



**DRENCHING:** Parasailor of the Florida Yacht Club, skippered by Ian Slaten, got off to a wet start on day two of the 100th Lipton Challenge Cup. Cape boats Daly's Insurance and Greenlight came first and second respectively. *Picture: BRENTON GEACH*

## Cape sailors fasten their grip a little tighter on Lipton trophy

**ALEX PETERSEN** <sup>Cape Times</sup> 26/8/2008

IN a big swell and tough, freezing conditions, Cape sailors fastened their grip on the ornate Lipton Challenge trophy just a little tighter yesterday, when defenders Daly's Insurance scored another first, with Royal Cape entry Greenlight hard on their heels and Royal Natal's Orion Challenger not far behind with a well-deserved third.

In fact the adverse seas and a 20-knot north-westerly clearly favoured the seasoned local sailors.

Experienced KwaZulu-Natal sailor Craig Millar skippering Point Yacht Club's Eikos conceded: "We have not done enough training for this, and we got hooked up in kelp, and then pranged into another boat. These are tricky conditions, it was tough racing. It was not a good day."

On the Royal Natal entry,

Orion Challenger, helmsman George Amoil, tasked with holding the fort until Mark Sadler returns today from a US regatta, has done well to keep the Durban challenger in overall third place.

This despite not having stepped on to a yacht for four years.

So former Shosholozza skipper Sadler, who placed second in Lipton last year, will still have a win in his sights when he takes over the Orion helm.

He has had to shed kilos to help make the combined crew weight limit, so he is surely very hungry and would dearly love to take the trophy to Durban.

But there is big raft of Cape opposition. Hobie sailor Paul Lagesse on the Hottenboats Holland entry Streetcar overcame a disastrous start where they narrowly avoided a collision to work from 11th place early in the race back in 5th

place, while Dale Kushner skippered the Imperial Yacht Club boat into another fourth place.

Development sailor Asenathie Jim and his team of black sailors gave notice that they are a force to be reckoned with by moving up one place to 6th, which clearly makes the term "development" very redundant.

Among this experienced opposition, the black sailors are making their mark.

But the tough conditions did take their toll.

On the all-women team led by Judy Provoyeur, crew Mary Ann Sharwood suffered a painful broken arm when the boom swiped across viciously in a gybe, and on another boat a crewman suffered a broken nose as the big swells tossed the little 26-footers around.

The deck of an L-26 in a winter sea is no place for the faint-hearted. Celebrating a century

since tea magnate Thomas Lipton donated the trophy, the event has attracted a close-to-record 32 entries, including for the first time clubs from both Maputo and Walvis Bay, the furthest reaches of the Cup's mandate.

Miguel Tiago and his team from Maputo have been a little shell-shocked by the seas and the competition, a far cry from the limpid waters off the Hotel Polana, but Walvis Bay entry Elsumo, skippered by Bjorn Geiger, have notched up a creditable 8th and 9th, to give them 6th place overall.

An avid sportsman and sailor, and five-times America's Cup challenger, when he donated the trophy, Thomas Lipton's aim was to foster both sailing and keen interclub rivalry.

One hundred years later, on a cold winter's day in the Cape, there can be no doubt his aims have been met.