

J22s tune up for champs

Yachting Log
by KEITH GERSON

CLOSE finishes were the order of the day on Sunday when HMYC held the last two races of their championship series.

In near perfect Midmar weather, after the start of the morning race was delayed by lack of wind, the fleet got away in a south easterly of about five knots.

The two local J22s were soon involved in their weekly tussle and used this final opportunity to fine-tune their boats for the coming provincial championships at Midmar this weekend.

Rob Tarboton and his crew of Tony Cockerill, Mark Hawksworth and Rhys Wellington finished two minutes, 30 seconds ahead of rivals Craig Millar and his crew of Ian Statham, Yestin Hundley and Joanne Liddell. Both yachts will be sailing under the burgee of Henley Midmar Yacht Club when they come up against 19 visiting J22s, mostly from the Transvaal with one from the Cape.

The visiting boats are expected to be skipped by some of the most competitive crews in South Africa and it would be very difficult to try to predict a result. Racing will start on Saturday and continue on Sunday and Monday. Race-officer for this important event will be Paul Jackson with course laying and rescue by Keith Gerson.

In the afternoon race the wind freshened to about 12 knots and Tarboton and crew again beat Millar and crew, this time by 30 seconds.

In Hunters, with an entry of five boats, the results over the line were the same in both races. Making a welcome return to club sailing, the winners were Tim and Mike Kiln followed by Keith Gerson and

Richard Tempest, with Hans and Ingo Schroder third.

In Lasers, the morning race was won by Peter Dommec with Mike Tarboton second and Gareth Wellington third. In the afternoon Gareth Wellington came first with Mike Tarboton second and Peter Dommec third.

Miracles had the biggest fleet with seven boats and are also tuning up for their Natal championships at Midmar at Easter. Their race in the morning was close and exciting requiring careful attention to the many wind switches. Mike and Simon Southwood were in fine form to take line honours, 23 seconds ahead of Brian Summerton sailing single-handed. Stewart and Debbie Robinson were third.

In the afternoon race Summerton again sailing alone was in invincible form to win the race by two minutes and 30 seconds from Gordon Wellington and Kerry Cockerill who just pipped the Southwoods by seven seconds.

It was pleasing to see John Powell and crew joining in the racing in his Stadt 23, with Paul Brandon and crew in the Lavranos 20 "Tantrum" and a Sprog sailed by Winston Cummings and M. Gunning.

Apart from the Natal J22 provincial championship, HMYC are holding two races for the Fellowes Trophy on Saturday afternoon. This race is for all classes which will start together and the result will be calculated on handicap. A club social will be held in the evening.

Maritzburg Radio Yacht Club held a league event on Saturday afternoon at Camps Drift. Racing among the seven competitor was very close despite the light wind.

Results: 1. Peter Tempest 3; 2. Des Fairbank 9; 3. Richard Tempest 20,1.