



# 1989 QUARTER TON CUP



Top: Meridian, the eventual winner takes the gybe mark outside Saniflo

Photograph by Roger Lean-Vercoe

Above: Saniflo, the new Fauroux-designed boat that sailed first in the first race. This boat has a huge mainsail and a high, aspect-ratio, small foretriangle. The rig design is obviously influenced by Fauroux's experience in sailing the Star Class

Photograph: David Turner - PPL

**T**he World Quarter Ton Cup Championship held during July in the shadow of Peter de Savary's America's Cup base at Falmouth, ended in a close tussle between two rival Italian crews – after balmy Mediterranean-type conditions thwarted the aspirations of two former Cup holders, Jacques Fauroux from France and Denmark's Folke Larson.

The Cup eventually ended up in the hands of Pompereo Busnello after his two-year-old Massimo Paperini-designed Meridian won the opening and closing Olympic races, beating off a strong challenge from B & BV, a vintage 1979 Alain Jezequel design, skippered by Ricardo Bressani, which also came close to winning the 1988 series – until losing her rudder. B & BV won the 120-mile offshore race (after her crew side-stepped the calms that frustrated almost everyone else) and retained a points lead in the series, but slipped to 7th position in the 110-mile second offshore race; a result that lifted Meridian back into the reckoning for the last race.

Saniflo also proved a worthy competitor, but having only been launched just in time for measurement before the series, she lacked the preparation time that could have turned her into a winner. The Fauroux design, with its huge mainsail and tiny foretriangle, proved particularly fast downwind but also had sufficient speed upwind to beat off Meridian in a 20-minute tacking duel when he won the 110 miler.

Denmark's double Olympic medallist Paul Jensen, who had hoped that Folke Larson's Scandinavian Seaways would carry him to a third Quarter Ton victory, found his ambitions thwarted by the wind. The Tony Castro design failed to match the Italians' progress in the light stuff and only came into its own during the last race when the Jensen-steered design took the winning gun to salvage 4th place for the defending champions. British hopes were championed by the Humphreys-designed Quest Original Knitwear, chartered by local sailor Jonathan Money. Quest made a promising start and remained in 3rd place until a 9th position in the 110-mile offshore race left Money and his crew facing 7th in the overall standings.



## RACE BY RACE

### Race 1

8-10 knots northerly breeze. At the end of 1st beat, Imazulu, Meridian, B & BV, rounded very closely. With 3-5 mile legs, the wing mark was difficult to see against the cliffs. This enabled Saniflo and Scandinavian Seaways to pull through when the fleet found the mark.

For the rest of the race the first eight places changed with the final result: Meridian, B & BV, Saniflo, Scandinavian Seaways, Quest Original Knitwear and Piranha.

### Race 2

Offshore 120 miles.

First beat in 10-knot northerly, followed by a long run to Fowey buoy. Quest Original Knitwear led until overtaken by B & BV at the end of 20-mile run. These two, plus Meridian, pulled away on the long fetch back to Falmouth. During the night Meridian pulled through to lead and in the early hours of the morning, Jever came through to 3rd when the wind went very light and flukey.

After 90 miles, Meridian and B & BV had a close-tacking to finish 20 seconds apart. Reversing the 1st race results. Quest Original Knitwear came in 3rd, Jever 4th. Canard split from the fleet in the last beat back and gained many places and Saniflo finished 6th.

### Race 3

15-18 knots Northerly

Scandinavian Seaways started well and held her lead for the whole race. Overall at this stage, B & BV, Meridian, Quest Original Knitwear, Saniflo, Scandinavian Seaways.

### Race 4

Short Offshore 100 miles

15 knots Northerly. As the gun went, Quest Original Knitwear tore the head off her genoa, putting her in last position. At the end of a two-mile weather leg B & BV led from Canard, Piranha, Meridian and Saniflo.

The fleet split on the next windy reach. Those who held high lost out when the wind went light. After 20 miles Saniflo led Imazulu, Canard, Piranha, Quest Original Knitwear and B & BV.

There then followed a series of 10 mile beats and runs. At the end of this, Imazulu led from Canard, Piranha, Saniflo, Quest Original Knitwear and Carl Zeiss. These six had a good lead on the rest of the fleet.

The wind went light for the last of these 10-mile beats, enabling Meridian to climb from 14th to 2nd, B & BV to 5th and Saniflo to 1st. The others caught out included Quest Original Knitwear to fall to 14th, ending her chances of a good overall result.

### Race 5

Northerly 10 knots

Scandinavian Seaways led throughout to give her her 2nd win. Meridian rounded the mark first in 2nd place and held on to this to win the championship.

