

NAIATL DAILY NEWS

New name for offshore regatta

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CRYSTIC Week, the country's largest offshore ocean racing regatta, is to undergo a name change this year and will now be known as the NCS Regatta.

This will, however, not affect the regatta adversely according to the organisers, and should even strengthen the event, now in its 10th year.

Mike Mulder, marketing manager of NCS Resins, said this week: "We made the decision to drop the name Crystic from the regatta in order to concentrate more on our corporate name and we believe the name change reinforces the stature of the event."

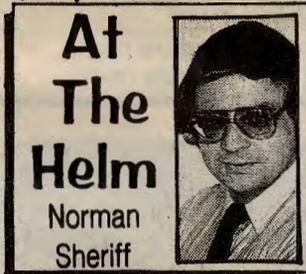
This view was echoed by Point Yacht Club vice commodore Dave Rushton who said this week he was delighted with the name change as it shows NCS Resin's commitment to the event and would tie in well with the changes to the format of the regatta this year.

The main change is the inclusion of catamarans. Previously regarded as mavericks, catamaran yachtsmen have been excluded by purists who believed monohulls and multihulls cannot compete in the same event.

Slowly, however, prejudices are being broken down and recent events such as the Rothmans Cape to Rio Race and the Wilbur Ellis Da Gama Race have seen the inclusion of catamarans.

In previous years, the regatta has come close to breaking the 100-yacht barrier, a feat never, as

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yet, achieved in this country although two years ago the fleet was up to 94.

With the cats now included the NCS Regatta should easily reach this milestone.

The NCS Regatta, scheduled for July 3-10, will also play an important role in the NCS J22 International (World) Championships scheduled to be held immediately afterwards.

Vice Commodore Rushton comments: "This event will provide a very useful tune-up and training session for all the international and local yachties entered. The J22 class is highly competitive and with some Olympic medalists and other top internationals competing, it is vital for them to become acquainted with Durban offshore conditions and the NCS Regatta is vital for this."

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NEW Zealand will not race in this year's Admiral's Cup in England because they cannot get IOR specification yachts, Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron