

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP WON BY ENGLAND

DR. FRANK PENMAN DOES IT AGAIN

Veteran Sniper Frank Penman of the Northwich Fleet, England, won the European Championship after a close fight with Mino Jella Casa of Italy. Bernard Mach of Switzerland, who recently won the European two-man championship in Jugo-Slavia, was third.

In spite of the admirable organization by the North Sea Yacht Club at Ostende, Belgium, things got off to a bad start. The first day it blew up to force 7 and the boats were sent home from the starting line. Next morning, a good race was sailed, with Denmark, Sweden, and Britain finishing within 2 seconds, but Italy and Portugal protested against the course and it was annulled. In the afternoon, there was not enough wind to stem the tide.

On Thursday, August 30th, the three windward-leeward races were sailed in a light breeze which strengthened slightly in the afternoon. The sea was moderate for Ostende that week. In the first race, Penman got the best of the start and increased his lead the whole way round, followed by Denmark and Italy, who were very fast on the runs. In the second race, Britain was over the line at the start, but was quickly back round the distance mark and went so well on the beat, that once more she led at every mark, with Italy pressing closely downwind, and France, third. In the third race, Italy got away to a good start, covering Britain. Both overtook and let Sweden through, but Italy took the lead again on the run and held it to the finish, followed by Switzerland with Britain close astern. It was a good day's racing, and it looked as if Britain and Italy would take home the silver, with Switzerland and Spain waiting to step in if the leaders ran into trouble.

The breeze had freshened on Friday, when the first two triangulars were sailed, and there was good planing on the reaches in a bumpy sea. Italy got away to a good start while Penman was boxed in and half way down the fleet before he could get his wind clear. At the weather mark, it was Italy, Denmark, Belgium and Britain. Denmark took a wrong view on one of the reaches and Britain passed Belgium to take second place. Young Dany Grause's third (Belgium) was well earned. He had showed touches of form before, and with more experience, will be a man to watch.

There was more weight in the wind for the 5th race and the heavy weight crews felt happier. Sven Rantil of Denmark came back to form after two 8ths and a 9th. He led all the way, going beautifully to windward. Juan Alfonso Allende of Spain sailed well for a second. Frank Penman was slightly overpowered on the beats, but made third place by his planing technique. Italy was lying about 6th when a broken tiller put her out.

The situation was interesting. Italy could still win if she finished ahead of Britain in 1st or 2nd place, as she could discard her retirement. But on Saturday morning, it was blowing force 8. The race committee went out in a motor boat at 2:30 P. M. and decided that a short triangle was possible. (A suggestion to sail in the harbor was turned down). However, Commodore Timmerman thought different and set a long triangle with a long beat against the tide. Britain's port start tack didn't quite come off, but when the position came clear, she was sitting on Italy's weather. Mino went closer and closer to the beach in his attempt to break through in the slacker tide, but a mile after the start, he went a yard too far and was half swamped in the breakers. Meanwhile, Portugal was really going well for the first time and pulled out into a long lead, with Spain and Switzerland scrapping for second place. Unfortunately, this ended in a protest for tacking close aboard, which put Spain out. Britain passed Switzerland to gain another second. Italy finished 8th in darkness to hold her second place on points.

Frank Penman was sailing his third "Gossamer", a pivot board boat with one suit of dacron sails. Switzerland, in third place, also had a pivot board and Portugal had the only self-bailing cockpit. Turkey and Finland were newcomers to the championship, but Norway and Monaco were absent this year.

—Dr. A. C. Penman.

In the European Championships, a series of six races are sailed, but only five of them count in the final scoring. Thus the con-

testant has the privilege of dropping his worst race, which minimizes the part that chance, mishaps, accidents, or failure of equipment takes in the selection of the best sailor. The final standings are given below:

COUNTRY	RACES	1	2	3	4	5	6	PTS.	FIN.
ENGLAND		1	1	3	2	7	2	7686	1
ITALY		3	2	1	1	DNF	7	7321	2
SWITZERLAND		5	5	2	4	6	3	6926	3
SPAIN		4	6	5	5	2	7	6707	4
DENMARK		2	8	9	9	1	8	6258	5
SWEDEN		7	7	4	8	4	6	6208	6
BELGIUM		6	7	6	3	7	8	6206	7
PORTUGAL		7	9	10	7	5	1	6037	8
FRANCE		8	3	7	6	9	8	5938	9
TURKEY		10	4	8	10	10	4	5740	10
FINLAND		9	10	9	11	8	5	5270	11

Said a girl who'd just made her debut
And was wed without further adut:
"If I hadn't come out
I'd have not met this lout—
I'll divorce him and marry anut."

— Bill Engel in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

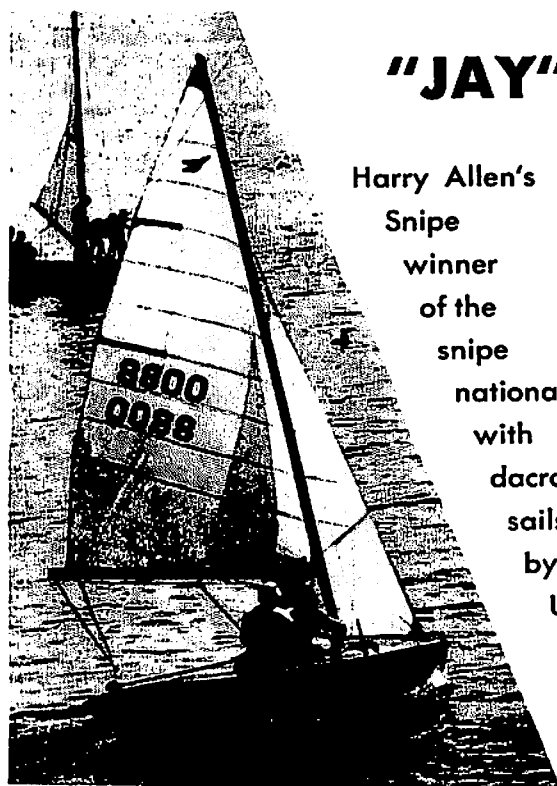
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