

Close encounters as tactics are tested

Yachting Log
by KEITH GERSON

AN excellent team racing day sponsored by Aluweld's Craig Millar took place at HMYC on Sunday. Sixteen yachts in four teams each consisting of a Hunter, a Laser, a Fireball and a Miracle took part, and the competition was run on a round robin basis.

The event started in a light north westerly breeze and it was very interesting to watch those skippers who had team racing experience using their boats to impede the progress of the opposing teams in order to get their team-mates into better finishing positions. This made for many very close encounters and some of the older crews appeared not to enjoy these tactics. But this is what team racing is all about and the big majority enjoyed what was really a "fun" yachting day.

In the afternoon the wind moved into the east necessitating the course to be changed and this introduced a new challenge.

In the end the points were very close with two teams both scoring five wins and with

only nine points separating them.

First on 90½ points were Team D, consisting of Wayne Ribbink and Neil Cameron in a Fireball, Dave and Judy Stranack in a Hunter, Gareth Willington in a Laser and Mike Tarboton, also in a Laser but sailing as a Miracle with a handicap.

Second were Team A consisting of Rob Tarboton and Mark Hawksworth (Fireball), Nick Konyon and Elspeth "Starboard" Gray (Hunter), Rhys Willington (Laser) and Ian Brown (Miracle, single-handed) on 99½ points.

Third were Team B consisting of Tony Cockerill and Julian Verbeek (Fireball), Kevin and Geoff Scallan (Hunter), Yestin Hundley (Laser) and Stuart Robinson and crew (Miracle).

On Saturday afternoon HMYC are holding their annual day/night race starting at 1.30 pm and finishing at 9 pm. A skippers' briefing will be held by race officer Doug Metcalf at 12.30 pm in the club house.

Last year this event was very exciting with the two leading Hunters finishing on the same lap after eight hours of racing. The race

is won by the yacht making the greatest number of laps. The course to be laid by Rob Bell will be set so that spectators can see as much as possible from the club house.

An interesting feature will be that each yacht has to have two crews who have to change at least four times during the race. This leads to lots of fun at the change-overs.

It is understood that Jimmy Edwards is entering his Stadt 23 with a crew of expert Durban Flying Fifteen sailors. He will no doubt be challenged by the competitive Hunters, Lasers and Miracles and handicap factors will be used to give everyone a chance.

While all this is going on, spare crews, families and friends will be able to enjoy HMYC hospitality on shore at a club social.

The event is sponsored by Tony Cockerill of Concrete Projects, Pinetown. There will be no HMYC club racing on Sunday.

Albert Falls Yacht Club are holding tune-up races on Sunday for their Dart Catamarans preparing for their provincial championships to be held at Sterkfontein Dam on February 15-16.