

The J-27 class yacht *Jouster* was locked in a titanic battle for supremacy during yesterday's **Crystic Week** racing. *Jouster*, a Transvaal boat skippered by Ian Taylor, held the advantage for most of the race but rounded wide at the final mark and enabled *Pure Magic* to slip past. However, these will be two boats to watch in this class and either could win the regatta at this stage.

Picture by ALAN COXON



# High winds take their toll

By Greg Knowler

IN TRUE Crystic Week tradition the light winds experienced over the past two days picked up to a gale-force south-westerly yesterday afternoon, leading to the first casualty of the regatta.

Barcom Seaboard, a Stadt 34 in the IMS class, was forced to retire after crew member Len Allis had his thumb almost severed as the boom swept across the boat. He was operated on at Entabeni Hospital last night.

This was only one of the dramas, and although no one else was hurt, rudders were smashed, sails were torn and a boom was broken.

Trolleys laden with torn sails were pushed up the walk-on at Point Yacht Club to be repaired in time for today's race.

The weather forecast predicted a gale force wind from the south but fortunately it only hit after racing was over for the day.

However, the strong winds did blow some good for some people, and there were several upsets.

After winning the first two races and achieving line honours once again, *Stocks* and *Stocks Corum* found

herself in second place after *Ballyhoo* won on handicap.

*Ballyhoo*, skippered by David van Reenen of Cape Town, crossed the line third but did well enough to win the day's racing.

In the L-26 class, *Royal Cape* and *Stainless* continued their domination of first and second, swapping the two places for the third day running.

However, they can count themselves lucky that *Galactica*, sailed by Neil Tocknell and Patrick Harris, who led for the first time yesterday, was forced to retire with a broken boom.

*Royal Cape*, skippered by Graham Dibb, finished first and *Stainless*, skippered by Rick Nankin, crossed the line second.

After winning the first two days in the J-22 class, Mr Bojangles skipper Chris King found himself finishing in fourth place.

Transvaal boat *Hakahana* won the race, and second and third went to two PYC boats, *Great Hawk* and *Stateline Warlord* respectively.

Skipper of *Hakahana* Evald Sternhagel said the race was very tough after the wind picked up.

"We led at the first mark but *Great Hawk* decided to go left and we went right on

the down-wind leg and that was where we really creamed them, making up more than 100 m," Sternhagel said.

"After that we didn't stop until the can and it was beautiful. We were really potent."

A disappointed Craig Millar, skipper of *Stateline Warlord*, said for once they had a really good start but went the wrong way on the first beat and sat in third place until the finish.

"It was a hell of a tough race and we made a fatal mistake of not covering the fleet on the first beat. We lost four boats because of that."

However, Millar said that although yesterday's conditions were "pretty extreme", he and his crew had learnt things which "will definitely make us quicker".

Two Transvaal boats in the

J-27 class, *Jouster* and *Pure Magic*, continued in their battle for supremacy, but although *Jouster* led for most of the race, she rounded wide at the final mark and enabled *Pure Magic* to slide by for first place.

This is Grant Davidge-Pitts' second win of the regatta and he is still leading the J-27 class overall.

## Results

**J-22 Class:** 1 *Hakahana* (E Sternhagel, Tvl); 2 *Great Hawk* (M Hawksworth, Natal); 3 *Stateline Warlord* (C Millar, Natal). **Stadt 23:** 1 *Sailsure Ray Ban* (C Schweitzer, Tvl); 2 *Signkor* (P French, Tvl); 3 *Staggerlee* (P Lee, Tvl). **IMS Class:** 1 *Ballyhoo* (D van Reenen, Cape); 2 *Stocks* and *Stocks Corum* (C Middleton, Cape); 3 *MSC Donna Mia* (K Robertson, Natal). **L-26 Class:** 1 *Royal Cape* (G Dibb, Cape); 2 *Stainless* (R Nankin, Cape); 3 *Red Robin* (D Shaw/J McLaughlin, Natal). **L-34 Class:** 1 *Equinox* (M Payne, Natal); 2 *Solar Wind* (D Cox, Natal); 3 *Crossbow* (P Morgenrood, Natal). **J-27 Class:** 1 *Pure Magic* (G Davidge-Pitts, Tvl); 2 *Jouster* (I Taylor, Tvl); 3 *Bataleur* (A Leenstra, Tvl). **RCOD Class:** 1 *Reaction* (D Runtzler, Natal); 2 *Prion* (J Goldsmith, Natal); 3 *Spray* (R Bester, Natal). **Hunter Class:** 1 *Orca* (D Bezuidenhout, Natal).

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