

SOUTHAMPTON
BOAT SHOW PREVIEW

SEPTEMBER 1997 £3.20 US\$6.95

CLASSIC BOAT

AND
The
BOATMAN

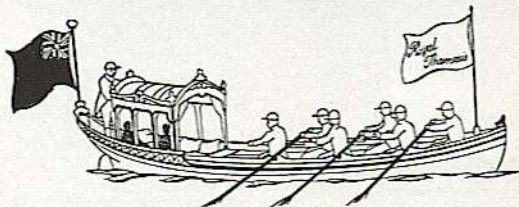
Henley's 20th

The Thames Traditional Boat Rally was 20 this year — celebrated in July in historic style with the launch of *Royal Thamesis*, a scaled-down replica of the 1689 Queen's Shallop commissioned and funded by the event's organising committee, writes Richard Hill. She slipped

slowly into the river to a herald of hooters and horns, whistles and whoops — and not a little champagne, courtesy of Rose and Vernon Willey — amply illustrating the event's original aim of "encouraging the renovation, preservation and use of traditionally-constructed craft".

Nearly 1,000 boats crowded the shores of the river in a profusion of punts, skiffs, launches, cruisers, steamboats and sailboats, making it a difficult task for the judges to award over 20 trophies.

This year, for the first time, visitors voted for their



Six pull the new shallop rather than the original eight

favourite boat at the rally.

The winner was the gentleman's cabin launch *Fleurette*, built in the 1920s by Borthwick's of Windermere and magnificently restored in the 1970s.

Saturday night — clear,



Fleurette pulled the votes

calm and moonlit — saw a spectacular pageant of illuminated boats, a sparkling and dazzling affair, from candlelit punts to launches with generators powering fairy lights.



Christened in bubbly: *Royal Thamesis*.



RICHARD HILL
FRAY LITTLE

GERMANY 17 DM HOLLAND HFL 15.75 A LINK HOUSE MAGAZINE

**Narrowboat festival ● Re-decking
Warrington Smyths ● Scottish scaffie**

