



Picture: GRAHAM LIZAMORE

WINNERS: Judron's crew show their delight as crew member Peter Hall holds the coveted Admiral's Cup sword high. The crew is Michael Davis (left), Chris Hathaway, Peter Hall, Andrew Low and skipper Greg Davis. At the back, from the left is Admiral Hugo Bierman (ret), Sheree Bates, Charles Bates and the commodore of the Hout Bay Yacht Club, Arthur Vink.

YACHTING

Davis sails off with sword

GRAHAM LIZAMORE

THE Admiral's Cup sailed in Hout Bay produced one of the most exciting, protest-ridden regattas with the winner being decided on the last race.

The cup and the coveted sword was again won by Greg Davis on the L26 Judron, last year's winner, but it was never a foregone conclusion.

Although the racing was cancelled on Saturday due to lack of wind, the first race of the second day started in ideal conditions with a north-easterly wind of between 10 and 12 knots.

The big "maxi" Thunderchild, skippered by Vince Goldswain of the Royal Cape Yacht Club, thundered across the line with Ian Dunt on Corporate Affair, Andrew Louw on Corum and the Farr 38, skippered by P van der Merwe, in hot pursuit.

The first of two Olympic triangle races turned into a spectacular battle.

At the end only four minutes separated Thunderchild and Corum for line honours, and in a race within a race MBS Formflyer and Calvus crossed the line 51 seconds apart.

However, the Admiral's Cup is a handicap race which gives the smaller boats a chance against the maxis which meant that Davis's small 26-footer Judron, was placed first on handicap with 53 points.

The second race saw one of the most spectacu-

lar starts seen in the Cape as 51 yachts crossed the line in an almost straight line in a fresh wind.

From the start Thunderchild led the fleet, beating hard to windward and determined to show she meant business. She went on to win on handicap and earned 53 points. Second was Corporate Affair with Judron scoring 49 points in third place.

After two races Judron had 102,0 points, Corporate Affairs 100,5 Thunderchild 98, Acquavit 96, Crystal Spray 93, and Say When 87. This meant that a win for Corporate Affair in the final 20-mile race on Monday would win her the Admiral's sword which Davis was determined not to give up with a fight.

Monday's race started with Thunderchild sailing a near perfect race which the skipper and crew were certain would put them in the top three. But a protest had been lodged for a rule infringement. The protest committee heard evidence for over an hour from both parties and finally ruled against Thunderchild, which was disqualified from the last race.

This moved Corum into first place and third in the final positions for the regatta.

But it was to be Davis's day as he fought off a strong challenge from Corporate Affair in the last race, beating her by a mere 1,68 minutes to win the with 151 points against Corporate Affair's 148,5 and Corum with 140 points in third place.