

THE INQUEST.

The Inquest was held at the Police Station, on Wednesday afternoon, before Mr. J. ELDRIDGE. Mr. SAPSWORTH was chosen foreman of the jury.

William Charles TAYLOR, gardener, of 4, Binstead Road, identified the body of deceased as that of his father, **John TAYLOR**, shipwright, aged 62. He last saw his father at 8.30 on Monday morning. He was then in his usual health. He had suffered from his eye for about three years. He had not been able to follow his occupation as a shipwright. He left home at 8.30 and did not say where he was going. He was quite competent to help in a sailing boat.

Charles James HUMPHREY, landlord of the Fleming Arms, Binstead, said he sailed the boat Neva in the race at the Regatta on Monday. William WICKETT, owner of the boat, and the deceased were on the boat. At half-past two they were sailing from the Sturbridge Buoy to the Bell Buoy when a sudden squall struck the boat. Witness put the helm down, but she capsized and sank immediately. Witness sank with the boat, and when he came up TAYLOR was next to him and WICKETT a few yards away. Two oars and a box floated up from the boat, and he got TAYLOR to take hold of them. A yacht was passing at the time, and she lowered a boat and came to their assistance. They clung to the dinghy until Mr. GILL's boat came up and took them on board. Deceased collapsed directly he got on board the boat. Witness tried both systems of artificial respiration, but without avail. It took about three-quarters of an hour to get to the Esplanade. Deceased had a teaspoonful of brandy or whisky.

By a Juror: He did not speak to witness' knowledge.

By the Coroner: The sea was not very rough, but the day was squally and treacherous. The boat was 20ft. long and open, and it had the ordinary sails, which WICKETT usually had.

By a Juror: They had no reefs down. Witness had the helm, and WICKETT had charge of the mainsheet. The jib and mainsail were made fast. There were several pigs of shifting ballast on board, and TAYLOR had charge of these. The boat did not capsize because the ballast shifted, but because of the weight of the wind.

By the Coroner: Both witness and WICKETT looked after TAYLOR, but they had very little to sustain them in water. Witness could not swim, but he could keep himself afloat. None of the other boats came to them but Mr. GILL's.

The Coroner said that the witnesses appeared to have behaved very unselfishly indeed, and his conduct was deserving of all praise.

Charles GILL, licensed victualler, of the Redan, Union Street, said he was steering the boat Minydon, in the match referred to. He had just passed the Neva, and was about 20 yards ahead. BARTLETT, who was with him, told him the Neva had capsized and sunk, and witness at once turned the boat, and went in the direction of where the boat was last seen. On reaching the place, they found that HUMPHREYS, WICKETT and TAYLOR were clinging to a dinghy, which had been lowered from a yacht. They were got aboard, and Mr. HUMPHREYS, who had not suffered much by his immersion, tried artificial respiration. Mr. GIBSON also tried to bring him round, and they persevered until they reached the Esplanade. He thought the Neva was handled all right, so far as he could see. There were some very heavy squalls at times, but there was no heavy sea.

By a Juror: Deceased was not pinched between the dinghy and witness's boat.

Alfred Walter GIBSON, of Helena House, Strand, said he was one of the crew of the Minydon, and corroborated the last witness. Directly the men were got on board, Mr.

HUMPHREYS tried artificial respiration, and when he was tired witness took a turn, but deceased never showed any signs of animation.

By the Coroner: He thought the Neva was properly handled, and he did not think she carried too much sail for such a day. The wind increased after the race started.

HUMPHREY, in reply to a question, said WICKETT had a reef in the sail when he came from Fishbourne, but it was shacken out before the race.

The Chief Constable said Mr. WICKETT the owner of the Neva, was subpoenaed to attend, but he was ill, probably owing to the accident, and he sent a medical certificate instead.

The Coroner said it was unfortunate, but he did not think his attendance was absolutely necessary. The cause of death was plain.

Dr. PRIDMORE said the body was brought to his house at 3.30. Life was then extinct, and the body was conveyed to the mortuary, where he examined deceased again. Witness could not definitely say what was the cause of death, but he should think it possible that the immersion in the water produced shock. He was evidently not in a good state of health.

The Coroner, in summing up said that there was no doubt the wind increased very much after the match started. There were several squalls, and one of these appeared to have overturned the boat. The owner of the boat, William WICKETT had been accustomed to boats all his life, so that it was evident that it was a pure accident. It was very unfortunate that WICKETT was not present, but he thought they would agree that it was not necessary to adjourn the inquiry in order that he might attend. He though they would all agree with him that Mr. HUMPHREY and Mr. WICKETT were very much to be commended for the way in which they tried to assist the deceased man while they were in the water until the boat came. They found a box and placed it under two oars and assisted the deceased in every way possible to float until happily the dinghy of a yacht whose name they did not know, but which rendered very necessary help, came at once and kept the men up until those in the Minydon very rightly turned round and did what they could to help. It was difficult to say what was the cause of death. It was caused through an accident, and he thought they might almost come to the conclusion that death was due to shock in consequence of the immersion.

The Jury returned a verdict of accidental death, the foreman saying the jury would like to commend Mr. GILL, Mr. GIBSON, and Mr. BARTLETT for what they did

The Coroner: Certainly.

The Foreman: Also the owner of the yacht who sent the boat, and Mr. HUMPHREY especially for helping deceased in the water. The Coroner: Especially as he cannot swim himself, but, as he says, can only keep himself afloat.

A Juror: (Mr. LININGTON) I think Mr. HUMPHREY did the proper thing, and the right thing in placing the box under the oar
