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COWES - "TRION"

Cowes, where the cream of the world's yachtsmen gather each year, finds an odd intruder in its midst - something very different from the yachts and dinghies that normally grace the Solent. Called the "Trion", the craft is Y-shaped, and has three floats, four booms and a single mast. The booms, which carry two sails, can revolve easily.

The Queen Elizabeth moves past Cowes, as the new craft is taken to its launching. The Trion is a brainchild of Mr. Hugh Barkla, a scientist and lecturer at St. Andrew's University. He has high hopes of setting a new sail speed record in her. Trion's three floats and her low centre of gravity he says, should help her to top 23 knots.

The sails are hauled into place and Trion is under way. The floats, incidentally, are designed to reduce wave action to the minimum. But even the Trion can't cope with the choppy sea that sends other craft hurrying for shore. Trials for the Trion's record bid will have to wait.

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