

# Sailors vie for Gifford Bowl

Entries have been slow coming in so far for this year's Gifford Bowl Race, a major event on the Nantucket Yacht Club schedule.

As of yesterday, only 12 skippers were entered. Club officials are hoping for some "last minute" participation before the boats get under way tomorrow.

The race starts in Vineyard Haven and ends in Nantucket. On Sunday, the racers will sail from the host club back to Martha's Vineyard. If there has been one criticism of the event, it has been that in the prevailing winds, the race involves one long broad reach each day.

This will be the 20th running of the event, named for past Nantucket Yacht Club Commodore C. Conyngham Gifford. Depending on the entries, plans call for a division of boats to race under the International Offshore Rule (IOR), as well as those that will be grouped in a Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF).

The race is sanctioned by the Southeastern Massachusetts Yacht Racing Association, and there will be points awarded for the three SMYRA trophies presented at the end of the season.

The IOR boats shoot for the Bliss Trophy, while the John Linehan Trophy is the prize for PHRF spinnaker boats, and SMYRA's Family Racing Trophy goes to the No. 1 boat each year competing without using a spinnaker.

The Gifford Bowl will go to the skipper, who, in the opinion of the Nantucket Committee, has had the outstanding performance for the two races.

Among those already signed on include Jack Paynter from West Yarmouth, sailing his 35-foot Santana, No Name. Bob Coleman will have his 40-footer Namloc there, as will Tom Seildorff with his Fat Chance. Two Nantucket boats are on the list: Cotu is a 34-footer owned by Roger Merrill, and Toquina, a 39-footer skippered by Paul Callahan.

The Gifford Bowl Race is the second major event on the SMYRA calendar and one of the oldest races for cruising yachts in the Cape and Islands area.

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Only one sailboat from the Cape competed in last week's Block Island Race Week.

Stan Moore of Hyannis took his J-30 Stanley Steamer

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## Dock Lines

By Joe Hoffman

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down the sound and fared well in this annual event. Moore was entered in a division comprised of 22 J-30s, mostly from Rhode Island, Connecticut and Long Island.

During the five-day competition Stanley Steamer grabbed a second, a fifth, and three sixth-place finishes to finish fifth for the week.

Moore's second-place finish came on the first racing day when the race committee sent the competitors on a course around Block Island. He actually led the pack to the weather mark, but at the finish line was 30 seconds behind the winner.

During the downwind leg the racers came upon an unexpected obstacle. The ocean liner, Queen Elizabeth II, was at anchor off the island, and right in the middle of the course.

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Here's an update of our story about Oyster Harbors' sailor John Osmond and his misfortune in the Newport to Bermuda Race last week.

Osmond was forced to retire from the race about 300 miles out from Newport when the mast on his boat Thorfinn came crashing down to the deck.

Contrary to earlier reports, the weather in the area was worse than we were led to believe. In talking to Osmond after his return, he said the wind was blowing around 32 to 35 knots, and the seas were rolling at about 10-to-12-foot wave heights. Indications are the starboard side lower spreader let go, and the race was then over for Thorfinn.

Osmond had high praise for his entire crew in what was certainly a dangerous situation. He especially mentioned Ted Houghton, who he said was immense when the trouble began.

*Joe Hoffman is a Times' special sports writer*