

A new man at the helm



SOUTH AFRICA's premier yachting regatta, Rothmans Week, will this year have its youngest chairman ever following the recent appointment of 31-year-old Springbok yachtsman Rob Sharp.

Sharp takes over as chairman of the organising committees from yacht racing stalwart Geoff Myburgh who has held the post for the past four years.

An active offshore campaigner with numerous local and international victories and seven Rothman's Week's to his credit, Sharp has been heavily committed to yachting administration in recent years.

"A major change to this year's Rothman's Week will be on the technical side with an adjustment in the IMS rating which will effectively create a far more competitive fleet," said Sharp.

He said some boats that had never been considered competitive in the past would now come into contention because of a more favourable rating.

He said the event was also being actively promoted overseas in an attempt to attract more international competitors.

"It is a long way to come for the top boats racing the international circuit but a summer regatta is also very appealing when you are in the midst of winter," said Sharp.

Another mission of Sharp is to encourage more socialising and entertainment after racing each day, with live bands and promotions.

"Our aim is to make the up-country and international teams more welcome because without them the regatta couldn't maintain its status as the country's most prestigious event on the annual yachting calendar," he said.

Sharp is an executive member of the Cruising Association of South Africa (CASA). He also sits on the CASA council and has been a member of SASA's sail training and safety at sea committee since 1990.

Most recently he was a member of the Cape to Rio race sailing committee and responsible for the communications schedule for the race.

He was awarded Springbok colours with John Martin in 1986 for their victory in the Carlsberg Double Handed Trans-Atlantic Race between Britain and the United States.

SHARP LOOK: New Rothmans Week organising committee chairman Rob Sharp.

11/9/1993 ARGUS