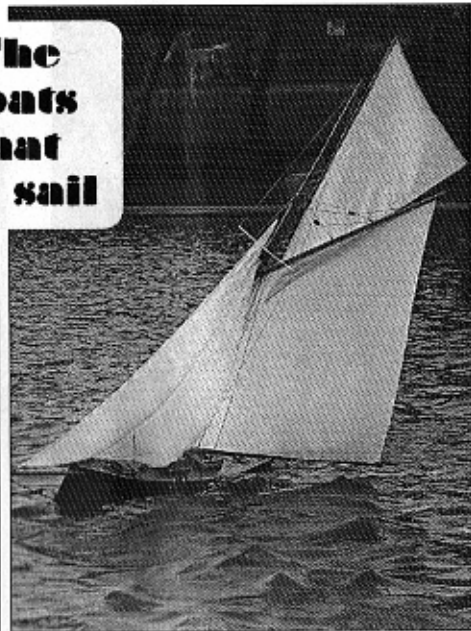
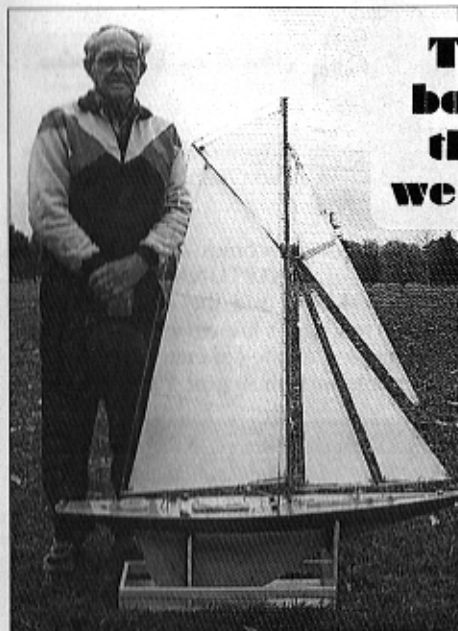


The boats that we sail



Irwin Gibbs of Christchurch, NZ admits that his association with model yachting has been limited, but I note that he joined the century-old Christchurch Model Yacht Club the year that I was born - 1934, when his parents bought him an 'elderly' Four Foot Six boat called *En Avant* which he raced for a couple of years.

The memories of those sailing years were to remain with him through his years of trade training and employment, and upon retirement, one day a chance visit to Lake Victoria led to his ordering a Canterbury J hull and the appearance of *En Avant II*.

Irwin has plans to build a schooner (with lines not dis-similar to the *Bluenose*), meanwhile the cutter-rigged J class (*En Avant II*) sails on.

John Collins of the UK's Woodspring Model Sailing Club, lists among his fleet the magnificent looking model of the 1880 built *Bloodhound*. The original boat was designed and built by William Fife Jnr in 1874 - a forty-tonner that began winning races from the day she was built. The success and history of the boat would fill an entire book. A replica was built in the USA some years ago. John



bought the boat off a friend. Some readers of WW may remember the story on his *Jolie Brise* in the DEC 1996 issue.