

Sailing

Mandrake up to the minute

Bob Fisher at Cowes

GIORGIO CARRIERO's 50ft Mandrake won the Champagne Mumm Trophy for the fourth race of the Admiral's Cup yesterday by a full minute, a massive margin at this level. It was Mandrake's second victory in succession.

While the Italians forged further ahead in their attempt to win the cup for the first time, holding off a spirited challenge from Australia, Britain's challenge evaporated in the fresh south-westerly breeze.

At one time all three British boats were last in their classes with the exception of GBE International, which had the Dutch makeweight Ace astern.

Nothing is going right for the British team. Glyn Charles displayed considerable enterprise in making the best start at the right end of the line with GBE International, but he was overhauled by all the other One

Tonnners except Ace before reaching the first mark. Strangely, GBE International did not lose much more ground to the leader on the other nine legs of the 28-mile course.

In the same class there was almost a second successive disaster for Italy's Brava Q8. Her skipper, Paul Cayard, had to ease up on the final leg when the mast which had replaced the one broken during Monday's race began to bend severely. He dropped a place, but Italy's strength is such that they could discard his result.

Stuart Childerley was out of luck in the Two Ton class as well. At one time his Provezza Source was challenging Italy's Larouge for second place, but two ill-fated tacks out to the left-hand side of the course destroyed his chances.

Derek Clark, the navigator of Larouge, explained that there were no big windshifts in the 18-22-knot breeze, but such as there were had to be harnessed

properly. "Stuart seemed to get it wrong and we went the right way," he said.

Graham Walker's Indulgence was once again visited by misfortune when a sneath knife which the Bowman Timmy Haines had on his belt was caught in the spinnaker guy as the sail was being hoisted for the first run.

Haines was dragged off his feet to the end of the boom by the crew before the mistake was realised. As they tried to return him to the deck he went overboard, still attached, and had to be recovered. In the process the sail was torn, and the British boat lost ground as it was replaced.

Today is a rest day before two short windward-leeward courses tomorrow and the 605-mile Fastnet Race on Saturday which concludes the series.

Italy have 169.88 points, with Australia on 166.25 and Germany third with 150.50. Britain have 107.