

2 December 1991

## **POWERBOATS**

# Italians' loss is Carr's gain

**BRITAIN'S** Richard Carr has been awarded second place in the Allied Leisure Cowes-Torquay Classic last August following an appeal to the Royal Yachting Association.

The decision to disqualify three Italian boats has drastically altered the original results of the race and, in turn, affected the runners-up positions in the European Offshore Championship.

The result also earns Carr, who finished the race in fifth place, the United Kingdom Offshore Boating Association Class I award, which will be presented at the sport's annual prizegiving ceremony in Southampton next Saturday, but is further bad news

By Ray Bulman

for the original winner, Norberto Ferretti.

His victory lifted Ferretti into second place on the European championship points table but he now slips down behind Britain's Steve Curtis, who moves up to sixth.

The appeal was based on the fact that the leading Italians—two of Ferretti's compatriots also finished third and fourth—were not seen passing through the Torquay Gate mark in thick fog.

The crews later stated they had used GPS electronic navigation equipment, and were emphatic they were in the correct position despite being

unseen by race officials marking the turn in Torbay. This was accepted by the race committee but overturned by the RYA.

The original decision by the organisers was the first time an offshore result had been based on an electronic rather than a human sighting, but many felt it was wrong particularly as Carr and several other competitors had slowed to the prevailing conditions and been correctly logged through the gate.

● The result of the public inquiry carried out by the RYA after two boats went up the beach in fog in the same event is expected to be announced later this week.