

Optimist skippers take honours at junior champs

YACHTING

Roger Bartholomew

WESTERN Province Optimist skippers took the honours at the junior national championships held at Swartvlei from January 2 to 8, winning all of the first 13 places.

Seven races were sailed in winds ranging from five to 20 knots, which ensured that only versatile yachtsmen had a chance to succeed.

David James, 14, from ZVYC, was a deserving national champion, although he won only one race. He showed the consistency required of a top skipper, finishing five races in the top three. Charles Nankin, 11, also ZVYC, was second.

Third place went to Knysna yachtsman Greg Barker, 13, and fourth to Pretoria's Christoff Aspeling, 12, while the fifth

place was won by Matthew Mentz, 14, also from ZVYC. These five skippers were selected for the South African team to compete in an over-sea event later this year.

In the Dabchick class, the WP contingent was not as successful, mainly because most of the youngsters are still quite new to the class and lack adequate experience.

This class was won by Clynton Wade-Lehman from Durban followed by Arne Gething (Knysna) and Craig Hills from Port Elizabeth. The first WP skipper was Malcolm Hall in ninth position.

WP LASER CHAMPIONSHIP
The WP Laser Championship will be held at Hermanus Yacht Club on March 24 and 25. Entry forms will be posted to the clubs this coming week.