BERMUDA KEEPS WESTERN HEMISPHERE TITLE
Bernard Hayward Wins Hayward Trophy

BAHAMAS GETS SECOND PLACE—UNITED STATES THIRD

Enthusiastic clubmates greet the victors on their return home to Bermuda as Reggie Tucker, Commodore of St. George’s Sport and Dinghy Club who accompanied the team to Nassau (with pipe), beams with pride. Sober crew Charlie Brown doffs his Bahamian hat and waves the victorious flag.

Bermuda sent two crack sailing teams to Nassau (accompanied by many loyal supporters) and it was evident to all that they were determined to hang on to the Hayward Trophy and take it home again. And they did just that! Bernard (Easter) Hayward and his crew, Charles Brown, turned in a steady and brilliant performance to win the title. SCIRA hats are off to them!

Hayward (no relation to the donor of the trophy, 1951 SCIRA Commodore John T. Hayward of Oklahoma), is the St. George’s Dinghy and Sailing Club Snipe Fleet champion and was runner-up to Eugene (Penny) Simmons for the Bermuda National Championship. As National Champ and the defending Western Hemisphere Champion, Simmons was a leading favorite to win, but a DSQ and a 7th place finish killed his prospects of repeating as titlist.

2 teams each from Argentina, Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Cuba, and the United States with 1 team from Canada were in this biennial event, the 5th since its inauguration in 1950. Consisting of the best 5 out of 6 races, the series was sailed on Montagu Bay, Nassau, Bahamas, October 27-November 1 in perfect weather during a rainless week.

Notice was given of Bermuda’s intentions in the very first race on Monday when Eugene Simmons caught some good wind on a long tack on the 2nd lap around the triangular course to move from 9th place into 1st across the finish line, 23 seconds ahead of Terry Whittemore, USA, who had led for two-thirds of the way around. And when Easter Hayward finished 3rd, Bermuda led in team competition, also. It was ominous!

Two races were sailed Tuesday in puffy and fitful breezes and the local Kelly boys made hay with everything pretty much their own way. Godfrey Kelly, with brother Dave crew, employed crafty tacking in a breezy morning race. Taking a long tack for the beat, he got the best of the erratic breeze to lead Gabriel Gonzalez of Brazil by a minute and 3 seconds at the 1st mark of the 5 mile windward-leeward course. But that margin shrank to 6 seconds at the end of the 1st lap and the Kelly boys really went to work to hold their position as Hayward closed in 3rd position. There were only 3 minutes difference in the boats as they crossed the line in the above order.

In the afternoon test, the wind shifted from west to north and got even more spotty, ranging from a flat calm to puffs up to 8 mph. Basil Kelly, brother to Godfrey, with Harold (Buck) Johnson crew, had luck in locating the best wind and led John Wolcott, USA Champion, around the course by 6 seconds. At the 1st lap, Wolcott slipped inside rounding the marker buoy and forged ahead by a couple of lengths. But Kelly whistled up the wind more successfully on to finally win by 58 seconds.

Whittemore, sailing steadily and consistently, had a 3rd place, while Gonzalez of Brazil was 4th. Hayward turned in what proved to be his worst performance with an 11th spot. Whittemore with 2, 5, and 3 led in total points at this half-way mark.

But Hayward made a brilliant recovery the next day in the 4th race over a 6 mile windward-leeward course. The wily 24-year-old skipper jumped on a 10 mph NW wind which had the Snipes moving rapidly. Both Godfrey and Basil Kelly challenged the lead position, but lost ground on the run back on the 1st lap and as Basil fell back to 6th place, Hayward took his chance and Godfrey a close race for the next position. But Godfrey, with a full sail, managed to stay ahead of Terry and Gonzalez Diaz of Cuba, who finished 4th. Two protest (one resulting in the DSQ for Simmons) shuffled the points standing with Whittemore holding a slim margin with 5707, Basil Kelly 5490, Hayward 5388, and Godfrey Kelly 5366.

The 5th race on Friday was probably the most decisive of the series. Following some pre-race strategy determined by tuning up the boat and practicing the previous night, the two Bermuda teams, gambling on a long port tack against the tide on the 1st leg of the triangular course, sailed away off by themselves, while the rest of the fleet clawed into the wind on short starboard tacks; but they guessed right in spite of “the dope,” picked up a good breeze and boomed into the windward mark 7 minutes and 22 seconds ahead of their pursuers. Very light and puffy wind from the SE marked the start, but it later shifted to the south and almost dropped to almost nothing. The Bermuda sailors had no trouble protecting their huge early lead.

Hayward crossed the line in a furling breeze as dusk settled in 2:26:25, just under the 2 1/2 hour race time limit. Simmons was 2nd, Godfrey Kelly 3rd, and Whittemore 4th. As the final race approached, Whittemore led in total points with 7074, Hayward 2nd with 6988; C. Kelly 3rd with 6810.

Ideal weather prevailed for the final windward-leeward race, an 8-12 mph wind from the SW sweeping the boats over the line in a perfect start. Basil Kelly led the way and improved his position with every wave, sweeping off on a long starboard tack which few of his rivals followed. At the windward mark, Basil enjoyed a lead of 1 min. 35 seconds over the leading Cuban contender.

(Continued on page 10)
The United States team of Terry Whittemore, 1958 U.S. National Champion runner-up, and George "Stovy" Brown (center) receives cups with happy smiles as third place winners.

Commodore Kenneth Eardley of the Royal Nassau Sailing Club watches while the Hon. K. M. Walmsley, Acting Governor of the Bahamas, presents the Western Hemisphere Hayward Trophy to the new champions, Bernard Hayward (left) and his crew, Charles Brown, of Bermuda.

Second place winners Basil Kelly (left) and his crew, Harold "Buck" Johnson, Bahamas, receive their trophies.

Typical Race Scene — As you can see, competition was always close.

John Wolcott leads the fleet across the leeward end of the starting line.

The United States team of Terry Whittenmore, 1958 U.S. National Champion runner-up, and George "Stovy" Brown (center) receives cups with happy smiles as third place winners.

Gonzalo Melendez took these pictures of the entrants listening to Godfrey Lip