

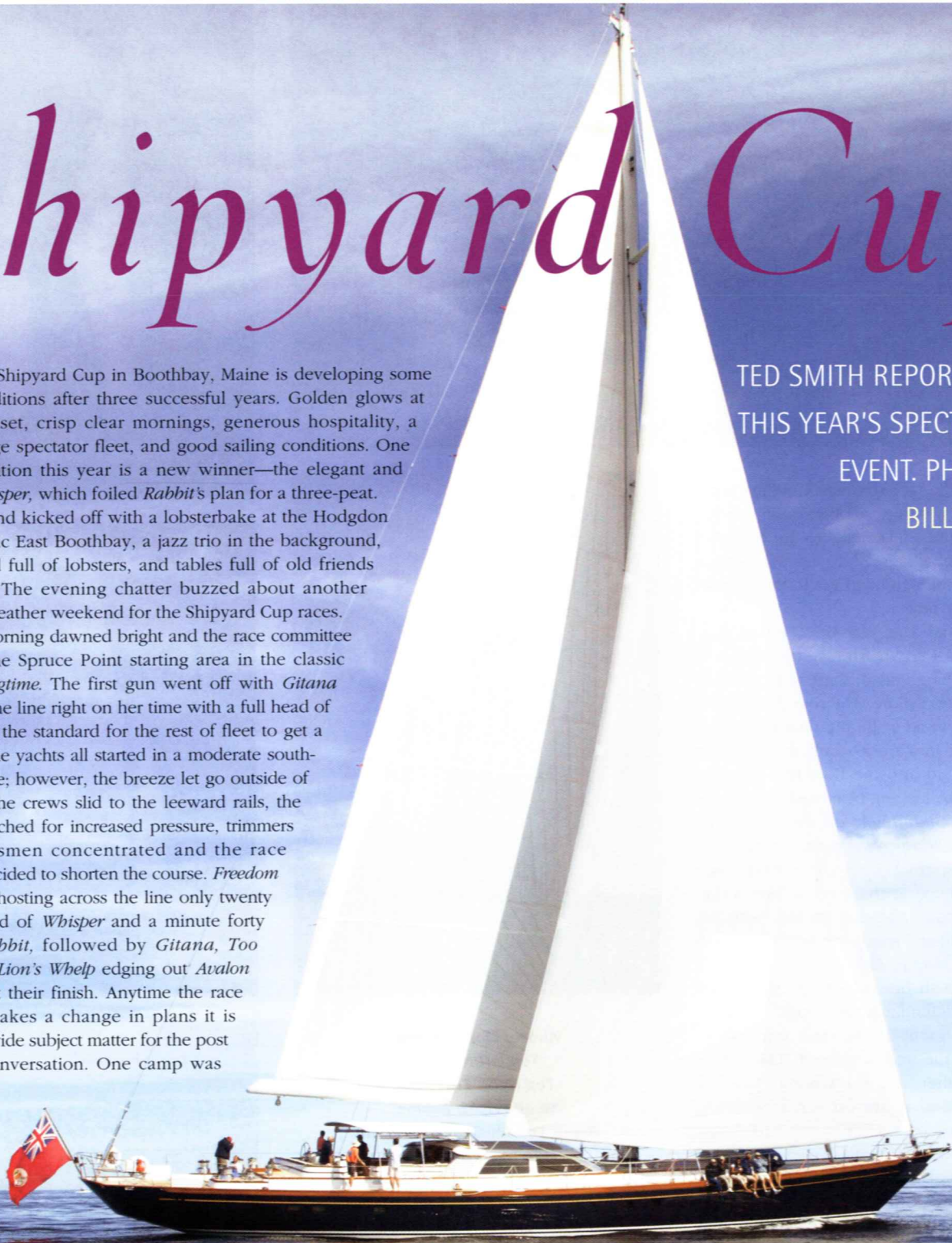
# Shipyard Cup

The Shipyard Cup in Boothbay, Maine is developing some traditions after three successful years. Golden glows at sunset, crisp clear mornings, generous hospitality, a large spectator fleet, and good sailing conditions. One break in tradition this year is a new winner—the elegant and powerful *Whisper*, which foiled *Rabbit's* plan for a three-peat.

The weekend kicked off with a lobsterbake at the Hodgdon yard in historic East Boothbay, a jazz trio in the background, plates heaped full of lobsters, and tables full of old friends catching up. The evening chatter buzzed about another spectacular weather weekend for the Shipyard Cup races.

Saturday morning dawned bright and the race committee headed for the Spruce Point starting area in the classic commuter *Ragtime*. The first gun went off with *Gitana* charging off the line right on her time with a full head of steam, setting the standard for the rest of fleet to get a smart start. The yachts all started in a moderate southeasterly breeze; however, the breeze let go outside of the islands. The crews slid to the leeward rails, the tacticians searched for increased pressure, trimmers eased, helmsmen concentrated and the race committee decided to shorten the course. *Freedom* got the gun ghosting across the line only twenty seconds ahead of *Whisper* and a minute forty ahead of *Rabbit*, followed by *Gitana*, *Too Elusive*, with *Lion's Whelp* edging out *Avalon* by seconds at their finish. Anytime the race committee makes a change in plans it is bound to provide subject matter for the post race party conversation. One camp was

TED SMITH REPORTS FROM  
THIS YEAR'S SPECTACULAR  
EVENT. PHOTOS BY  
BILLY BLACK.



Main picture: *Whisper*  
Far left: (l to r) Don Lessels,  
Murray Lord, Ted Fontaine,  
John (Hap) Fauth.  
Left: Hap at the helm  
of *Whisper*.



glad to have the race shortened, putting every one out of their misery, another camp was not thrilled with the adjustments to the corrected finish time, but all agreed it was more important to enjoy the party and get to their dinner reservations on time.

Sunday was the classic 'Maine day' September is known for. By the time the skipper's meeting ended, there was a breeze stirring the flags ashore. The round-the-island course was set and again the fleet roared out of the harbor in a fresh southerly. This day the breeze held and the fleet had a reach, fetch and a challenging beat, with a long run to the finish. *Gitana* held off the fleet to the top mark, but *Whisper* was right on her heels, with a crisp spinnaker set she roared down the last leg leaving the fleet in her wake. *Freedom* rounded ahead of *Rabbit*, with her mizzen staysail and spinnaker set she held off the light and nimble *Rabbit* for the five mile run to the finish line, crossing 29 seconds ahead of the defending Cup holder.

Three new yachts in the fleet, and two of them carried the trophies south. Three days of great weather, and for a bonus Monday brought the ideal northwest wind for sailing on the Maine coast—flat water and eased sheets to head home with. *Freedom* headed south with third place, *Rabbit* headed home with a second and *Whisper* returned to Newport with the Cup. Great weather, warm hospitality and close racing; the Shipyard Cup is a "finestkind" event. □



**Above: Lion's Whelp**  
**Top left: Rabbit**  
**Top right: Freedom**  
**Middle right: Avalon**  
**Right: Too Elusive passing the R.C. boat, Ragtime.**  
**Bottom right: Gitana**



**Bottom left: Murray Lord and Dirk Johnson of Churchill Yacht Partners with NEB's Tom Rich.**  
**Below: (l to r) Ted Smith, with the skipper of Gitana, David Martirana, and Mads Lillelund and Tom Healey of Freedom.**

