

Close-fought regattas at Natal champs

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by KEITH GERSON 2/6/1992

THE 1992 Natal Provincial Championship for J22s, held at Midmar at the weekend, proved to be one of the closest fought regattas seen in Natal recently, with the result hanging on the last race of the series.

Hosted by Henley Midmar Yacht Club and run very efficiently by race officer Paul Jackson, the event was a great success both on and off the water. The weather was perfect with mainly light winds but on the last day a 12 knot easterly set the scene for the last two vital races.

After the first two races sailed on Saturday in a south easterly of about five knots David Rae (TYC) was tied with Wilhelm Voerman (DAC) in the lead. Sunday was very frustrating as there was no wind in the morning and the

start of the race could not take place until after 3.00 pm when a pleasant light easterly blew.

Voerman was the winner of this race and, to the delight of local club members, Rob Tarboton finished an excellent second and Robbie van Rooyen (TYC) third.

Monday morning again saw no wind initially but fortunately at about 10.30 am the easterly started to freshen and remained very steady in direction. The fourth race saw some very exciting and close racing at the top and first over the line was Rob Tarboton (HMYC) followed by Rob de Vlieg (Pretoria Sailing Club) and David Rae (TYC).

The fifth and final crucial race sailed in the strongest wind of the regatta saw the leaders involved in a mighty struggle with crews sitting over the side of the hulls to balance the yachts in the lively conditions. A short chop made for a beautiful sight as the J22's punched their way to windward.

Eventually it was Van Rooyen first over the line closely followed by De Vlieg with Rae third, Craig Millar (HMYC) fourth and Voerman fifth.

Medals were presented to the first three crews by NYA president Wog Hawksworth.

Final results after 1 discard: 1. R. van Rooyen (TYC) 19,4 pts; 2. D. Rae (TYC) 19,4 pts; 3. W. Voerman (DAC) 20 pts; 4. R. Tarboton (HMYC) 22,7 pts; 5. R. de Vlieg (PSC) 30,7 pts.

• HMYC held two races for the Fellowes Trophy on Saturday afternoon. First over the line in both races was Gareth Willington (Laser). In race one he was followed by B. Summerton (Miracle) and J. Powell (Stadt 23). In race two B. Davey (Miracle) came 2nd with Summerton 3rd handicap results are still to be calculated.

This weekend HMYC are holding their monthly keel boat race on Saturday afternoon and on Sunday pursuit races 1 and 2 open to all classes on handicap.