

FIRST BLOOD TO AMERICA

YACHTING THRILLS ON THE CLYDE

THE SEAWANHAKA CUP CONTEST

JILL'S FINE DOWN-WIND QUALITIES

America drew first blood yesterday in the contest for the Seawanhaka Cup, the United States challenger, Jill, defeating the Scottish defender, Maida, by 2min. 1sec. in a race marked by many thrills.

It was a light-weather day and the result in the prevailing conditions was quite in accord with expectations.

LIGHT WEATHER DAY

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ROTHESAY, Thursday Night.

Maida looked like creating a surprise on the opening leg to windward, when the breeze was steady and of fair strength, and she established a lead over Jill of 1min. 35sec.

The wind was lighter after the two yachts rounded the weather mark, and on the spinnaker run back to the commodore Jill displayed outstanding down-wind qualities and put an entirely different complexion on the race. She overhauled Maida, and at the end of the round had turned a deficit of 95 seconds into an advantage of 46 seconds.

This lead she almost exactly maintained on the second beat to the weather mark, and on the down-wind turn, with spinnakers to the finish, she again showed herself faster than the defender, extending her advantage by 76sec.

NO REASON FOR DESPONDENCY.

Although the result was naturally disappointing, especially after Maida had secured a fine lead in the early stages of the match, there is no reason for despondency as to the ultimate result of the contest. The weather conditions exactly suited the American boat. They were very similar to those in the second race in the recent British-American Cup contest, in which she won by a big margin. On the other hand, in conditions in which Maida has not shown herself at her best she gave a very good performance, and given harder breezes, she has a favourable chance of retaining the cup on the Clyde.

KEEN INTEREST.

The weather, although cloudy, was warm and genial, and large crowds congregated along the Bogany and Ayrshire shores and at Toward Point watched the combat between the two 6-metres with keen interest. A large fleet of sailing and auxiliary yachts and motor craft of all types followed the race, and the special excursion steamers were crowded with onlookers. On the passing river steamers the passengers crowded to the rails to obtain a glimpse of the two combatants. The atmosphere was very clear, and a good view of the race was obtained from all points ashore where the crowds had assembled.

THE START.

Shortly before half-past twelve o'clock the commodore vessel, *Majesta*, steamed out of Rothesay Bay to Craigmore Pier, followed by *Maida* and *Jill*, the former in tow of Mr F. J. Stephen's steam yacht *Medea* and the latter in tow of her attendant motor boat. Almost at once the signal "Follow me" was hoisted on the *Majesta*, and the commodore vessel, followed by the competing yachts, still in tow, steamed down firth to a point north of Largs, where she took up her station and the starting line was formed. The weather mark was placed off Toward Point, and Mr James Bryce Allan's steam yacht *Scotia* was stationed beside the mark.

The committee in charge of the race, on board the *Majesta*, included Mr Fred J. Stephen, commodore of the Royal Northern Yacht Club; Mr Claud Allan, vice-commodore; Mr James Napier, rear-commodore; Mr J. H. Maurice Clark, and Mr A. M. Macgeorge. Mr J. C. Campbell was honorary timekeeper, and Mr Wm. Watson officiated on board the steam yacht *Scotia*.

The course sailed was a windward and leeward one, and the yachts started out in a moderate north-westerly breeze, which was variable and patchy during the race.

MAIDA FIRST AWAY.

Both boats crossed a little after the starting gun, *Maida* being first through, but with *Jill* on her weather. Both yachts had Genoa jibs set. It was a starboard start, but *Jill* soon threw round on port and *Maida* came about immediately on her top. They had then a long board up channel, which continued for 50 minutes and took them up to Wemyss Bay.

On this extended stretch *Maida* steadily drew ahead of her rival and stood right on above the pier until *Jill* broke tack, when *Maida* again came about and kept her grip firmly on the American.

Another short tack followed, and they were then able to fetch the weather mark when they were timed:—

	H. M. S.
<i>Maida</i>	2 45 58
<i>Jill</i>	2 47 33

BREEZE FALLS.

With so handsome an advantage at this stage there were sanguine anticipations of a victory for *Maida*, but these expectations were quickly dissipated. The breeze had softened, a factor that told in favour of the challenger. The two boats, after rounding the mark, hoisted their parachute spinnakers to starboard, and *Jill* steadily began to overhaul the leader.

