

DURBAN YACHT WINS TOP CUP

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By Norman Sheriff

THE crew of Fuel Free of the Point Yacht Club received the ultimate trophy in South African yachting this weekend — the Lipton Cup.

The trophy — made of solid silver and able to hold 11 bottles of champagne — was collected by Harry Ellens, skipper, along with his crew, Derek Warne, Iain Park Ross and Jimmy Melville.

The trophy — worth R30 000 — was presented by Mrs Anne Varnals, wife of the managing director of Lipton (SA) (Pty) Ltd, the sponsors of the event.

The Commodore of the Royal Natal Yacht Club, the hosts for this event, said: "After a lay-off of nine years, the event has been a huge success. We have introduced a new generation to what Lipton Cup sailing is all about — sailing for your club and not for

yourself."

The winner skipper, Harry Ellens, said: "My team put in the most time, the most effort and the most thought into this competition and we had what we thought was the best boat. All the time and effort seemed to pay off."

The owner of Fuel Free, Mr Tony Hurter, said he was "absolutely thrilled" with the final result and that this would bring in a new era of yachting in this country.

Overall results were: Fuel Free (Harry Ellens — Point Yacht Club) 1; Royal Flush (Rick Nankin — Royal Cape Yacht Club) 2; Mini Mouse (Jakkie van Ryswyk — University of Cape Town) 3; Red Flyer (Rob Thorpe — Island Sailing club) 4; Xosha Moya (Charles Reynolds — Royal Natal Yacht Club) 5; French Connection (J. Schubert — Zeekourvlei Yacht Club) 6; Sweet Pea (Mark Guthrie — Aeolians Yacht Club) 7; Gunsmoke (Richard Bates — Defence) 8.

The Point Yacht Club, as winners, must now inform the Lipton Cup trustees, the Royal Cape Yacht Club, of their intention to defend the trophy within 60 days and nominate the waters and dates to be sailed.