

# Yacht race turns on a 'side' issue

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Mercury Reporter

YACHTSMEN in the 1984 Crystic Challenge racing championships off Durban yesterday, had a tough time dealing with very light winds, which resulted in a late start and the course being shortened.

The second 'round the buoys' race was postponed for almost two hours while yachtsmen waited for the eight-knot north-easterly winds to pick up.

The conditions caused some confusion, because decisions had to be taken by the competitors as to which side of the course to choose for the first leg. For many, the race was either won or lost on the decision they took.

In the IOR 1 Class, Geoff Meek again led the fleet up the first leg to round the first mark well ahead.

## Honours

He was followed by Uptite, skippered by Ernst van der Laan, who eventually outsailed Meek and ended up taking line honours by 1,5 minutes.

Shaya Moya, skippered by Brian Tocknell, surprised many people, being a heavy weather performer. He was up with the leaders early on in the race. Handicap results: Spirit of Avis, Uptite, Magic Carpet.

Sweetpea, skippered by N Guthrie, repeated the

performance in the IOR 11 Class, leading the fleet to the first mark. His lead was slowly eroded by Rob Meek, on Royal Flush.

On the final leg, Harry Ellens, skippering Fuel Free, took the lead, and finally the gun. Handicap results: Fuel Free, Royal Flush. Sweetpea.

Racing was incredibly close in the L26 Class, and mistakes were extremely costly. B & G, skippered by Peter Hishin, took a chance up the starboard side of the course, while the rest of the fleet chose the port side. This tactic paid off, and he rounded the first mark ahead of the fleet.

He held the lead until the final leg, when Rote Hexe, skippered by Reinhold Antweiler, overhauled Hishin and finally took the gun. Philanderer, skippered by Iain Ainslie, had a close duel with B & G shortly before the finish, but had to be satisfied with third position.

Thekwini, skippered by Mac Vosloo, was a surprise leader early in the R C O D Class. He was chased by Keith Wadsworth, skippering Foxy Lady, and the two had a close duel down the reach. Wadsworth eventually managed to overhaul Vosloo, and went on to open up a substantial lead and win convincingly.

Reaction, skippered by David Collins, was second, while Schatzi, skippered by Terry Flynn, was third.

In the STADT 23 Class, Alex Stone and his light schoolboy crew thoroughly trounced their fleet. Moonshiner, skippered by T Redmond, was second, with Vitamin Sea, skippered by Peter Morgenrood, finishing third.