

# STARLIGHTS

BOATS: 4700

APRIL, 1963

FLEETS: 228

## HOWARD LIPPINCOTT'S *CIRRUS* WINS BACARDI TROPHY

Harry Houdini might have done it, but surely no one else — except Howard Lippincott, who did it. The 1963 Bacardi Cup series was won by dint of skill, hard work and fast sailing, but it certainly looked like magic at the time. Aided by Herb Hild at the jibsheets, the former North American champion sailed his *Cirrus* to a last minute surprise victory at Biscayne Bay in February that will long be remembered in Star circles.

Last year when the Coral Reef Yacht Club and the Biscayne Bay Fleet revived the Bacardi series, the schedule of five races in three days proved to be somewhat arduous. This year six days were allotted for the event, a welcome improvement. It turned out that no double headers were necessary and a rest day in mid-series was enjoyed by all.

With the entry list up by more than 50% over last year's initial showing of 20 boats, indications are that this major midwinter event is now firmly re-established. Thirty-one contestants from fourteen fleets provided top quality competition; and best of all, the weather cooperated. There was always a fair breeze, sometimes a real hatful, in contrast to last year's drifters.

The series opened in a ten knot southeaster on a cool but sunshiny day. Two boats of the home fleet soon had things under their control. Dave Coleman's *Inchmaree* made good use of a first start to lead around the windward mark. Then, on the run downwind, Coleman was passed by his fleet-mate Ding Schoonmaker, who kept *Dingo* ahead after that, with *Inchmaree* finishing a close second. Olympic bronze medalist Bill Parks was third in *Shrew*, with Buck Halperin crewing. Gold Star holder Durward Knowles was next, but his compatriot Basil Kelly, defending the trophy, fared not so well in 9th position. No one paid much attention to Howard Lippincott, filed away in 7th place.

On the second day a postponement was necessitated by lack of wind. A breeze was forecast to blow in from the northwest. In due time it arrived — from the southeast, moderate. Schoonmaker sailed another excellent race, this time principally against *Gem VIII*. The *Miami Herald* said, "Pursued tenaciously by Durward Knowles of Nassau through four legs Schoonmaker shook off the 1947 World's Star champion on the final downwind leg to win by nearly a minute's margin. The rest of the fleet was so far behind it didn't appear to be in the same race."

Parks was again third; and who was that you said was fourth? Howard Lippincott? Oh.

Next day Parks and Halperin put *Shrew* into Olympic high gear for a 46-second win, but the ever-present *Dingo* was second. Veteran John Todd, recently returned to skippering for the first time in many years, finished third. With a 1-1-2 Schoonmaker held a three point lead over Parks' 3-3-1. Another three points farther back was Knowles with his 4-2-4. With only two races remaining it began to look like a two boat contest. Schoonmaker did not begrudge Parks today's win, saying, on the contrary, that he was delighted to have finished second. He then made a remark which he has doubtless been regretting ever since; it belongs in a collection of Famous Last Words. "When it gets down near the end of one of these things," said Ding, "it's better to have just one boat to battle than several." Yes indeed. But it so happened that there were thirty other boats also racing, eleven of which Ding was to become very much aware of before long.

"By the way, where was that *Cirrus* today? Fifth? Kind of in a groove, isn't she?"

After a day's rest the fleet was greeted by a new breeze and a new trio of contenders for first honors. A southwester started at ten knots and strengthened to eighteen at the finish. Olympic gold medalist Bert Williams put *Kathleen* into the picture to lead the fleet for the first half of the race. Then Read Ruggles of the home fleet passed Williams and led around the last windward mark. But by now Lippincott and Hild, who had been holding down their more or less customary 5th place,

had moved up to second, and on the last run home they passed Ruggles' *Rampage* to cross the finish line first. Schoonmaker, busily covering Parks, was happy to finish third with Parks 5th.

