

By SKIP-

THE Sprog Glinane Regatta to be sailed at Zwartkops over Easter is the big talking point among river yachtsmen and judging from the tremendous interest and preparations being made by the local skippers, the visiting competitors could be in for a tough time.

No fewer than ten local yachts have entered with another nine coming from the Western Cape, two from Natal and one from Transvaal. With late entries still to be taken into account, the organisers are expecting to have a well-balanced fleet including several ex-national champions.

Many locals are taking this event seriously and have ordered new sails and have teamed up in some good skipper/crew combinations to ensure that the prestigious trophy at stake stays in the Eastern Cape.

Local favourites at this stage include Shamwari. Johnny Walker will be hoping to complete his hat-trick of victories after recently winning both the River Championships and Safmarine Regatta. How-

# Crews geared up for big Easter

ever, he will be strongly challenged by his brother, Bruce, as well as Peter Baum and Dereck Gladwin, the Western Province champion.

A full racing and entertainment programme has been arranged which will ensure that yachtsmen will enjoy themselves both on and off the water.

Sailing will commence on Easter Friday at 3.30pm with six races planned for the weekend with one discard allowed.

All in all everything points to a very exciting regatta and a fitting tribute to the Sprog designer and club member Herbert McWilliams.

Besides this important event, many of South Africa's top sailors will be coming to Port Elizabeth to compete in the Thomas Cook Rennies Travel ECYRA championships in

the Bay. More than 100 craft are expected to take the water.

The nine-race programme includes the Hobie 14 National championships, the Hobie 14 Turbo, 16 and 18 provincial championships, the Laser provincial championships, the Windsurfer SA Defence Force and provincial championships.

Sailing is scheduled to start at Hobie Beach at noon on Good Friday, and end at noon on Monday.

Among the top entries are Springboks Blayne Dodds, Murray Spiers, Angus Whitty and William Edwards and top provincial sailors such as Brett Clarke, Margot Hardiman, Frank Collier and Max Lippstreu.

This weekend there will be informal racing at Zwartkops on Sunday.