

A major honour for Durban yacht

THE L34 yacht, *Close Again*, was the only Durban-registered yacht to get among the major honours in this year's Crystic Beachcomber crossing which ended in Durban this week.

Owned by Roy Close and skippered by Terry Clarence the Point Yacht Club yacht took overall line honours for the new L34 class and was also first on handicap of the A Class yachts and second on handicap overall, a remarkable achievement for this new breed of yachts in its first season of ocean racing.

In pre-race campaigning, *Close Again* had wins in the Vasco da Gama Race, the Ohlsson's Bowl, Crystic Week and the Richard's Bay



□ Durban's mayor, Henry Klotz, left, presents George Ilse, owner of *Royal Palm*, with a memento of the yacht's record-breaking Crystic Beachcomber Crossing.

Race.

This week's victory in the L34 class brings its record of successes to 22 in 34 starts.

Durban can also lay certain claim to the second place overall and line honours for the A Class achieved by *Hulett Aluminium*, for although registered in Cape Town with the Royal Cape YC, owner-skipper Lee McGregor who has recently transferred back

to Natal.

Pride of place goes to RCYC skipper, Dave Abromowitz for pulling off overall IOR Class line honours with *Royal Palm* in record-breaking time, although some of the wind was certainly taken out of her sails by the achievement of John Martin's *Two-A-Day Voortrekker* which finished over a day's sailing faster than *Royal Palm* but curtailed to honours

in the Open Class only by the race committee.

Immediately after the race, George Ilse, who crewed for Abromowitz in the race, took over ownership of *Royal Palm*.

The race winner overall and in the IOR Class on handicap was the RCYC yacht, *Spilhaus*, skippered by Ted Kuttel and the UK catamaran *Voyager Meander* won the Open Class on handicap.