

Built to Win or Does the Builder Matter?

XOD folk-law would suggest that it may be prudent to avoid buying a boat from a particular builder when considering which boat to purchase. Examination of Cowes Week results, in the handbook, hoping to give statistical support to this view has been attempted. It must be remembered that, as expected, an experienced helmsman is the most important factor. This is confirmed by the figures presented.

Comparisons are difficult because the builders have built in different decades and in vastly different numbers. The table shows the large variations in these factors.

The Captains Cup has been awarded to the most successful **owner** during Cowes Week since 1930. Unfortunately the helmsman's name is not recorded (unless also the owner) nor is there a record of the frequency with which individual boats competed at Cowes. The wide ranging figures cannot be claimed to demonstrate that a particular builder is obviously less successful than others. The best results are for builders who only built a few boats which have subsequently been helmed by serial winners.

In conclusion there is no satisfactory data to back the widely held belief that any one builder's boats perform less well than the majority

	BOAT BUILDER		CAPTAINS CUP	COWES RACES
	Number Built	Years	(1930-2007) WINS	1955-2007 Total Races 343
Berthon	10	1913-49	2	2
Burnes	7	1959-67	9	66
Feltham	1	1936		2
Hamper	49	1952-1967	7	33
Kemp	1	1926		
Lallow	28	1962-87	14	86
Latham	9	1986-05	1	23
Napier	1	1937	3	9
Newman	21	1925-35	4	35
Percy See	1	1936		
Perry	1	1990		
Souter	3	1953-62		2
Wilson	1	2006		
Woodnutt	62	1909-56	34	86