

# SA pair second in first race for world crown

THE SOUTH African Fireball team achieved an impressive second place in the first race of the world championships in Wilmington, North Carolina.

In light winds averaging just under five knots, the boat manned by Martin Lamprecht and Alec Lanham-Love took a place in almost every leg to finish behind the Bedell team. Lanham-Love said afterwards: "I'm very tired, but also very happy.

"I was very happy with our light wind speed. There were no recalls and the fleet got away to a clean start. The right side paid and, as we were on the left, we were happy to round in eighth place."

SA boats also finished in 22nd and 41st places.

The success of the Springbok pair will not have surprised too

many of their competitors, although this was the first championship since SA's readmission. Lamprecht, the helmsman, and Latham-Love, the tactician, finished third in the warm-up "pre-Worlds".

For the yachtsmen the Wilmington championships are part of the preparation for the Olympic Games. Lamprecht and Lanham-Love will now travel to Europe to compete in regattas in Belgium and the Netherlands before Spain.

In addition, the two yachtsmen must learn to adapt to a different craft. Although they sailed Fireballs, Lamprecht and Latham-Love qualified to represent SA in the "407" class at the Games. They are now seeking to arrange a week's coaching on the slower, heavier boat that they will race at the Olympics.