

EUROPEAN CLASS I CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

Daytona transmission on San Benedetto's starboard drive broke leaving only three boats in action. Fiat Uno had a healthy lead and held it to the chequered flag whilst B & B Italia was happy with their 300 points for runner-up slot.

Although Shockwave limped into 3rd place some 55 minutes after the winner the crew suffered a severe impact as the giant mono 'stuffed' into a large wave causing considerable damage to the craft and driver Hampton's bodily appearance.

POOLE Round 2 - 23rd August

With many top names preferring to save their equipment for the forthcoming World Grand Prix heat at Guernsey two weeks later it was not surprising the entry list was 'thin on the ground'. However, nine boats did make it to the dry pits on Saturday and seven actually lined up on the start line the following day including the Class II catamaran Assagai IV.

John Davey's ill-fated Cougar, Macavity, cracked a cylinder head on one of its Bonner V6's minutes after launching and Roger Fletcher had transmission problems on one of Shockwave's three Sabres rendering him a non-starter.

The Needles Trophy, organised by the R.M.Y.C., has a 26 year history and during that time the meeting has only been 'rained off' once but the 1992 race looked in jeopardy as strong winds and heavy rain buffeted Poole on Saturday.

Officer of the Day, Tony Lewis, pointed out at briefing that Sunday's weather would deteriorate by mid-day but if the 11.00am start was brought forward by 30 minutes the full 146 miles could

be completed although conditions would be rough on the leg from the Needles Fairway buoy to Swanage. He anticipated the race would be over before the foul weather arrived and in the event his decision was prudent when, although four of the seven craft retired,



Italian winners at Poole: Spelta and Rossi are flanked by Capoferri/Rivolta (left) and Giofreddi/Bonomi

only one could be attributed to rough seas.

As the green flag signified the 'off' Marco Capoferri's Mercruiser driven Skater, B & B Italia, powered into the lead chased by Richard Carr's Tekne Lamborghini. Before the first turn had been reached Capoferri had made a navigational error and Corbelli's Power Marine was heading back to port with a blown cylinder head gasket.

Meanwhile Carr was tramping along at the front building up a very substantial lead. Only a few minutes separated Damiano Spelta's San

Benedetto, Andreas Ugland's Fiat Uno and B & B Italia which had now got back into contention. As Carr passed the start-finish line at the end of lap one he looked every inch a winner with both engines sounding superb. With such a huge lead many

the canopy and water poured into the air intake situated above the canopy, which promptly stopped both engines.

Spelta in the larger diesel powered cat passed the stricken Cougar and stayed in the lead until the finish. As the monohull Fiat Uno had the edge in terms of speed out in the rough it appeared he might collect 2nd place at the expense of Capoferri but a small fire in the cockpit halted Ugland's charge to allow B & B Italia 2nd place and 300 points plus overall lead in the championship.

Wily Antonio Giofreddi knew that his triple Seatek driven trimaran Paul Picot would not cope in the rough and decided to potter round and see if there was any worthwhile points for him at the end and his tactics paid dividends with 3rd place despite averaging less than the Class III winner Carryfast, a 2 ltr catamaran racing in a round of the National Championship.

The Allenby cousins Dave and Chris continued their catalogue of disasters in Assagai IV when the welding on the starboard gill-bracket collapsed leaving two Mercury outboards hanging at a hideous angle and both submerged in seawater. The 1992 Needles Trophy could not be rated as 'one of the best' but it certainly provided the crowds with opportunity to see Class I boats in Poole this summer.

Reports: Anne Mette Syverson and David Sewell - Photos: Glen Philip Hagen and Chris Davies.

POINTS TABLE

M. Capoferri/L.P. Rivolta	B & B Italia	600
D. Spelta/A. SpeltaSan	Benedetto	400
A. Ugland/J. Hillestad	Fiat Uno	400
A. Giofreddi/A. Bonomi	Paul Picot	225
R. Fletcher/J. Hampton	Shockwave	225