

Hartbeespoort Dam-based club boasted many well-known members

Yacht club celebrates 75th year

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STAFF REPORTER

Nestled on the northern edge of Hartbeespoort Dam, west of Pretoria, is the Transvaal Yacht Club (TYC).

Launched in Pretoria on May 23 1924, the club celebrates its 75th anniversary this year.

Many well-known people – including JC Poynton, CN Poynton, AW Flitton, G Botha, F Alderson and V Redpath – have sailed for the club.

The club has a proud history and one of its members Mr Flitton, started out in 1947 and twice circumnavigated the world on his yacht *Cariad*.

Some members own ocean going yachts in Durban and Cape Town and these boats take part in ocean races and the crews are generally recruited from among club members.

These are members who will be taking part in the Cape to Rio race next year.

Women were only allowed to become members in 1947 and one of the first was Carmen Stauch.

Since 1970, the club has seen the emergence of a new breed of keen sailors among them Robbie van Rooyen and Uli Coblentz who won the National Tempo and Vivacity championships, Jurgen Coblentz and Edward Sternagel.

The present clubhouse, which has been extensively added to over the years, has one of the finest views a yacht club could wish for.

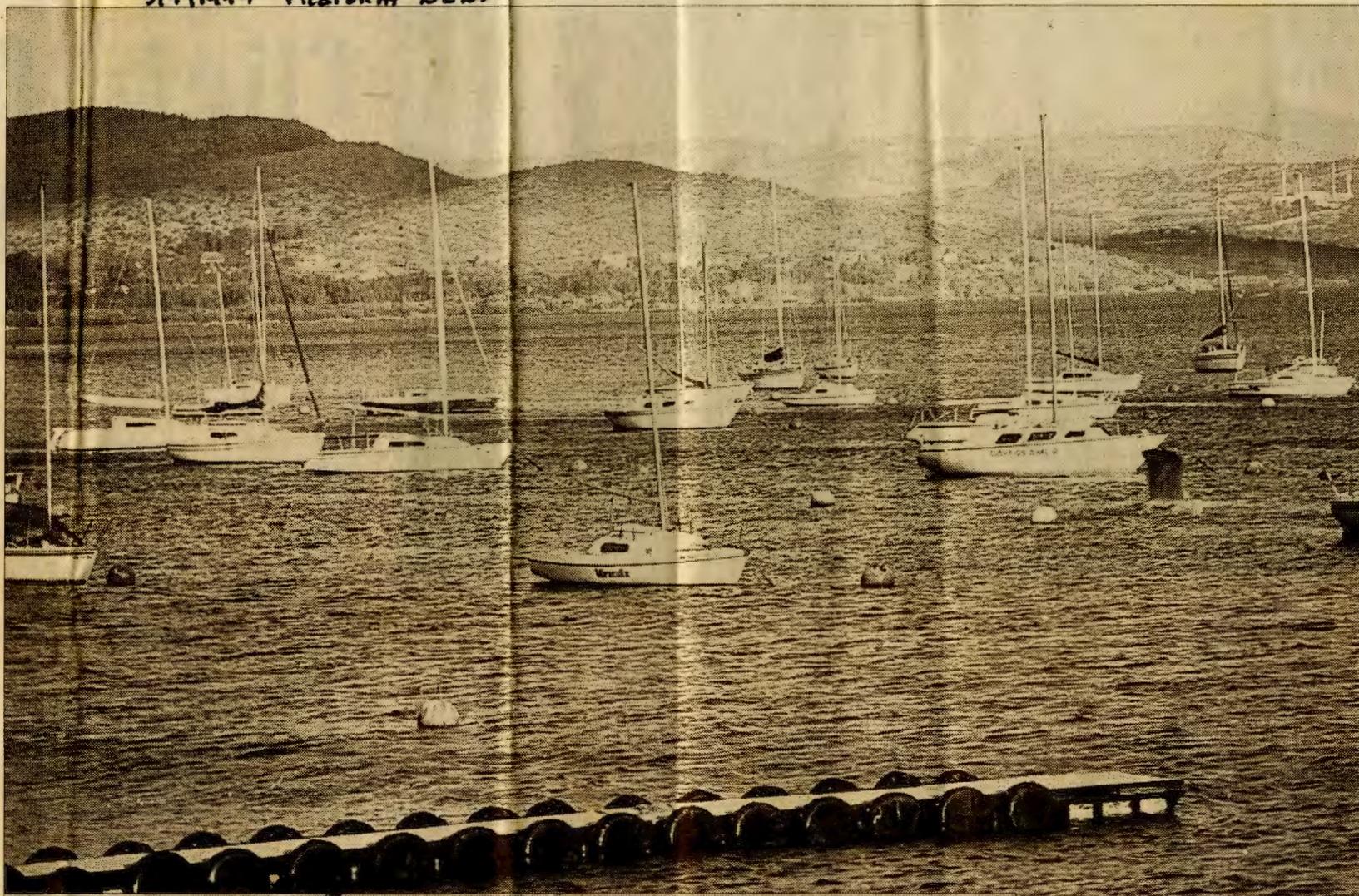
Club racing on Sundays sees a regular fleet of about 15 boats and the majority of these are J22 class yachts, with Mistrals and Stadt 23.

A solitary J27 is also a regular racing craft. Monthly cruises in company are organised for those who wish to savour the less hectic life.

The club has the following facilities: two slipways, hardstanding for 25 keelboats and 15 dinghies, swimming pool, ablution facilities, an electric crane, a workshop, seven bedrooms, two rescue boats, a committee boat, a large camping area and ample parking space and a security system.

Social events, besides the usual after-regatta parties, are the opening and closing cruises, the commodore's dinner and tea, a Christmas dinner and a children's Christmas party.

The TYC's new commodore is Eddie Humphreys, who hopes to see many happy years for the club.



Above: Some of the yachts at the Transvaal Yacht Club at the Hartbeespoortdam.

PICTURES: KENDRIDGE MATHABATHE

Left: Retha and Johan Swanepoel out on the water at the Hartbeespoortdam.