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THE DUKE - AHoy!

The most important event of Cowes-week gets under way. Its the battle for the Britannia Challenge Cup, which was presented three years ago by King George the Sixth. The forty entries for this Cowes-classic present a picture to gladden the heart of even a landlubber as they head round the Isle of Wight.

Alongside the motor yacht Fairwood, the Duke of Edinburgh gets Blue-Bottle ready to race in the Dragon-class event. The biggest crowds since before the war watch BlueBottle set sail. Commander Hewitt, her regular helmsman, and yacht designer Uffa Fox are with the Duke.

During his visit, the Duke was hampered frequently by pleasure launches, filled with holidaymakers, which followed Bluebottle closely, often forcing the yacht to alter course.