About three-quarters of a mile from the commodore the American boat was close enough to blanket her rival, and, having taken the wind from *Maida*, slipped through her weather. The defender drew round her stern and attempted to repeat the manoeuvre. *Jill's* speed, however, soon took her out of range, and she completed the first round with a lead of 46sec., the timings being:—

	H. M. S.
<i>Jill</i>	3 44 4
<i>Maida</i>	3 44 50

BOARD FOR BOARD.

They hauled their wind at the mark and, after standing for a few minutes, put about simultaneously on port, this time *Jill* being in the weather berth. The breeze was lighter at this stage and was drawing more westerly, with the result that the yachts set a more direct course for the windward mark. They continued on the port tack for twenty-five minutes before they threw round almost together for a leg towards the Bute land, and on the next board *Jill* was able to fetch the mark, while *Maida* had to make an extra hitch to get round.

A feature of the windward work was that not once did the rivals split tack. It was board for board throughout.

The timings at the second visit to the Toward mark were:—

	H. M. S.
<i>Jill</i>	4 45 30
<i>Maida</i>	4 46 15

JILL WINS EASILY.

On this beat accordingly *Jill* maintained the lead she secured on the first run to the commodore. The yachts again had their spinnakers out smartly, but this time to port, and as she had done in the previous free sailing *Jill* increased her advantage steadily, leaving *Maida* behind.

The second round was sailed approximately in 15 minutes less time than the first round, but this was due largely to the fact that the boats covered a shorter distance on their beat to Toward. *Jill* on the run added 1min. 16sec. to her lead and won, as stated, by 2min. 1sec. The finishing times were:—

	H. M. S.
<i>Jill</i> (winner)	5 42 57
<i>Maida</i>	5 44 58

The race finished 17 minutes inside the time-limit of four and a half hours. *Jill's* win was greeted by the dipping of flags and the blowing of sirens on the accompanying fleet. The second race to-morrow is over a triangular course of 14 miles, starting at 1.30 p.m.

The Glasgow Herald

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 1932.

U.S. YACHT WINS AGAIN

THE SEAWANHAKA CUP RACES

WEATHER FAVOURS THE CHALLENGER

By a margin of 1min. 42sec. the American yacht, *Jill*, defeated the Scottish defender, *Maida*, in the second race on the Clyde for the Seawanhaka Cup, and thus stands two up with three races to go.

Conditions once more favoured the challenger, *Jill* being markedly superior in light weather to *Maida*. If a fresh breeze prevails to-day, however, there is every hope that the defender will stem the tide of American success.

DRAMATIC CHANGES OF FORTUNE

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

ROTHESAY, Friday Night.

To-day's race was completed in less time than yesterday's, but there was a larger proportion of free sailing. The rivals had a keen and interesting duel, marked by one or two dramatic changes of fortune over the couple of rounds, and *Maida* again gave indications that in a fresh breeze she would probably have the measure of her opponent.

It will be recalled that in Long Island Sound in 1929 the Clyde 8-metre *Caryl* lost the first two races for the cup and then went on to win the next three and the trophy.

Both of *Caryl's* defeats on that occasion were, however, by a mere handful of seconds, and it is too much to expect *Maida* to emulate her feat; but we should like to see a good hard breeze to-morrow in order to give her a chance of demonstrating what she can do against *Jill* in conditions in which she has shown her best sailing qualities.

MAIDA'S MISTAKE.

To-day's duel again showed that *Maida* is the better boat on the wind, and *Jill* the faster off the wind. In the first round when the breeze was fairly steady *Maida*, in the short tacking on the opening leg, established a lead of half a minute, which *Jill* wiped out on the downwind turn. A starboard reach followed to complete the round. On this stretch *Maida* did well and had an advantage of something like a minute when she set out on the second circuit. An extra short tack her towards the Bute shore proved to be a mistake, for although she was able to throw round on the weather of *Jill* she lost distance. The American, too, appeared to get a better air in the leeward position, and not only slipped quickly past her but led her at the second visit to the weather mark by 1min. 16sec.

