



PICTURE: SHELLEY KJONSTAD

THE crew of Royal Natal's Orion Challenger had their work cut out for them, but managed to fend off the challenge of Daly's Insurance, Greenlight and MSC Donna Mia in the Lipton Cup Challenge off Durban yesterday

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RORONWA

DURBAN YACHT SCRAPES A FIRST

Orion takes flag in tough day 2

SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Natal Yacht Club yacht Orion Challenger won a hard fought battle for victory against a dominant Cape contingent in yesterday's second race of the 2003 Lipton Challenge Cup in Durban.

The race featured an exceptionally close finish between the top four yachts, with Sunday's winner Daly's Insurance coming a close second and Royal Cape's Greenlight third. Defending champions MSC Donna Mia from Zeekoe Vlei finished fourth.

Orion Challenger's win in yesterday's race is a boost for the Durban yachting fraternity who are desperately keen to see the Lipton Cup stay in Durban after an absence of 17 years.

Greenlight, the Royal Cape Yacht Club's entry skippered by Dave Hudson, had the best start and led the fleet at the first mark of the windward leeward course. In second place at the end of the first leg, and clearly enjoying the offshore conditions, was the Transvaal Yacht Club's entry Rote Hexe skippered by Ewald Sternagel. Sternagel sailed a good first leg, but battled to stay on the pace for the rest of the race.

Close behind was a tight bunch

which included Daly's Insurance, Orion Challenger and MSC Donna Mia skippered by Ian Ainslie. Ainslie looked to be struggling for the second day running and didn't seem to have the pace of the leading yachts early in the race.

At the end of the second lap of the three-lap race, Orion Challenger had taken the lead from Greenlight. Greenlight rounded right on Orion Challenger's stern and the two stormed off on the downwind leg. Chasing hard were MSC Donna Mia and Daly's Insurance. Orion Challenger crossed the line first, followed by Daly's, Greenlight and MSC Donna Mia.

There was a bit of a gap before the Hottentots Holland Sailing Club entry, Dynamic ID Systems, finished fifth followed by Rote Hexe.

At the top of the leader board Daly's Insurance lead from Greenlight and Orion Challenger with MSC Donna Mia in fourth.

Results

Race 2: 1 Orion Challenger George Amoils/Martin Lamprecht Royal Natal Yacht Club; 2 Daly's Insurance Mark Sadler/Rick Nankin Theewater Sports Club; 3 Greenlight Dave Hudson Royal Cape Yacht Club

Overall after two races: 1 Daly's Insurance Theewater Sports Club, 3 pts; 2 Greenlight Royal Cape Yacht Club, 5 pts; 3 Orion Challenger Royal Natal Yacht Club, 6 pts; 4 MSC Donna Mia Zeekoe Vlei Yacht Club, 7 pts; 5 Dynamic ID Systems Hottentots Holland Sailing Club, 9 pts