

ITALIANS WIN

VINCENZO BALESTRIERI annihilated the rest of the field on Saturday in the Wills Powerboat race on a trial course for the round-Britain first leg. He and Don Pruett, the current world champion drivers, drove their Bertram Mercruiser to a 30 minute winning lead in absolutely flat seas. The second boat from the same stable, driven by F. Consentino, was two minutes behind with the same type boat and power unit. The time is an unofficial world speed record and certainly the best ever British offshore speed.

Third and first British boat to finish was the catamaran **Volare II** driven by James Beard with twin Evinrude 115 units. The fourth and first outing for the new enlarged Avenger, **Avenger Too**, driven by Timo Makinen and Pascoe Watson, were over ten minutes behind **Volare**. The class III **Avenger Hell Fire** was fifth after holding

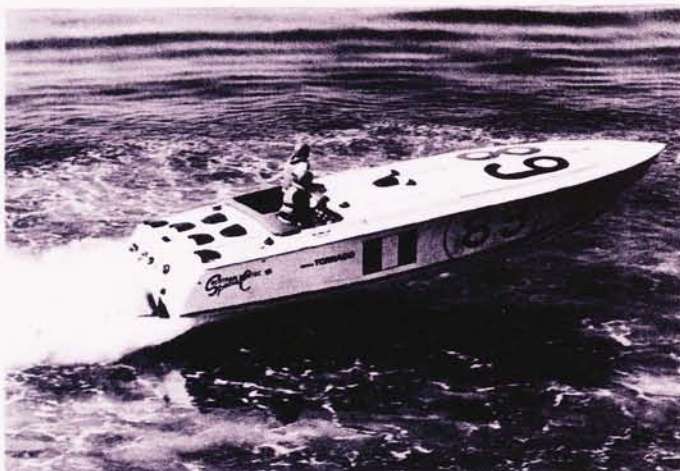
the Italians down past Cowes until they suffered engine trouble, and in fact they finished in this fine position with their starboard engine on only three-quarter power.

The rolling start was quite successful and it looks like HRH Prince Philip will be very impressed when he starts the round-Britain race over the same first leg on July 26. Out of 23 starters under these marvellous conditions there were only four boats that had to stop and they were engine troubles. Last year's winner, **Surfury** (the Gardner brothers) retired off Lymington.

RESULTS — 1 Red Tornado (V. Balestrieri), 2 White Tornado (F. Consentino), 3 Volare II (J. Beard), C.1. AND PRODUCTION A — Ford Speed (J. Freeman), C.2. AND PRODUCTION B — Miss Smirnov (P. Hennessy), OP1 — Red Tornado, OP2 AND OUTBOARD — Volare II, DIESEL UNLIMITED — Sea Fox (A. Burnard), DIESEL RESTRICTED and DIESEL PRIZE — Ford Speed, CONCOURS D'ELEGANCE — Oh, Oh, Ski (B. Jelly).



Balestrieri and Pruett in the winner "Red Tornado".



Second overall were Consentino and Vanderburg in "White Tornado".



Third was the British cat "Volare II".

