

Cape sailors do SA proud in Portuguese competition

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A GROUP of Cape sailors this week achieved amazing success in Portugal, winning the silver and bronze medals in the Laser SB3 World Championships, competing against 56 top teams in an international fleet of leading sailing nations.

Sailing in two teams on the ultra-fast SB3 dinghies, the Race Ahead teams consistently surprised their more experienced opposition in stiff conditions off the Atlantic resort town of Cascais.

Springbok sailor Dave Hudson, who with his son Roger put the Race Ahead programme together, said: "Our guys were great ambassadors for South Africa, both ashore and on the water. The applause when our teams went up to the podium was thunderous."

The Race Ahead programme is for talented youngsters who would not otherwise have the chance of competing at the top international level.

Racing on City of Cape Town were Wandisile Xayimpi, 20, Jamie Waters, 28, Neil Malan, 19, and Dave Hudson as skipper.

The Spirit of Cape Town team was Taariq Jacobs, 19, on the helm, Marlon Jones, 20, Ashton Sampson, 29, and Roger Hudson, 31, who skippered the team.

"After campaigning in the UK, by the time we arrived in Portugal, both teams had the pace and skills to be serious contenders for the world championship, and between us we won seven of the 14 races that decided the title over the five-day event," said Dave Hudson.

Going into the last day of racing, the Spirit of Cape Town team were only two points behind the leaders - the 2009 UK national champions led by the highly respected British helmsman Craig Burlton.