



**WAITING FOR WIND:** The crew of the South African yacht Sansui Challenger wait for wind to give them a boost at the start of the Corum Trophy race at the Admiral's Cup yesterday. The course in Christchurch Bay was shortened because of a lack of wind.

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## Light winds scupper SA challenge at Cowes

COWES (England). — The South African team, in their first Admiral's Cup for 20 years, endured a disappointing day which saw them lose touch with the leaders yesterday.

South Africa's big boat Sansui Challenger, with Geoff Meek at the helm, finished fourth, the Mumm 36 Sansui Sprinter skippered by Chris King finished next to last in its class and the ILC 40 Sansui Express, trailed in last.

Light winds seriously disrupted sailing on the fourth day

of the competition. Of two races planned in the Corum Trophy, only one was possible after the 24 yachts from eight nations had travelled under engine power to Christchurch Bay, 60km from Cowes, only to be disappointed by the weather.

The United States team went further ahead in the Cup as they made the best use of light winds to score a perfect three firsts.

Italy and Scandinavia retained second and third places

although the gap widened between them and the leaders.

Four inshore races remain, carrying a points factor of one, together with the 605-mile offshore Fastnet Race, which is weighted with a hefty 4.5 multiplying factor.

America's Blue Yankee continued to dominate the Big Boat class, winning for the third time in the four races. No Problem scored its second win in the Mumm 36 division, while Pigs in Space held off Italy's Brava Q8.

Racing was postponed for four hours while the race committee waited for the breeze to fill in, finally getting underway in a lowly six to eight knot wind.

The fleet split up over the course as the boats struggled to find the better wind with the middle and smaller sized boats, for once, alongside their bigger counterparts.

A big shift in the wind, together with a drop to three knots, made the race committee decide to end the race, and

while the first three in the Big Boat and ILC 40 division were not affected the runners-up positions in the Mumm 36 class were.

No Problem cleared the line ahead and then turned to watch second-placed Thomas I Punkt get caught out on the wind shift, miss the line and allow Mumm A Mia and Skandia through.

The second scheduled race of the day was abandoned and will be resailed today alongside two other inshore races. — Sapa-AFP-Reuter