

Zeekoe Vlei extend lead amid all the drama

SAILING □ LIPTON CUP

Report from Sapa

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IN another day of high drama Zeekoe Vlei extended their lead in the Joko Lipton Cup yachting regatta, with a textbook start and staggering boat speed yesterday.

Capitalising on their brilliant start the yacht Daly's Insurance kept up the pressure and crossed the finish line four minutes ahead of their nearest rival.

"It was an extremely tight start with a strong bias to port," Zeekoe Vlei's tactician Rick Nankin — on Daly's Insurance — said. "Somehow we managed to hold back and got an incredible pin start. Then we just cooked all the way round," he added.

However, East London Yacht Club's Latimers Landing and Hout Bay's Maxtec Peripherals were not as lucky and by late evening were involved in disputes after being declared "premature starters" — with the ultimate penalty including the possibility of disqualification.

Hout Bay skipper Allan Lawrence, a Hobie world champion, hotly disputed the claims against his yacht — after they finished second behind Zeekoe Vlei in yesterday's race.

It was Lawrence's second consecutive runner-up finish this week and disqualification will be a shattering experience for the Cape skipper.

Provisional standings: 1 ZVYC (Chris King, Daly's Insurance) 85.5 points; 2 HYC (M Schultz/G Meek, Sigma Coatings) 83.25; 3 RCYC (Greg Davis, MBS Challenger) 81; 4 ABYC (Michael Giles, ECL Challenger) 74; 5 LDYC (Dewald Sternagel, Raeburn Stainless) 68; 6 HBYC (Allan Lawrence, Maxtec Peripherals) 56.25; 7 ELYC (Tony Allen, Latimers Landing) 56; 8 LYC (Doug Allison, Sturrock Shipping) 54; 9 TYC (David Rae, Francesca) 53; 10 AYC (Paul Thompson, Hollard Insurance) 52.