



A NAIL-BITING FINALE

IN ONE OF THE CLOSEST FINISHES ever, Britain won the 1989 Admiral's Cup by 17.5 points – the equivalent of just seven Fastnet places – from Denmark. Not since 1969, when the USA won by 14 points, has there been such a close finish.

In the end the outcome of the entire competition hung on a cliff-hanger Fastnet finish among the One Tonners with Denmark's 4K and Britain's *Indulgence* holding the fate of their national teams in the balance. The Fifties had finished either side of midnight Wednesday, with the USA's *Great News* skippered by Tom Blackaller winning not merely the CMAC division of the

race, but the overall Fastnet trophy. By the time the leading mid-raters had finished, Denmark's *Andelsbanken* was on corrected time one place ahead of Britain's *Jamarella*, while *Stockbroker* (D) was one place ahead of *Juno* (UK).

Having gone into the Fastnet with a lead of 53 points Britain effectively had 18 places in hand over Denmark, calculated at the Fastnet points-factor 'price' of 2.5 points per place. With two of those places recovered, Denmark's 4K had to beat *Indulgence* by 16 places on corrected time for Denmark to take the Cup – and all round the course she had been reporting in a healthy lead over the British boat.

4K finished at 0850 on Thursday morning, *Indulgence* at 0944 but with only three One Tonners between herself and the Dane. It was sufficient – but only just. *Indulgence* corrected in at 20th place, with 4K 10th and *Juno* pushed down to 12th by the best One Tonners.

And Denmark was left to reflect that she lost the Cup by only 17.5 points – while her *Andelsbanken* had lost a whole 40 points when she had pulled out of the fifth race with a breaking headstay. If only...