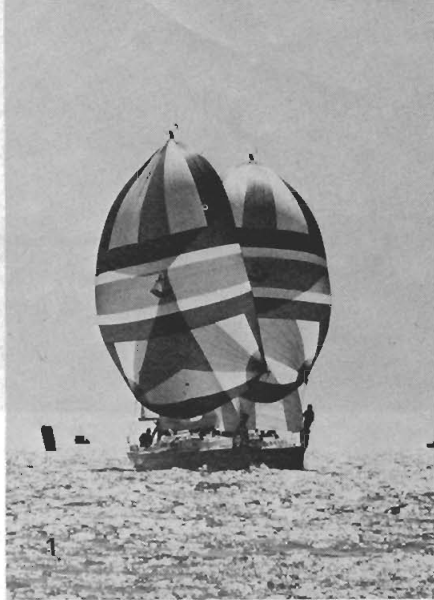


# Match Racing



in words and pictures by Rob Humphreys

**T**HE excitement of match racing is perhaps well illustrated by this sequence of photographs. The event is the 1979 Royal Lympington Cup and the boats are OOD 34s. The two boats are approaching the leeward mark, to be left on the port hand. In Photograph 1 the leeward mark is off the picture in the foreground to the left of the boats. Peter Bruce, in the leeward boat, is luffing Pelle Petterson above the rhumb line course for the mark (2). Bruce gybes as his boat falls into the wind shadow of Petterson's boat (3) and drops his spinnaker immediately, by necessity a little too spontaneously for anything that might be called model crew-work (4). The slightly diverging courses of the boats allows Bruce to break the overlap. Petterson also makes a crash gybe and with more momentum from hanging on to his spinnaker for



a while longer (5), he manages to regain the overlap and secure inside berth coming into the mark (6). However, if Bruce's crew was slow in getting the spinnaker down and the genoa sheeted, Petterson's crew gets into an even bigger sail-handling tangle right into the mark (7), and with Petterson's speed killed Bruce is

able to drive into the gap (8) and sheet his sails so that in a short distance he is a clear boat length to weather. Being the last leg of this encounter, Petterson had very little opportunity to squeeze his nose back in front and Bruce took the gun, albeit with his spinnaker halyard waving in the breeze.