A thrill was provided in the run with spinnakers to the next mark, *Maida* getting the first of a freshening breeze and romping through *Jill's* weather. She did not hold her lead long, however, for the American boat was shortly afterwards favoured with the breeze and ran past her in dramatic fashion to lead at the mark by just over a minute. On the closing stretch to the finishing line *Jill* increased her lead and won, as stated, by 1min. 42sec.

TRIANGULAR COURSE.

Mr James Napier's steam yacht, *Majesta*, was again commodore vessel, and on board were Mr Fred J. Stephen, commodore of the Royal Northern Yacht Club; Mr James Napier, rear-commodore; Mr A. M. Macgeorge, and Mr J. C. Campbell, honorary timekeeper. The course was a triangle of seven miles, two rounds being sailed, giving a total length of 14 miles.

The commodore vessel took up her station for the starting line off Kerrycroy. The weather mark was placed in mid channel off Toward Point, and the lee mark off Knock Castle, north of Largs. Mr J. H. Maurice Clark, on board his auxiliary yawl *Vadura*, saw to the laying of the Knock Castle mark, and the steam yacht, *Merlin*, with her owner, Mr George F. Paisley, and Mr W. W. Watson, D.S.O., on board, stood by the weather mark.

MAIDA'S EARLY ADVANTAGE.

The start at 1.30 p.m. took place in a light north-easterly breeze, and Maida smartly secured the opening advantage, crossing on starboard on the weather of Jill. The American boat stood on for over a couple of minutes, when she threw about, and Maida immediately followed suit. This was the prelude to a long series of short tacks, Maida putting about as soon as Jill did so and keeping the challenger always well under her lee. The defender gained in this bout of short tacking, and at the weather mark she had secured an advantage of half a minute, the timings being:—

	H. M. S.
Maida	2 4 12
Jill	2 4 42

This did not appear a big enough advantage to offset the speed of the American boat off the wind in a light breeze, and, as expected, Jill closed on her rival on the run with parachute spinnakers on starboard to Knock Castle.

Maida, however, held on to her lead to the last gasp, and it was only by reason of securing the inner position at the rounding of the mark that Jill got her nose in front a bare second ahead of Maida.

The timings were:—

	H. M. S.
Jill	2 29 12
Maida	2 29 13

MAIDA DRAWS AHEAD.

Maida showed to great advantage on the reach across on starboard to the commodore, steadily drawing away from her rival, and at the end of the first round she had a minute in hand of Jill, the timings being:—

	H. M. S.
Maida	3 1 29
Jill	3 2 29

Maida's lead of a minute was flattering, as Jill continued on starboard along the line before she put about for the windward turn back to the Toward mark. Maida had thrown over quickly at the flagbuoy, and now she made an error in taking a tack inshore. The board was a short one, for when Jill ranged up to her to leeward she threw round on her weather. She lost, however, by the extra tack.

The breeze was now lighter and freer, and on this occasion they were able to fetch the weather mark without again breaking tack. Jill, in the leeward berth, seemed to get a better air than her opponent, and she slipped through Maida's lee very fast, and, continuing to gain, she rounded the up-channel mark 1min. 16sec. ahead of Maida. The timings were:—

	H. M. S.
Jill	3 37 31
Maida	3 38 47

A THRILLING RUN.

The position now appeared to be pretty hopeless for the Scottish defender, but she provided a thrill to the many spectators by the manner in which she set about overtaking the leader on the spinnaker run to Knock Castle.

Favoured by the first of the freshening breeze she romped through the weather of Jill. British hopes were raised by the transformation, but they were soon dashed again when the following breeze sent Jill's big scudding sails ballooning out again. She speedily recovered the leadership after some luffing, leaving Maida to follow her up.

Fortune had now set in strongly in Jill's favour, and at the Knock mark she had a margin of 1min. 3sec. in hand. Timings:—

	H. M. S.
Jill	4 30 39
Maida	4 31 42

GAMBLE FAILS.

The breeze was more westerly on the closing stretch and Jill was able to fetch the mark. Maida, which was in the weather position, caused some surprise by taking a board up firth. She was well behind at this stage, and the move appeared to be a gamble on securing a favourable slant. It did not come off, and the board had only the effect of putting her farther behind. Finishing times:—

	H. M. S.
Jill (winner)	5 1 30
Maida	5 3 12

The third race to-morrow is over a windward and leeward course, the start again being at 1.30. If Jill is successful she wins the cup.

