

Royal Natal still in lead

But challengers close in as 10-knot to 12-knot breeze puts paid to plans



LIFE'S A BREEZE: Shifting winds made for tricky conditions on the third day of the Lipton Challenge Cup fleet in Table Bay yesterday. Race officer Doug Allison had to make a general recall and two starts before competitors finally got under way
Picture: JEANNE VAN ROOYEN

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TRANSVAAL Yacht Club entry "Bumbo" Saxon Insurance posted a well-earned second place in the Lipton Challenge Cup race yesterday, coming in behind defending champs Theewaters Sports Club yacht *Dalys Insurance*.

Royal Natal yacht *Orion* came in third, a result that moved them to the top of the leader board for the overall regatta.

"We had our work cut out, we had to come back up from fifth," said Saxon skipper, *Shosholoz* sailor David Rae.

But he conceded that a 10th place in Tuesday's race would make it difficult to remedy their fifth place on the leader board, given the tough level of competition for the Lipton trophy this year.

'We had our work cut out, and we had to come back up from fifth'

It took two starts and a general recall before race officer Doug Allison had a race on the go in Table Bay, with the 10-knot to 12-knot breeze veering from north-westerly to westerly, making for tricky conditions in the third race of the Lipton Cup yesterday

Competition was intense and while *Dalys* led for much of the race, positions among the other top

boats changed throughout the race, with once again crucial changes on the final leg.

Gareth Blanckenberg, *Dalys* helmsman said: "It was exciting racing, very close, and definitely hard work. But there hopefully should be about three more races, and we can get back.

On *Orion*, Mark Sadler was pleased with third place. "We sailed nicely, and were in the lead at one point, but we gave that away, and were pushed down into third. But our aim is to be in the top three, and are achieving that."

Importantly, the tough con-

tent sailing by Royal Natal have put them at the top of the leader board, with the fewest points against them, eight. There is only one point each between the next three boats, *Dalys* on nine, Zeekoevlei's *Alexandra Security* on 10, and Royal Cape's *Greenlight* on 11.

Unlike other regattas, the Lipton Cup does not allow competitors to discard their worst race, so any single poor result can easily push a top boat back down the leader board.

Paul Willcox was disappointed with Zeekoevlei fifth place. "It was twitchy there, and we did not get the boat speed we had yesterday."

'There is now only one point each between the next three boats'