

Meek's 'Yellow Peril' going for line honours

By HENRI du PLESSIS
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THE "Yellow Peril" is piling up the laurels again — at least, that is what Geoff Meek and his crew on Spirit of Club Mykonos hope to do today.

Some hot yacht racing has been on the go in Algoa Bay this week and the last races today will determine if Meek will bring the line honours prize of the Opel Algoa Bay Challenge regatta back to Cape Town.

The week has been marked by stiff south-westerly winds and yachts had to shorten sail regularly after leaving Algoa Bay Yacht Club in Port Elizabeth, a race spokesman said.

The action was fast and furious and while Meek was virtually assured of taking line honours, he was strongly opposed by a number of entrants as far as the performance handicap rating factor prize was concerned.

Meek and his yacht last week again showed arch-rival Get More Fun a clean pair of heels in the Vasco da Gama race from Durban to East London.

The strongest challenges came from the Cape and Durban. The half-tonner Schick of the Royal Cape Yacht Club and the small J27 yacht Donna Mia from Natal are breathing down the yellow fifty-footer's neck.

The wind reached up to 35 knots on Wednesday, forcing several boats out of the race with broken gear.

In the wings

In the Farr 38 class, two Port Elizabeth entries, Co-ordinated Transport skippered by Bill Lee and Mirage skippered by Chris Snijman, are battling it out, while Cape Town's Majimoto skippered by Peter Bam waits in the wings.

The top spot in the Charger 33 class may be taken by any of four contestants. These are Williams Hunt Delta skippered by Rod van der Weele, Schuler Arrow skippered by Rob White, Fourlove skippered by L Edwards and Form Flyer skippered by Neal Petersen.

In Class II, the lead has been taken by GDS Tagesi skippered by Andrew Edwards for both line honours and handicap. Andrews is followed by the L26 entries Sturrock Shipping, skippered by Ettienné van Cuyck,

and Jana, skippered by Frans Loots.

In the Dragonfly Class — for small but fast one-design trimarans — Bill Ellens on Puff has so far won three out of four races.

The Buccaneers are led by Alan Bushe on Due South who, after winning two of four races, seems set to take it over all.

For the last races today, the weatherman predicted moderately fresh westerlies.