The Glasgow Herald

MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1932.

U.S. YACHT WINS

JILL BEATS MAIDA FOR THIRD TIME

SKILFUL HANDLING OF CHALLENGER

DEFENDER HANDICAPPED FROM START

The American challenger, Jill, scored her third successive win in the contest for the Seawanhaka Cup on the Firth of Clyde on Saturday, and the trophy thus returns across the Atlantic.

She defeated the Clyde defender, Maida, by a larger margin than in the two previous races, winning by 4min. 17sec.

FULL HONOURS

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

ROTHESAY, Saturday Night.

Mr J. Seward Johnson's six-metre yacht Jill has won back the Seawanhaka Challenge Cup for the Americans with the full honours of the contest. In the third race to-day Maida lost about a minute by being over the line too soon at the start. She never recovered from this disadvantage, and was in pursuit of the challenger all afternoon.

The Americans are to be congratulated on a victory worthily won by the merits of their yacht and her skilful handling. Jill was, indeed, admirably sailed by her owner and crew.

These young Americans gave nothing away by their expert seamanship in the three races.

We are likely to hear a good deal more of Mr Olin J. Stephens, Jill's designer, who was a member of the crew. His 52ft. Bermudian yawl, *Dorada*, won the Atlantic and Fastnet Cup races last year, and this year three of his "sixes," *Bob Kat II.*, *Jill*, and *Nancy*, filled the leading places in the recent British-American Cup races. Now Jill has added to his fame by winning the Seawanhaka Cup.

In to-day's race Maida again showed to most advantage on the wind. She fully held her own on the short tacking in the first round to the weather mark, and on the longer boards on the second beat she knocked 46sec. off Jill's lead. But any gain she made to windward was more than offset by Jill's marked superiority downwind. It was her speed in running which enabled the challenger to score by so large a margin to-day, and which contributed decisively to her success in the contest. The greater experience of her crew in dealing with the parachute spinnaker was a material aid on this point of sailing.

The contest may be summed up by the statement that Jill was too good for Maida in the light weather that prevailed over the three days, and there was general regret on our side that the fortunes of war did not provide a test for the two boats in a good hard breeze.

PRESENTATION OF CUP.

The flagship was again Mr James Napier's steam yacht *Majesta*, and those on board included Mr Fred J. Stephen, commodore of the Royal Northern Yacht Club; Mr Napier, rear-commodore; Mr A. M. Macgeorge, and Mr J. C. Campbell (honorary timekeeper). Mr Claud Allan officiated on the patrol boat, and Mr Walter Bergins stood by the weather mark with his auxiliary yacht *Vailima II.*

After the race the commodore hailed the crews of the two competing boats, and the presentation of the cup took place on the quarterdeck of the *Majesta*.

Mr Stephen, in handing over the trophy, heartily congratulated the American crew on the fine victory they had secured. He paid a special tribute to Mr Johnson, the owner, on his excellent handling of Jill, and also to Mr O. J. Stephens, the designer of the winner.

WINNER'S TRIBUTE.

Mr J. Seward Johnson, in acknowledging, expressed appreciation of the scrupulous fairness with which the contest was conducted, of the excellent arrangements made for the carrying through of the races, and of the arrangements also made for the comfort of the crews.

During the forenoon there was scarcely a breath of wind in Rothesay Bay, and the probability of the third race having to be postponed until Monday was freely discussed ashore and afloat. Out in the firth, over which a grey haze hung, the prospects of a breeze did not seem any better. After twelve o'clock Jill and Maida were towed out of the bay to Craigmore, whither they had been preceded by the *Majesta*. At half-past twelve o'clock the commodore vessel hoisted the signal "Follow me," and steamed down firth through the haze in the Largs direction.

Ultimately a course just west of north was laid, the turning mark being off Toward, and the starting line three and a half miles down channel. Two rounds of this windward and leeward course of seven miles were sailed. The start, which was postponed for a quarter of an hour, took place at 1.45 p.m., and by that time a promising breeze was drawing down firth from northerly. The promise was fulfilled, and despite the earlier outlook it proved to be the best breeze of the three days. It was of moderate strength but fairly steady.

AN UNFORTUNATE START.

