

YACHTING

By SKIP

THE annual "Old Salts" race held at Zwartkops at the weekend for all river yachtsmen of yesteryear was once again a tremendous success.

With a gentle south-easterly wind ruffling the river, the somewhat shaky yachtsmen took to the water on an incoming tide. For some it was the first time since the previous "Old Salts" race, that they had felt the helm and experienced the excitement of dinghy sailing. For others it was old hat.

The fleet of 11 yachts comprising Lasers, Sprogs, a Laser II, a Finn and a graceful Goodricke Dinghy all helmed by skippers boasting an impressive list of yachting achievements, such as Eric Vos, former Sprog national champion, and Harold Kohler, former Lipton Cup winner, and others got off to a good start after the bridge allowed them time to find their sea legs.

It was good to see Kohler's old Goodricke Dinghy, a popular yacht of the 1920s and 1930s once again grace the river with her large main sail that stood out against the smaller but faster Sprogs and Lasers. She was crewed by the evergreen octogenarian, "Chatty" Knight, centre

'Old Salts' take to the water for annual race

hand and Paddy Skelton, for'ard-hand.

Another pleasing sight was Eric Vos in his Finn complete with an old wooden mast.

After the first round Alf Johnson sailing a Laser led the fleet with Esmé Girdlestone and Pat Murray also in Lasers not far behind. Further down the fleet saw Tom Logie and Roy Lombard both skippering Sprogs engaging in some nifty tacking and counter-tacking as they tried to establish supremacy. They in turn were followed by Ray Langton and Tienie Mew in a Laser II.

Johnson managed to hold onto his lead and crossed the finishing line first with Esmé Girdlestone, the Redhouse stalwart, second. However, once handicaps were applied Esmé was declared the winner with Harold Kohler and Pat Murray filling second and third positions respectively.

Mike Morgan and Ronnie Patterson are to be congratulated on organising

this annual event.

In the main race of the afternoon Screw (W Schmelzer and Rod) came from behind to win the Herve Reil Challenge Trophy with Sigebenga (P Baum and L Giles) second. In a well-contested junior race, Ketchup (M Cullum) sailed extremely well to win on handicap, with Nip-A-Long (K Britz) second.

This weekend there will be both junior and senior trophy races for all classes, including sailboards, on Saturday and Sunday afternoons starting at 3pm.

Yachtsmen are reminded of the sponsored NCI/Banzai regatta for all classes to be held at Zwartkops on May 4 and 5. More than 100 entries are expected to compete in this popular four-race series with many attractive prizes for the winners. Telephonic entries will be accepted by Vaughn Giles (411779 office or 661764 home). Entries close at noon on Saturday, May 4. No late entries will be accepted.