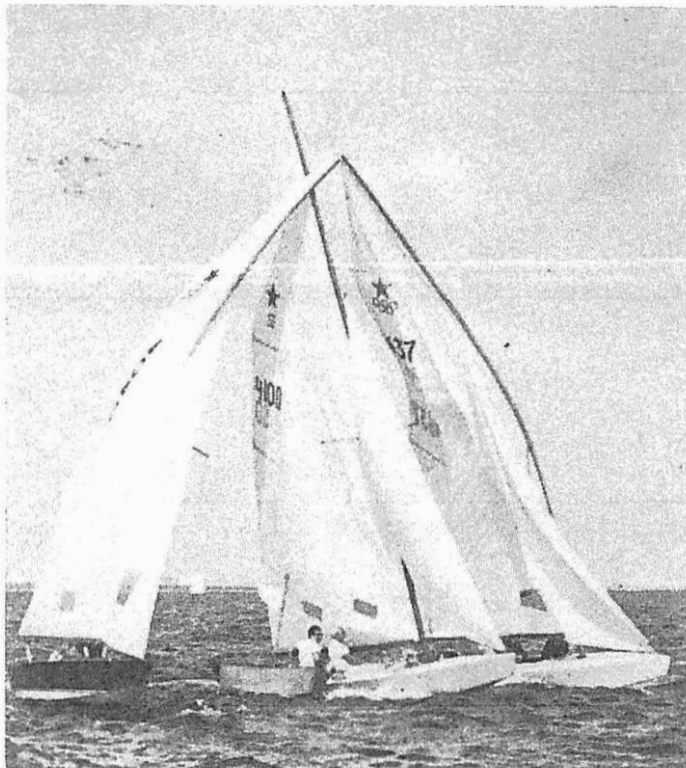
In order to appreciate the magnitude of the rabbit that Howard Lippincott now proceeded to pull out of the hat, it is necessary to take a look at the point scores. At the end of four races, the situation stood thus:

<i>Dingo</i> , Schoonmaker	1	1	2	3	125
<i>Shrew</i> , Parks	3	3	1	5	120
<i>Gem</i> , Knowles	4	2	4	4	118
<i>Cirrus</i> , Lippincott	7	4	5	1	115

Schoonmaker, with a five point lead, had never finished below third, and had the additional tie-breaking advantage of having already beaten everybody in at least three of the five races. What chance did anyone else have? And as for *Cirrus* . . . "Don't be ridiculous. That first yesterday may have been a fluke; and anyway, she's ten points out."

Howard and Herby took off to a flying start and led all the way in the strongest breeze of the week, between 20 and 25 knots. They had a fine battle for a while with Foster Clarke and then pulled away, to lead him across the finish line by nearly a minute and a half, which represents a lot of water on a breezy day. They knew that Ding Schoonmaker, having trouble with too full a sail and an over-bendy mast, was back aft somewhere, but they did not know how far back. Happy enough over their performance in the last two races, they gave a little thought to the series score. When Lippincott was told the good news he was as surprised as anyone.

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F. ZAGARINO

No, no! It won't fit through there!  
(Tune-up race, 1963 Bacardi Series)

