



SEA OF COLOUR: Some of the 32 yachts set their spinnakers in the first race of the 100th Lipton Challenge Cup yesterday. Defending champions Daly's Insurance, co-skipped by Greg Davis and Gareth Blanckenburg, won.

Picture: BRENTON GEACH

First four places go to Cape yachts on day one of Lipton Cup

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DEFENDING champions Daly's Insurance led the 32-boat strong fleet from start to finish on a sunny Table Bay in the first race of the centennial edition of the Lipton Challenge Cup, which it has won for the past two years.

The winds were fickle and shifting until about 2pm when they settled into a 10-knot westerly, and the fleet made a good start, with the Theewater Sports Club yacht soon in the lead. Royal Natal entry Orion

with George Amoils at the helm looked to challenge at the top mark, but was involved in a battle with Royal Cape's Greenlight, allowing the defending champion, co-skipped by Greg Davis and Gareth Blanckenburg to extend their early lead.

Greenlight held on to her second place throughout the course, while Hottentot's Holland boat Streetcar, skippered by Hobie sailor Paul Lagesse, proved something of a wild card to take third place.

Also a surprise result, in fourth place, was the Imperial Yacht Club's Dynamic ID systems, skippered by Dale Kushner, finishing ahead of Royal Natal's Orion, skippered by George Amoils in fifth place. Orion's regular skipper, former Shosholoza skipper Mark Sadler, is away defending his J-22 Worlds title in America, and will only rejoin the team tomorrow.

The Point Yacht Club entry Eikos had a disappointing day with a 10th place.

With the first four places

going to Cape boats, they already have a useful buffer against the challengers from Kwa-Zulu-Natal and Gauteng. Transvaal Yacht Club's Saxum Insurance, skippered by Ewald Sternagel, managed a useful seventh place, and should move up the board during the week. Sailing for DYC (Boland), development sailor Asenathie Jim had a good showing in eighth place.

With variable winds there is potential for a lot of changes on the leader board before Friday.