

YACHTING



Plain sailing for David

DURBAN Springbok David Hibberd returned home this week after giving a very good account of himself in the US national Laser championships offshore from Los Angeles, reports **Norman Sheriff**.

Hibberd, above, was placed fifth overall out of a fleet of 92 Lasers from many parts of the world.

Rowen Clark, also from Durban, 12th overall, and Martin Prest of the SADF Transvaal, 27th, also competed.

Hibberd, outright winner of the North American Laser Championships last year, said on his return: "The conditions off the Marina del Ray are very similar to Durban — lightish winds in the morning building up to a heavier blow later.

"The competition was very close, especially with the Laser World Championships taking place in Falmouth later this month and the entire American and Canadian teams were there.

"We first had to sail three races just to qualify. We all got through and then there were the eight races of the champs themselves. My best placing was a second."

Overall winner of the event was Canadian Jason Rhodes.

Hibberd said there was no political pressure during their stay. The organisers were "very helpful and friendly" and said they were "looking forward to seeing us again" next year.