

# OAKELEY IS UP AGAINST TROUBLE

**JOHN OAKELEY**, nominated skipper of the 12-metre *Lionheart*, Britain's new contender for next year's America's Cup challenge series, will this weekend be competing against some of the world's leading match-racing experts, writes **Tony Fairchild**.

Oakeley, joint second in last year's event, is one of eight invited helmsmen taking part in the fifth British Match Racing Championship, which begins in the Solent today and is scheduled to continue until Sunday.

Run by the Royal Lympington YC, the series requires each of the eight helmsmen to race against their seven rivals over short, windward-leeward-windward leg courses—this year for the first time in new Offshore One Design 34s.

The Lympington event demands the same skills as the America's Cup and Oakeley will have his first test in the first race against the Frenchman, Bruno Trouble, nominated helmsman of the 12-metre yacht, *France III*, for next year's America's Cup.

## Two experts

Perhaps the most interesting draw, although unfortunate since it comes in the first round, is that which brings together the two American match-race experts, Dennis Durgan and Dick Deaver, undoubtedly the two favourites—although if yesterday's strong winds continue, they may find conditions difficult.

Durgan and Deaver were winner and runner-up respectively earlier this year of the American Congressional Cup, staged in California, and the event on which the Lympington Cup is based.

Deaver, a previous winner of the Congressional Cup also won the French equivalent in 1978, beating in the process the Irishman Harold Cudmore, who is the defending champion at Lympington.

The series also includes the Swede, Pelle Petterson, another skipper of an America's Cup contender who last year, finished joint runner-up at Lympington with Oakeley, Lt-Commander Peter Bruce and Phil Crebbin, the Lympington Cup winner in 1976 and 1977.

**1st RND DRAW** — E. Trouble (France) v J. Oakeley; Lt-Commander P. Bruce v P. Crebbin; H. Cudmore (Ireland) v P. Petterson (Sweden); D. Durgan (US) v D. Deaver (US).

## Yachting

# Deaver shows the way with four firsts

By **TONY FAIRCHILD**

**OUTSTANDING** helmsman on yesterday's first day in the Solent of an absorbing 5th British match-racing championship, was unquestionably the American Dick Deaver. He finished first in all four races.

Deaver, twice the winner and this year runner-up in the Congressional Cup—the American equivalent of the Solent event—met strongest opposition from his compatriot Dennis Durgan.

Deaver was out-maneuvred at the start of their race by Durgan, who earlier this year won the Congressional Cup. But Deaver cleverly nosed ahead on the first weather leg and went on to win his first race for the Royal Lympington Cup, by one min 14 secs.

In his subsequent races, Deaver beat Harold Cudmore, last year's winner of the Lympington Cup, the Frenchman Bruno Trouble and then finished 1min 12sec ahead of John Oakeley, skipper of the 12-metre *Lionheart*, the new British contender for next year's America's Cup challenge series.

## Unhappy day

Oakeley had an unhappy first day. He squandered his first race by sailing an incorrect course, finished behind Durgan and Deaver and was credited with only one win; and he then lodged four protests, three against Deaver.

Oakeley won one of his protests against Deaver, for a port and starboard incident, just before the start, and the other two against the American were dropped.

But the Royal Lympington, the organisers of the event, were last night awaiting the outcome of several other protests.

Apart from strong tides, the conditions were excellent—a force 3-4 westerly and mainly sunshine—but several hopes were dashed, including those of Phil Crebbin, twice the winner of the Lympington Cup.

Crebbin came off the water without a victory to his credit—spinnaker problems costing him dearly. Only Trouble and Cudmore, who finished the day with three victories, seemed likely to challenge Deaver for overall success in today's contests.

## PROVISIONAL RESULTS

**1st RD.**—E. Trouble (France) bt J. Oakeley (disq); P. Bruce bt P. Crebbin 1min 5sec; H. Cudmore (Ireland) bt P. Petterson (Sweden) 1-0; D. Deaver (US) bt D. Durgan (US) 1-14.

**2nd RD.**—Oakeley bt Bruce 2-23; Trouble bt Petterson 1-51; Durgan bt Crebbin 2-45; Deaver bt Cudmore 1-6.

**3rd RD.**—Bruce bt Petterson 0-23; Durgan bt Oakeley 1-0; Deaver bt Trouble 1-36; Cudmore bt Crebbin 0-47.

**4th RD.**—Petterson bt Durgan 1-3; Oakeley bt Deaver (disq); Cudmore bt Bruce 1-20; Trouble bt Crebbin 0-42.

**1st Day Standings:** Deaver, Trouble, Cudmore, 3 wins; 1; Bruce, Durgan, Oakeley, 2; 4; Petterson 1; 7; Crebbin 0; 8.

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# DICK DEAVER CLEANS UP

by **JACK KNIGHTS**

**CALIFORNIAN** sailmaker Dick Deaver reinforced his reputation as the world's best match-race competitor when he won the Royal Lympington Cup with six wins out of seven starts on the Western Solent.

Deaver was headed across the finish only once—by Britain's Phil Crebbin. This happened during the first group of heats when the easterly wind died as the flood tide strengthened and places changed radically.

Later, Deaver lodged a successful protest against Crebbin for a pre-start foul.

John Oakeley, skipper of Britain's America's Cup challenger *Lionheart*, narrowly beat Ireland's Harold Cudmore in the final heat of the series to win through to second place overall.

Oakeley was undefeated during the day, beating Sweden's America's Cup skipper Pelle

Petterson, Phil Crebbin and finally Cudmore.

Cudmore had beaten Oakeley on a protest to win this event last year.

Dick Deaver, 47 years old, has already won the premier American match-race series twice and last year he won the comparable French event when it was held for the first time. This was his first appearance at Lympington.

Match-racing takes place between pairs of boats and for this event eight identical examples of the new OOD 34 were drawn for by eight specially-invited helmsmen.

**ROYAL LYMPINGTON CUP**—Dick Deaver (U.S.), 6 wins, 1; John Oakeley (G.B.), 5 wins, 2; equal 3 Harold Cudmore (Ireland), Dennis Durgan (U.S.), Bruno Trouble (France), 4 wins, equal 3; Peter Bruce (G.B.), 3 wins, 6; Pelle Petterson (Sweden), 2 wins, 7; Phil Crebbin (G.B.), no wins, 8.