

Send to Mrs Pat Polidor
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HISTORY OF FISHER BY CLUTE NOXON

Authentic information regarding the origin of the Fisher Cup as a trophy to be competed for by racing yachts is not at hand. Tradition has it that the cup was raced for on the Atlantic Coast and was won by the yacht Cora in 1874 or thereabouts. This yacht was reported to have been bought by J. K. Barker of Detroit, and brought to the lakes by him. It is quite possible that the cup went along with the yacht. At any rate, ancient history records that the Cora had a series of races with the Annie Cuthbert of Cobourg, Ontario, at Put-In-Bay in Lake Erie and also in Lake St. Clair during the season of 1875. Apparently the Annie Cuthbert won as the tradition is that it was the first time the Fisher Cup was captured by a Canadian yacht. In 1879, according to the same source, the Annie Cuthbert was purchased by Chicago yachtsmen and the cup, which had so far belonged to the winning boat, went with her to Chicago. The Canadian sloop Atalanta, which made an unsuccessful bid for the America's Cup in 1881, was sent to Chicago in 1883, and won the trophy back to Canada. Atalanta was then owned by the Gifford Syndicate in Cobourg.

Now comes the confusion; for according to another story, the Fisher Cup was presented to the Chicago Yacht Club on the 8th of July, 1882, by A. J. Fisher, as a challenge cup. The trophy certainly could not have been in the possession of Chicago and Cobourg yachtsmen at the same time. According to the record at hand the story of the Fisher presentation came from members of the Rochester Yacht Club when this club won the cup in 1892. However, the Canadian legend goes on to state that the yacht Nora won the cup from Atalanta in 1884 and held it for many years. It could not have been so many years as in September, 1892, the yacht Onward representing the Rochester Yacht Club defeated the Norah of Belleville, Canada, in the Bay of Quinte. This brought the cup to Rochester, and off the latter's port in 1893, the Toronto yacht Zelma and the Onward tried for three days to determine a winner, but adverse weather conditions resulted in no contest. It was not until 1900 that another try was made for the cup when the Minota of Toronto raced against the defender Genesee. The Genesee won in two straight races. Six years later in 1906, the Zoraya, representing the Royal Canadian Yacht Club of Toronto, took the measure of the Rochester Yacht Club's entry Iroquois in two straight races, and for the first time the Fisher Cup rested in the lockers of the Toronto organization.

in 1911 the Rochester Yacht Club sent the Canada's Cup winner of 1907, the famous Seneca after the cup, but the Patricia easily defeated her.

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September 13, 1940

Secretary, Rochester Yacht Club
Rochester, New York

Dear Sir:

In connection with a larger work which I am preparing on the SILVIE'S CUP (formerly known as the GODWIN CUP or erroneously as the QUEEN'S CUP) I should like to write a brief history of the FISHER CUP. If I am correctly informed, the FISHER CUP is now held by the Rochester Yacht Club; and I believe there have been no races for it since 1927 when it was won by yacht ALLOEDE (ex - JOSEPHINE, now VAGABOND of Milwaukee.)

The reason why I should like to include a short history of the FISHER CUP is because the trophies are the two oldest in existence on the Great Lakes; and there are some intimate points of connection between the two, in fact, so intimate that the trophies have been confused by several authorities on yachting history. Among them was the late R. S. Bell of Toronto, Canada, who is perhaps responsible for the "mysterious origin" which is ascribed to the FISHER CUP in works such as these:

BRITISH YACHTS AND YACHTSMEN; London, 1907
THE ANNALS OF THE ROYAL CANADIAN YACHT CLUB 1852 - 1937; Toronto, 1937
SCHENLEY YACHTING AND TROPHY CHAMPIONSHIP BOOK; of 1935

I believe I have succeeded in locating mainly contemporary descriptions of all racing for the FISHER CUP, beginning with the first race of July 4, 1882, in Chicago. But I would like to ask you whether there exists in your records, printed, or otherwise, any comprehensive connected history of this trophy.

If not, it would help me very materially if you will kindly send me an accurate copy of all inscriptions now on the cup - as they would authoritatively fix the dates of the various races.

I should also appreciate receiving from you a good photograph of the FISHER CUP which could be used in connection with my story. Thanking you for your cooperation, I remain with kindest regards

Sincerely yours,


T. R. Hedengren

TR JG

Received
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