

DONALD CAMPBELL'S RECORD RUN

The only all-metal turbo-jet hydroplane in the world, Donald Campbell's \$25,000 "Bluebird", is in fighting trim - all set to smash the world water speed record of over 178 miles an hour reached by American Stanley Hayes three years ago. Two men have died trying to break it, but Donald Campbell believes "Bluebird" has the answer. Hundreds are here to watch.

No, these aren't Things from Outer Space - they're marking buoys.

"Bluebird" is named after the racing cars and speedboats in which Donald's father Sir Malcolm Campbell, set up his pre-war records. Her Metropolitan-Vickers "Beryl" turbo-jet engine has a four thousand horse power thrust.

And there she goes! Streaking across Ullswater at three miles a minute. At such a speed, the smallest ripples hammer the hull like broken concrete; the slightest mistake can mean disaster, a submerged leg can mean death. But "Bluebird" is riding like the thoroughbred she is.

A two-way run over the measured course is averaged out to give the correct speed. "Bluebird" goes about for the return run.

A deadly danger about the 200-miles-an-hour mark is the so-called "water barrier", when pressure sets up vibrations which can shatter the hull like an explosion. Both John Cobb and Mario Verga died that way, attacking the present record.

Unofficially "Bluebird" tops the record at 185 miles an hour. A good omen for the official test!