1963 BACARDI TROPHY, BISCAYNE BAY, FLORIDA

1	4589	<i>Cirrus</i>	Howard Lippincott	Herb Hild	Eastern Shore	7	4	5	1	1	147
2	4207	<i>Dingo</i>	Ding Schoonmaker	John Boyer	Biscayne Bay	1	1	2	3	12	146
3	4332	<i>Gem VIII</i>	Durward Knowles	Sloan Farrington	Nassau	4	2	4	4	5	146
4	4640	<i>Shrew V</i>	William Parks	Robert Halperin	S. Lake Michigan	3	3	1	5	15	138
5	4459	<i>Inchmaree</i>	David Coleman	Jack Price	Biscayne Bay	2	8	6	8	6	135
6	4638	<i>Fascinating</i>	Robert Lippincott	Arthur Wynne	West Jersey	8	12	11	6	3	125
7	4639	<i>Conch III</i>	Basil Kelly	David Kelly	Coral Harbour	9	5	7	16	9	119
8	4637	<i>Kathleen</i>	Bert Williams	Phil Griffin	Chicago Harbour	10	13	8	7	8	119
9	3742	<i>Glee</i>	John Todd	Jack Streeton	Eastern Shore	11	6	3	14	19	112
10	3867	<i>Creepy II</i>	Foster Clarke	Cecil Cooke	Coral Harbour	5	18	9	19	2	112
11	4582	<i>Rampage</i>	Read Ruggles	David Dickey	Biscayne Bay	6	11	DNF	2	4	109
12	4621	<i>Zigzag</i>	Frank Zagarino	Robert Koepfel	Biscayne Bay	10	10	10	9	10	107
13	4100	<i>Conflict</i>	Daniel Hubers	Harold Halsted	No. Chesapeake Bay	15	14	16	11	7	102
14	4618	<i>Decisions</i>	James Dougherty	Alvaro de Cardenas	Biscayne Bay	12	7	13	23	16	94
15	4305	<i>Conch IV</i>	Blair Fletcher	Asa Colson	Barnegat Bay	DNF	9	23	13	11	76
16	4590	<i>Riptide IV</i>	Richard Poole	Patricia Poole	East River	20	25	12	17	18	73
17	4438	<i>Calzoni</i>	Jon W. Metzger	Dennis O'Sullivan	Ithaca	18	16	DNF	12	14	72
18	4333	<i>Nitemare</i>	Andy McPherson	Dan McPherson	Ithaca	22	15	18	26	13	71
19	4480	<i>Hogansgoat</i>	Jerry Larkin	J. L. Kitchens	Biscayne Bay	DNF	19	14	10	22	67
20	1961	<i>Capella</i>	Tony O'Donnell	A. J. O'Donnell, Jr.	Biscayne Bay	24	17	19	21	21	63
21	4041	<i>Crackerjack</i>	Frederick Jaretzki	Wallace Ross	Otsego Lake	17	24	22	18	23	61
22	4518	<i>Rampage</i>	Robert Seaton	Frank Hogg	Barnegat Bay	16	22	25	22	25	55
23	4604	<i>Astronaut</i>	Eugene Corley	Jerry Leterman	Chicago Harbor	13	DNF	15	DNF	17	54
24	4160	<i>Volare</i>	Rocco Campanelli	Frank Geronimo	East River	DNF	21	17	24	20	50
25	4256	<i>Fugitive</i>	John McLean	Edward Conley	East River	14	23	20	25	DNF	50
26	4502	<i>Twister</i>	William Clark	Kenneth Clark	Oswego Lake	25	27	21	20	24	48
27	4178	<i>Shadow</i>	Charles de Cardenas	G. E. Patterson, Jr.	Biscayne Bay	21	20	DNF	15	—	43
28	4635	<i>Lamb Chop</i>	David Kingston	Henry Miltenberger	Atlantic Highlands	DNF	26	24	—	26	23
29	3435	<i>Lively Lady</i>	John Reid	Victor Cribb	Biscayne Bay	27	28	—	—	—	11
30	3323	<i>Vandal</i>	Herbert W. Virgin, Jr.	H. W. Virgin, III	Biscayne Bay	23	—	—	—	—	10
31	4612	<i>Raja</i>	Skip Ryder		Biscayne Bay	26	—	—	—	—	7

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And why shouldn't he be? Consider the odds. Assuming first that *Cirrus* could win the last race, what else must happen in order for her to win the series? If she won the last race, *Shrew* had to finish 7th or worse; she finished 15th. *Gem* had to finish 5th or worse; she finished exactly 5th. *Dingo* had to finish 12th or worse; and she finished exactly 12th. To top it all, *Dingo* was 11th approaching the finish line, enough to win the series

after a nightmare struggle to keep the rig in the boat, when, with only a few lengths to go, Blair Fletcher, whose *Conch III* had been behind *Dingo* all day, surged past to drop *Dingo* to 12th place. Knowles' position was similar. *Gem* had the remarkably consistent record of a second and three fourths. All Durward needed, to take home the trophy, was another of those handsome fourths — but he got a fifth.

No series is over until the last whistle blows.



**WINDWARD MARK, BACARDI SERIES**  
Howard Lippincott is visible between the two men on *Rampage*, foreground. He seems quite unconcerned about his port-tack approach.

F. ZAGARINO