ratified by the sport's governing body—the Union International Motonautique, in Brussels. Nevertheless, it is undoubtedly the fastest average ever put up in British waters.

OVERALL.—Red Tornado (V. Balestrieri). 1; White Tornado (F. Cosentino). 2; Volare II (J. Beard). 3.

C1: Ford Speed (J. Freeman). **C2:** Miss Smirnoff (P. Hennessey).

OP1: Red Tornado. **OP2:** Volare.

DIESEL UNLIMITED: Sea Fox (A. Burnard). **Diesel Restricted:** Ford Speed.

OUTBOARDS: Volare II.

PRODUCTION A: Ford Speed. **Production B:** Miss Smirnoff.

CONCOURS d'ELEGANCE: Oh, Oh, Sex (R. Jelly).

R. SOUTHERN Y.C. MEMBER: Teistar (M. G. Hardy). **Diesel:** Ford Speed.

TORNADOS
MOP UP
POWER
PRIZES

ITALIAN SETS POWERBOAT RACE RECORD

Italian driver Vincenzo Balestrieri won the Wills International Powerboat Race at a record-shattering average speed of 62.5 m.p.h. today.

Two hours and 39 minutes after the start from Spithead, Balestrieri stormed across the finishing line off Hill Head in his boat, Red Tornado.

Just four minutes astern of him was compatriot F. Cosentino, driving a sister vessel, White Tornado.

Their nearest rival, almost 30 minutes astern, was the British catamaran Volare II, the only twin-hulled boat in the race, driven by James Beard.

Calm conditions in the Solent and Channel enabled the fleet to clock fast times.

ITALIAN Vincenzo Balestrieri and American Don Pruett, in Red Tornado, set a world record by averaging 62 knots in the 167-mile Wills International powerboat race from Spithead to Weymouth and back on Saturday.

And another Italian boat, White Tornado, was second in this £3,550 event, only two minutes behind the winners.

Then the field straggled. The first British boat, the catamaran Volare II with James Beard, came third minutes later.

Brothers Charles and Jimmy Gardner, in the favourite Surfury, made no impact. They dropped out with engine trouble after 10 miles. Details:—

Red Tornado (Balestrier, Pruett), 2h 39m. **White Tornado (Cosentino, Vanderburg),** 2h 41m. **Volare II (Beard, Curtis),** 3h 10m. **Avenger Too (Makinen, Watson),** 3h 13m. **4.**