Maida made an unfortunate start, being over the line two or three seconds before the starting gun. She was recalled, and lost about a minute in recrossing. Jill went away on starboard with a fine lead. She continued on this tack for several minutes until Maida put about, when she also threw round. Another long board followed, and then a series of short tacks. Maida put forth a gallant effort to wipe out her loss at the start, but failed to make much impression on Jill's lead, the challenger, wide to weather, coming about with her on every tack. At the Toward mark the timings were:—

	H. M. S.
Jill	2 47 50
Maida	2 48 53

CHALLENGER GAINS.

Jill had her big balloon spinnaker up to starboard and drawing well before Maida was round the mark, and was fast opening out her lead. Even when Maida went in pursuit of her with her scudding sail hoisted the challenger continued to gain, and on this downwind stretch she added 1min. 43sec. to her lead, the timings at the end of the first round being:—

	H. M. S.
Jill	3 29 10
Maida	3 31 56

Maida, now 2min. 46sec. behind, was in a hopeless position unless the unexpected happened, such as the fading away of the breeze with the intervention of the time limit to save her from defeat. The breeze, however, continued to be of fair strength.

The second beat to the Toward mark was made in longer boards, and in this tacking the Scottish boat was seen to the best advantage. She succeeded in reducing Jill's lead by no less than 46sec., the timings on the second visit to the weather mark being:—

	H.	M.	S.
Jill	4	21	0
Maida	4	23	0

GAP WIDENS.

The run with spinnakers to the finishing line saw Jill more than wiping out Maida's gain on the wind. The Clyde boat did not get her immense balloon sail drawing satisfactorily for a bit, and the big gap between the two yachts was rapidly widened. A large fleet of boats of all types followed the race, and the American's victory was greeted in sporting fashion. The finishing times were:—

	H.	M.	S.
Jill (winner)	5	12	47
Maida	5	17	4

The arrangements made by the Sailing Committee of the Royal Northern Yacht Club were admirable, and worked out without a hitch. The cup winner, Jill, and the other American 6 metre, Nancy, will be shipped back to the United States on an Anchor Line steamer from Glasgow next week-end.

A TRY-OUT IN HEAVY WEATHER

Our Rothesay correspondent writes:—The two competing yachts had a try-out yesterday from Rothesay round Skelmorlie Buoy and return. There was a heavy east wind with considerable sea running, conditions under which it was thought Maida would have made a better showing than in the light winds of the previous three days, but it is stated by observers that Jill, the American yacht, had the better of the encounter.

The Evening Citizen

With which are incorporated the "Glasgow Citizen" (founded 1842) and the "Glasgow Weekly Citizen."

YACHTING Maida's Unofficial Test with Jill

Weather conditions on the Firth of Clyde yesterday materially changed from preceding days. A hard breeze from the east stirred up considerable sea. Among yachtsmen they were considered favourable for Maida, the unsuccessful defender of the Seawanhaka Cup. It was suggested that a private try-out of the Scottish boat and Jill, the successful American boat in the races, might be interesting. The Americans agreed to a test, and Clyde yachtsmen gained some comfort from the trial yesterday.

In a fresh easterly breeze Maida showed herself distinctly superior to her rival.

During the series of races to decide the custody of the Seawanhaka Cup, Jill proved consistently superior in light weather both on the wind and on the run, but among many prominent yachtsmen the opinion was still held that in a hard blow Maida would give a better account of herself. She had been outstanding as a heavy weather craft, and was selected as the official defender of the trophy in the hope that hard breezes would prevail. But the expected "weather" did not materialise, and Jill, a fier in light airs, had matters very much her own way.

After three disheartening days, when the trophy had passed out of their possession, the members of the Royal Northern Yacht Club, the organisers of the event, were tantalised yesterday by the complete change in the weather.

For yesterday's test a windward and leeward course from Rothesay Sound to Skelmorlie buoy, off the Ayrshire coast, was decided upon, and supporters of Maida gathered along the shore in the hope that she would make a better showing than she had done during the previous three matches.

They were not disappointed. On the stiff beat to windward, Maida drew away from Jill, while on the run she was again slightly but definitely faster than her rival.

The Scottish experts, as a result of the test, were satisfied that their surmises regarding Maida's behaviour in heavy weather were correct, and that had conditions been different during the racing days, she would have had an excellent chance of keeping the cup in this country.