

Ydra – lucky One Ton winner

THE 1973 One Ton Cup produced another tragic incident to deny victory to the best boat in the fleet. In Sydney last December the Carter 37 Ydra was undoubtedly the top boat but Ydra stripped a forestay bottlescrew in the ocean race and had to retire. Without double points in the long race, she was out of it and New Zealand's Wai-Aniwa won.

This year in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, the United States 34-footer Ganbare was equally as superior as Ydra was in Sydney, but Ganbare rounded the only mark of the short ocean race the wrong way and suffered a five per cent time penalty.

That ridiculous mistake relegated her from first to 13th position in the points table and presented the One Ton Cup to Ydra.

But for that, Ganbare would have run up a 1/1/3/1/1 series, discarded the third and finished with a perfect score. As it was she wound up with a 1/13/3/1/1 performance that wasn't enough to head off Ydra's 2/1/1/2/2.

Ganbare's mistake was unbelievable. The short ocean course took the fleet up the

Sardinia coast through the Straits of Bonifacio and across the Gulf of Asinara to a rounding mark inside the north-east tip of the island. The Asinara mark had to be left to starboard.

Ganbare was first to the mark but left it to port. Her crew confessed their error after the finish and claimed that a red flag flown on the start boat led them to believe that all marks on the course (there was only one) should be left to port.

In the first race, sailed in 18 knots of wind at the start but ten knots later, Ganbare beat Ydra in by 1m. 40 seconds. In the 130 mile short ocean race Ganbare was first across the line by 4m. 37 after a race that started on the wind for 40 miles, freed for shy spinnakers or starcuts to Asinara and then produced a wild downhill ride back through the Bonifacio Straits under spinnaker in 35 to 40 knots.

The heavy weather continued for the third race, another Olympic course. Winsome V (David May) looked impressive in this one, leading after the triangle but then succumbing to Ydra's pressure on the second beat. Winsome held on to second place, however, when



Ydra

Ganbare, closing fast on the flat run, messed up dropping her kite at the mark and jammed her genoa under the pulpit.

Next came the 270-mile ocean race, twice around the short ocean race track. Ganbare showed astonishing boatspeed and pointing ability from the start in moderate airs but the hounds held on the hare as the wind freshened to 16 knots. Ydra took over the lead as the boats slopped around in near calm conditions the first night at sea, and was still in front when the boats rounded the second turning mark.

Ganbare moved in again just before Asinara, 60 miles later, and went on to cross the finishing line 14m. 46s. clear of the Italian.

The fifth race, the final Olympic course, was delayed until a light breeze finally filled in from shore. Ganbare annihilated the fleet, sailing away on the first leg and stretching out until she was 41m. 15s. clear at the finish line. In the light conditions that represented nearly two miles and there was nothing Ydra nor any other boat could do to prevent this humiliation. This almost unreal display clinched second place on the overall points for Ganbare.

The British pair, Winsome and Thunder promised much but failed to live up to that promise. Winsome was handily placed after her seventh, third and second in the first three races. But she blew up in the ocean race and slumped from second to ninth on the overall table. Thunder started less impressively with a ninth in the opening heat but picked up places with a seventh, fifth and sixth in the next three to place seventh.

Overall positions: 1 Ydra, M. Spaccarelli and A. Straulino, Italy; 2 Ganbare, D. Peterson, USA; 3 Hann, C. Bouzaid, New Zealand.

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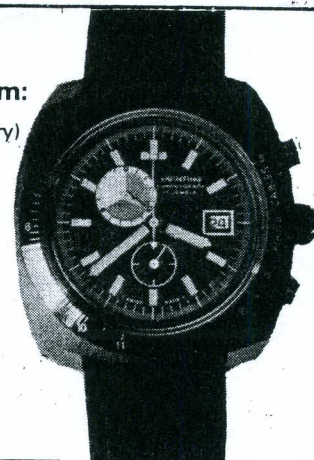
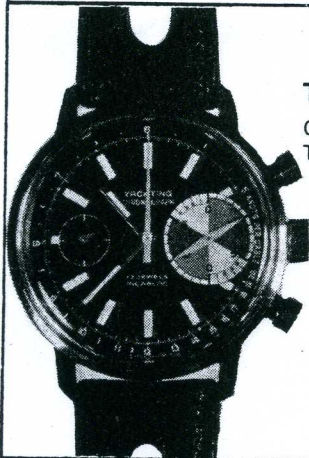
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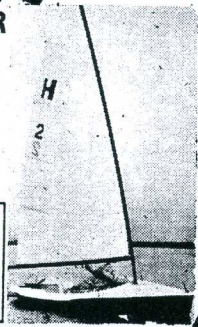
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