## PALM BEACH JOURNAL

110

**CRISTIANA SHIELDS** 

THE SPORTING LIFE

## THE AMERICA'S CUP JUBILEE AT COWES

PRODUCED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY GUILLERMO COWLEY Cowes was scary, beautiful, and intellectually challenging. I saw lots of Newport friends there - Charlie Dana, the Gubelmanns, Halsey Hereshoff, Earl McMillen. The Ball at Osborne House was practically the best party I've ever been to, and Princess Anne did a brilliant job complimenting not only the winners, but everyone that raced.

The week was very competitive - 200 boats spanning the Instory of yachting since 1885, from the oldest, right up to the challengers. The first day the wind blew hard, and brought to life the classic photos of racing we've all seen. The 12-Meter Class was incredible. And the size of the boats - three J-Class boats moved off the yacht squadron and they looked small next to those of Agnelli and the Crown Prince of Denmark.

I was on Zwerver, a 1956 Sparkman and Stephens design for Otto van Worms who founded Holland America lines. It's now owned by a young Dutch entrepeneur, Frans van Schaik, who refurbished it under the watchful eye of Stephens. Its refurbishment conforms strictly to all sorts of rules I didn't kn. w existed spect cally for classic yachts.

It's been a long while since I dipped my spinnaker to winward. I had been to Cowes Week in '93 with my boat, and won our class, but this was the most incredible yachting scene I have ever seen...or will ever see again.

CAPT. NICHOLAS BROWN

ENDEAVOUR



**BUDDY MELGES ON AMERICA<sup>3</sup>** 

DAVID RAY AND THE NIEVANA CREW

BILLY & SHELL GUBELMANN

DYES JONE ELIZABETH MEYER EART MCMILLEN

JIMMY GUBELMANN AND THE COLUMBIA CREW

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MY PASSION FOR CLASSIC YACHTS - THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OBJECTS EVER MADE BY MAN - BEGAN IN THE BILGE OF MY MOTHER'S STAR BOAT WHEN I WAS FOUR YEARS OLD, DEVELOPED THROUGH MY 18-YEAR OWNERSHIP OF A CONCORDIA YAWL AND REACHED ITS CURRENT LEVEL OF OBSESSION DURING MY 17-YEAR OWNERSHIP OF THE INCOMPARABLE ENDEAVOUR. THE JUBILEE IS ALMOST CERTAINLY THE GREATEST CLASSIC YACHT SAILING EVENT I WILL ATTEND IN MY LIFETIME. IT WAS GLORIOUS IN TO WEATHER, ATTENDANCE, MANAGEMENT AND BRIO, I ALSO SEE IT AS AN IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC MOMENT IN THE INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENES THAT CLASSIC YACHTS ARE PRICELESS, COLLECTEDE HISTORICAL OBJECTS.

**ELIZABETH MEYI** 

GLEAM, NORTHERN LIGHT, ONAWA

The first recorded event of royal recreational sailing was a race in 1661 on the Thames between Charles II and the Duke of York. While living in Holland, Charles II was presented with the sailing vessel *Mary* by the Dutch East Indies Company, and became a devoted sailor. Upon his restoration to the monarchy in 1660, he replaced *Mary* with *Katherine*, and raced against his brother's *Anne* for a £100 wager. *Anne* won the windward leg while *Katherine* won the downwind leg. the race therefore, was declared even, with no winner. Charles II was the first champion of royal sailing, and was said to have owned 28 yachts during his reign. By the time of his death in 1685, the enthusiasm for recreational sailing was fully ingrained in the royal bloodlines.

IN 1698, KING WILLIAM III COMMISSIONED THE ROYAL YACHT, WILLIAM AND MARY, AND ORGANIZED A MOCK BATTLE ON THE SOLENT NEAR THE ISLE OF WIGHT. ATTENDING WAS TSAR PETER THE GREAT WHO WAS VISITING ENGLAND TO LEARN THE ART OF SHIPBUILDING. TO THIS END HE TOOK A JOB AS A COMMON LABORER IN THE DEPTFORD SHIPYARD AND IT WAS SAID THAT HE WAS ONE OF ITS HARDEST WORKERS. BY 1723, IT WAS WRITTEN THAT "SO OCCUPIED WAS THE TSAR WITH SAILING ON THE GULF THAT NONE HAD THE HEART TO INTERRUPT HIM".

**RICHARD STROTHER**