

Henry Ellens and his crew win Crystic trophy

DURBAN. — The Crystic Ocean Challenge raced off Durban this week again provided yachtsmen with one of the most exciting regattas on the local racing circuit.

With 100 boats competing — the largest regatta in the country — most classes produced stirring duels up front. There was, however, only one surprise win, in the highly-competitive L26 class where Durban's Harry Ellens and a bunch of "Oldies" showed the youngsters something about the art of ocean racing.

In the L34s, Geoff Meek showed why he is regarded as one of the world's top helmsmen. With a team that had not sailed comprehensively together before the regatta, Meek gave a lesson to many on what round-the-buoy racing is all about.

The regatta's highlight was the excellent performance by Ellens and his team, the provisional overall winners of the regatta and the new holders of the Crystic Trophy.

Taking into account Ellens' opposition, including Springboks Dave Hudson (Port Owen Challenger) and Greg Davis (Judron), who are running a major L26 campaign for both the Crystic week and the Lipton Cup regattas this year, Ellens' achievements are all the more remarkable.