



**Royal Cape Yacht Club**  
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14 August 2018

To all Club Commodores

It's widely believed, especially amongst clubs and sailors who have competed for the Lipton Challenge Cup in recent years that this historic event will benefit from a change of class.

With this in mind, the Lipton Trustees wrote in August last year to the Commodores of all recognised yacht clubs in SA, testing the interest in a change of the boat used in this contest. In that letter we commented:

*"For the past 33 years the L26 has been the boat of choice for the Lipton Challenge, and for much of that time it has served this event well, providing a sound platform for competitive one-design racing."*

*"In recent years, however, as the L26 has aged and the world of small keelboat racing has moved in the direction of sport boats and beyond, we have seen a declining interest in L26 racing in South Africa. Consequently the Lipton Challenge is no longer attracting our top sailors as it did in the past."*

*"Now, with the emergence of the Cape 31 (see [cape31.co.za](http://cape31.co.za)), and with these boats being built at a rate of one a month, we have the prospect of a modern high-performance one-design keelboat class presenting an exciting alternative to the L26 for Lipton Challenges in the very near future."*

We went on to ask clubs for their opinion on a possible change to the Cape 31 for the 2018 and 2019 challenges. Twenty one clubs responded, including every one of the recognised clubs that has won the Cup in the past.

The majority view was that the 2018 Challenge should remain in the L26, but that the Cape 31 should be used for the 2019 event.

In considering options for the future of the Cup, the Trustees believe that a change will be good for the event, but that this should not mean being locked into a particular boat for decades into the future.

Consequently we now propose two "trial years".

In the first trial year, 2019, the Lipton Challenge would be held in the Cape 31, in line with the opinion of the majority of clubs in last year's vote.

In the second trial year, to coincide with the J22 World Championships scheduled to be held in South Africa in 2020, the J22 would be the boat for the 2020 Challenge.

This would enable us to evaluate the three years - 2018 in the L26, 2019 in the Cape 31 and 2020 in the J22.

We would take into account:

1. The number of clubs in serious contention for the Cup, as well as the total number taking part in the event.
2. The number of South Africa's top sailors challenging for the Cup – particularly those who've competed in the America's Cup, Olympic Games, Volvo Ocean Race, World Championships in major classes etc. Having more sailors of this calibre competing for the Cup would have many positive spinoffs, and should deliver spectacular racing.
3. The public interest, media interest and coverage of the event.

These trials will be invaluable in planning the way forward for the Lipton Challenge. Also, the change to something quite different in 2019 and again in 2020 will certainly shake things up in this classic event. We hope that the majority of the clubs interested in the Lipton Challenge will join us and vote boldly against "more of the same", and will join us again after the 2020 event in a further vote on the future of the Lipton Cup.

In terms of the Lipton Deed of Gift, this matter will be decided according to the opinion of "a majority of the recognised Yacht Clubs of South Africa expressed by resolution of their executive committees".

We ask that your Club supports the above recommendation of the Lipton Trustees by selecting Option 1 below. Failing this, we offer Option 2 as an alternative proposal. The three options are :

Option 1. Lipton Trustees' proposal. "This Club resolves that the 2019 Lipton Challenge be held in boats of the Cape 31 One-Design Class and the 2020 Lipton Challenge be held in boats of the J22 Class, and that after these two trial years the recognised Yacht Clubs of South Africa be invited to decide on the boat to be used in one or more of the following years."

Option 2. Alternative proposal. "This Club resolves that the 2019 and 2020 Lipton Challenges be held in boats of the Cape 31 One-Design Class, and that after these two trial years the recognised Yacht Clubs of South Africa be invited to decide on the boat to be used in one or more of the following years."

Option 3. No change. "This Club resolves that the 2019 Lipton Challenge be held in boats of the L26 Class, and that the recognised Yacht Clubs of South Africa be invited thereafter to decide on the boat to be used in one or more of the following years."

We ask that you forward the resolution reflecting your Club's decision to Kerry Pryde, Secretary - Lipton Trustees, at [sailadmin@rcyc.co.za](mailto:sailadmin@rcyc.co.za), by no later than [Friday 21st September 2018](#). For your convenience a voting form is attached.

To assist clubs in deciding on their vote there are two further announcements.

Firstly, Royal Cape Yacht Club, as the current holders, have confirmed their intention to defend the Cup on the waters of Table Bay during either July or August 2019. In terms of the Deed of Gift they have until 13 September to announce the actual dates.

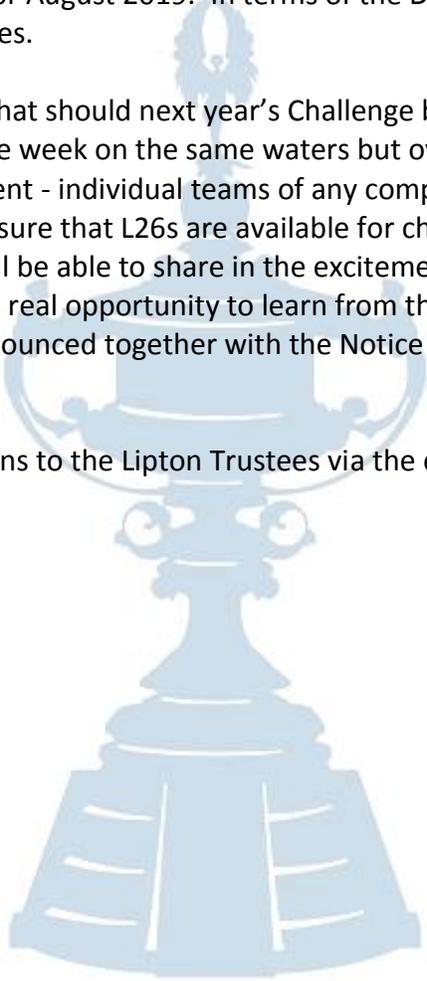
Secondly, the Trustees have resolved that should next year's Challenge be held in the Cape 31, a "Lipton Youth Challenge" will be held during the same week on the same waters but over shorter courses, in boats of the L26 Class. This will not be an inter-club event - individual teams of any composition will be welcome. The organisers will make every effort to ensure that L26s are available for charter, either with or without sails. The intention is that more young sailors will be able to share in the excitement of the Lipton Challenge, enjoy a close-up view of the racing, and have a real opportunity to learn from the very best sailors in South Africa. Details of this event will be announced together with the Notice of Contest for the 2019 Lipton Challenge in October.

Please feel free to forward any questions to the Lipton Trustees via the email address above.

Yours sincerely,



**David Hudson - Chair, Lipton Trustees**



**LIPTON**  
**CHALLENGE CUP**