

EC junior yachtsmen dominated

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EP HERALD

LATEST word from the wind-blown west coast is that East Cape junior sailors dominated the Optimist class at the Western Province Championships, sailed at Club Mikonos.

Mark Gething, of Knysna Yacht Club, won the event. Darryl Kitson (Redhouse) took second place with Jamie Waters, also from RYC, coming in fourth.

Winds have been stiff, and only half the 53 strong fleet finished the first race, held on Saturday. No racing was possible on Sunday, but four races got crammed in on Monday.

The 25 top junior sailors in the country, pre-selected at last December's Nationals, will now compete against each other for three days. Thereafter, they will travel to Durban for the final selection regatta, following which the nationals team will be chosen.

Meanwhile the Laser fleet is converging on East London for the National Championship, amidst growing excitement about the news that the World Championships will be held in South Africa next year, also at Easter, at Club Mikonos.

As this will be just prior to the Olympics, the event will be razor sharp and will provide plenty of inspiration for the coming season for all Laser sailors, as the regatta will be immediately followed by the Masters World Championships.

□ Last Sunday was a perfect day in Port Elizabeth — for the beach! ABYC's fourth pursuit race was postponed for three quarters of an hour while the

yachts waited for wind. The beach was packed and the dolphins swam along the beachfront, confused with the slow moving yachts.

The first few yachts, Tikalos (Rob Smith), Endeavour (Ian Bancroft) and Starworlds (Ian Littlejohn) eventually started at 11.30, inching their way to the King's Beach Coke can and then on to the Channel mark. Before they had reached King's Beach the next lot of starters slowly crossed the line. The last few yachts Martinique (Danny Van Vuuren), Dreamchild (Andrew Blaine) and Imagine (David Davies) all started too early as they had missed the second postponement signal.

There was enough of a breeze for the yachts to fly their spinnakers on the leg up to the Channel mark, but after that the wind died away to nothing.

One by one the yachts started to retire from the race and by 3.30 in the afternoon the only yacht still trying to compete was Gringo (Dav Butcher). He managed to round the Channel mark once more and eventually completed the race at quarter past five, as the sun was going down!

This weekend, in conjunction with the Splash Festival the Continental Challenge 1995 regatta will be contested.

Yachts from Cape Town and East London have arrived to take part in this National Regatta.

The courses will be laid close to the beach so that the spectators on Shark Rock Pier can get a chance to see these graceful racing machines in action!