

CAPE ARMS

10-8-90



BILLOWING BAG: A competitor in last year's Joko Lipton Challenge Cup shows off its spinnaker. This will be a frequent sight in Table Bay from August 19 when the regatta is again held in Table Bay.

LIPTON CUP LATEST

Zeekoevlei are looking good now

HENRI du PLESSIS
Yachting Reporter

TAKING the lead in their class and a crossing of swords with Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh has earned the reigning Joko Lipton Cup champions, the team from Zeekoevlei Yacht Club, credit during Cowes Week.

Their participation in the famous British regatta this week will have provided them with some tough international experience when they hit the startline in this year's Lipton regatta in Table Bay on Sunday week.

Rick Nankin, Chris King and their crew are in Britain taking part in the famous Cowes Week fun regatta on a Sygma 38 called MS&A Chromium-Dabulamanzi, one of the more popular classes in this race.

Nankin and King, sailing SX Stainless Steel, have captured the coveted Lipton trophy last year and the year before, paving the way for an unprecedented hat-trick in one of the most competitive local regattas.

But it is their performance at Cowes this week which has attracted the attention as the local champions lead their nearest rival, Tim Law in Red Arrow, by four points. The final race today will determine the outcome.

On Monday, they "persuaded" Prince Philip, a keen yachtsman sailing on the yacht Yeoman 28, to "refrain from barging" at the weather mark of the Cowes course.

Their performance was especially creditable because they were unfamiliar with the waters at Cowes

and with the boat they were sailing, said Zeekoevlei Yacht Club Commodore Mr Piet Groenhof.

The Joko Lipton Cup starts in Table Bay on Sunday, August 19, and allows only one-design yachts, the popular L26 class, to take part.

Cowes Week will certainly have been an experience — with more than 200 boats on the water, some of the world's top round-the-can sailors and unfamiliar conditions, the SX Stainless Steel crew will have found the going tough and interesting.

"We are not going as a team to officially take part — it will be a good learning experience for each individual," Nankin said before departing for Britain. "I'm confident we will retain the Lipton Cup — we have done some hard sailing in the bay during the past weeks and over weekends and have tried out a few new ideas which are working well."

Cowes Week ends today, leaving the sailors with enough time to complete final preparations and be ready for the Lipton Cup.

"We'll have been sailing in a very strong fleet for nine consecutive races at Cowes. This will allow us to polish our skills, improve our tactics and mental attitude, so that by the start of the Lipton regatta we will be in the right frame of mind to take on the top starters."

The other members of the SX Stainless Steel crew are Gary Holliday and brothers Adrian and Keith Morris. Since the 1988 Lipton Cup, this team have won every regatta they have entered together.