

Catamaran Yacht Club. The R.Y.A. trials, we should add, had been originally arranged when it was not known that the I.Y.R.U. Trials would be held in Britain and it was, therefore, more necessary that the best British boats should not be prevented from attending by lack of funds.

The Spring Holiday Weekend Trials did not attract as many entries as expected, mainly, as far as one could discover, because a number of builders had not been able to spare enough time from other activities to prepare and tune new boats.

The entries in "B" Division consisted of only two full-size boats, 20 ft. x 10 ft. x 235 sq. ft. The very fast Manta *Vivace* sailed by veteran Manta helmsman A. G. J. Smith and Reg White's *Shark*, which was an absentee because Reg—recently returned from Bermuda—has a poisoned leg. The other "B" boats were two *Thais*, J. Palmer's famous *Sue*, winner at International Catamaran Week in both 1965 and 1966, and K. L. Sanger's *Thai-foon II* that came 8th in the Thai class at 1966 Catamaran Week (sail No. 117 on that occasion although she now has sail No. 161).

Two Shearwater IV's made up the complement—Francis Prout's famous *Yellow Bird*, winner of so many races in the last four years, and Neil T. Coster's new *November Charlie*, a very special detachable-hull boat.

Too slow

Yellow Bird has a new hull, following the road accident that took place when she was on her way to last year's Shearwater Trials at Falmouth. Very fast at times, *Yellow Bird* was not fast enough and usually came last or last but one boat home by apparently unaccountably large margins. Francis told us that he was having trouble with fittings—particularly a traveller fitting which appeared to be of inferior quality.

Neil Coster's "cat" on the other hand was at a disadvantage as he had only 226 sq. ft. of sail on his Shearwater III-sized mast and his first races were disappointing as he came last behind *Yellow Bird*. However, as the meeting progressed, Neil improved his performance and was, on occasions, faster than even the *Thais*.

In the last race Neil decided to try his Shearwater as a single-hander without the jib leaving only three "B" boats to race.

Generally speaking *Vivace* made use of her full size and held off determined attacks from the *Thais*, but in the second race was two minutes late starting and in the fourth race sailed the wrong course and was disqualified.

Sue proved the most consistent boat but neither of the *Thais* finished the third race.

John Fisk, Ken Pearce and C. D. Chapman, the R.Y.A. judges, were probably disappointed that there were not more boats to observe and that the ones that were there perhaps hardly a

Iolanthe II moving fast, at the perfect sailing angle, with the weather hull just kissing the tops of the waves.

