

SAILING 16/8/1994
MAY

Hot air on a calm day at Lipton

ALEX PETERSEN
at Langebaan

PEOPLE on the West Coast like to say there are always good winds here, but even in winter Langebaan gets flukey winds and days of warm calm, so that it is the flamingoes and the wild flowers which are winners, not the yachtsmen.

A light southerly wind did come through about noon, but it took over two hours later before race officer Viv James could set a course, and it was not the required rectangle but a more adjustable up and down course, fondly known as a "sausage".

James commented: "Everyone here is an expert on the weather and they all tend to be wrong."

And, frankly, what transpired was a boerewors bouillabaisse. But it was not just the conflicting wind patterns that were the problem. Sunday's winner, Geoff Meek, was involved in a collision on the start-line with 3 Spears which, after some hot words, was resolved by a protest committee late last night in favour of Meek and the Hermanus Yacht Club entry.

Another race favourite, the Royal Cape entry MBS Challenger, skippered by Greg Davis, was also involved in a collision on the course but they acknowledged their error for a 20 percent cost of their race points.

In spite of the bad start, MBS Challenger was first to cross the line and their win was surprising since Chris King, on the Zeekoevlei YC entry, had been ahead for most of the race but was pipped into second place on the final leg.

Said Davis: "They are very hard guys to beat. They are sailing very well, fast and very intelligently."

The other surprisingly strong finisher in third place was East London YC with Latimer's Landing, skippered by Tony Allen.

After their good placing in the first race they are now well placed in the potential regatta ratings.

But the Lake Deneys YC entry, which placed third in the first race and looks like being a hot regatta contender, lost out in the light airs yesterday.

Because of a protest that still has to be heard results for the race are still provisional.