## THE BOATS

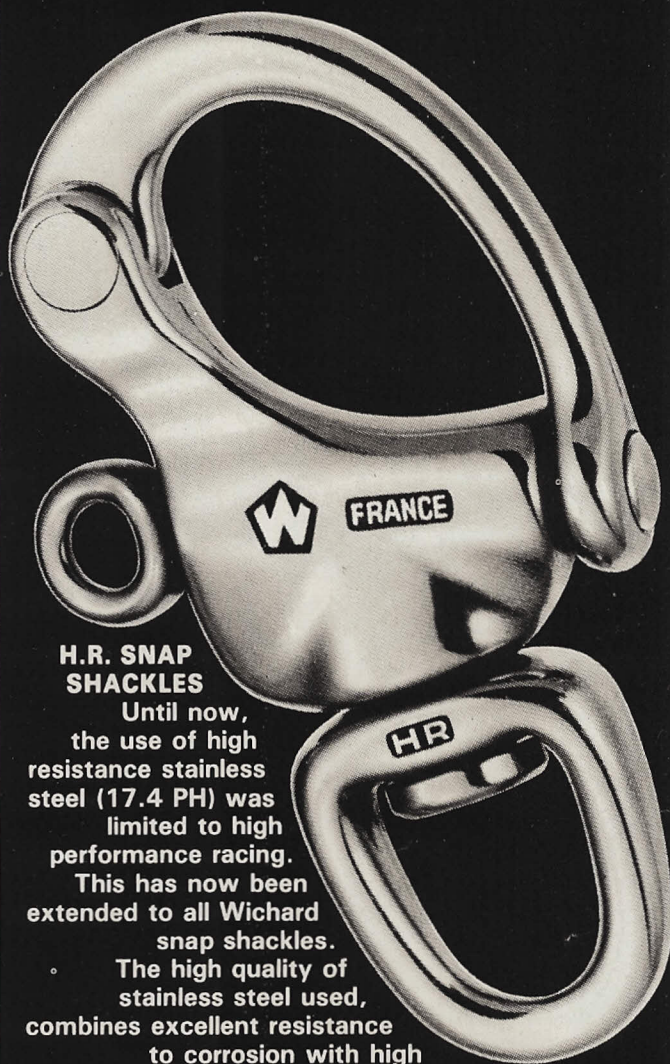
Meridian was a 1988 design, well sailed. She loved the smooth water and medium breezes.

B & BV, a 10 year old design, still very fast in medium to strong winds. She did not like the light.

Saniflo, an interesting Fauroux design. Arrived in Falmouth never having been sailed. She sported a very large mainsail and small foretriangle. The mast had runners with upper and lower checks and no standing backstay. She was quick, however her spinnakers were very unstable due to high aspect and will need working on in the future.

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Left: Quest Original Knitwear sailed by Jonathan Money. A disappointing result in the short offshore race kept Quest out of the medals overall

Photograph: David Turner - PPL

Below: B & BV. This 1981 Jezequel design has now twice come very close to winning this event as the veteran of the fleet. By virtue of rule-grandfathering this boat now has a lot more sail area than with which it was originally designed

Photograph: David Turner - PPL



Scandinavian Seaways, a late building programme and a boat built 10cm too long meant that modifications had to be made. This affected displacement and sail area. She had two good wins inshore in a breeze, but did not really show signs of really good allround speed.

Quest Original Knitwear, in 1989 she had more sail area than in 1987 due to a remeasurement. She seemed a good all-round boat but lacked practice time.

The Bulgarian entry was dropped off a cargo ship, 25 miles south of Falmouth. In choppy seas her rig was passed down to her and it was stepped before the boat was sailed into Falmouth.

The Australians, who arrived in Falmouth three weeks before the event determined to win with very good crews and big budgets, were out of touch. The boats were slow and looked old-fashioned by comparison to the European designs that enjoy more competition.

## Results

1. Meridian (Marco Passoni)	Italy	146.75pts
2. B & BV (Ricardo Bressani)	Italy	139.50pts
3. Saniflo (Jacques Fauroux)	France	136.37pts
4. Scandinavian Seaways (Folke Larson)	Denmark	129pts
5. Canard (Enrico Passoni)	Italy	118.5pts
6. Piranha (Antonio Migliori)	Italy	118pts
7. Quest Original Knitwear (Jonathan Money)	Britain	116.5pts
8. Bombay Gin (Javier de la Gandara)	Spain	105.5pts
9. Carl Zeiss (Felix Scheder Bieschin)	W.Germany	105pts
10. Jever (Dietrich Horst)	W.Germany	