

# A ROLLYING SUCCESS FOR ROTHMANS' WEEK

PEN: Jim Gow PIX: David Baker

**R**OTHMAN'S Week in Table Bay exceeded all hopes when 49 entries for it reached the Cruising Association offices in Cape Town.

Seventeen entries in Class 2 included Buccaneers, Flamencas, Mistrals and Cariocas, while Class 1 was 32 boats strong and had Royal Cape One Designs, Doggers, the famous *Zeeslang* done over beautifully by Jock Gray, *Voortrekker*, *Southern Maid* and *Southern Floe* for the S.A. Navy Sailing Association, *Jakaranda*, *Breezand*, owned and sailed now by F. French, *Sprinter*, three Folkboats, *Outburst* and a whole string more of veterans of one or more Cape to Rio Races and CASA events.

Completely new to the Cape scene, except by repute and an earlier write-up in this magazine, was Gordon Neill's *Golden Fleece*, but she caught the eye of expert and novice alike with the good that everyone could see in her. Technicalities of the fleet would fill several books, but there is no doubt that *Golden Fleece*, designed and built round the IOR rule, rates so far below

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**READING ROUND THE CLOCK:** In spite of a faltering spinnaker, SANSA's *Voortrekker* (top left) stays in front.

Jaka anda made the most of her well-used suit of sails, thanks to Bongers' Expertise. . . .

Melvin Stephens kept *Kumaree 11* moving well and, later, put in a stout effort for Agulhas.

Harold Sender's *Allegra* (SA 79) graced the occasion with her well-balanced overhangs.

For a change Ken Warr, with his *Carter 33 She Sha*, did not figure at the top.

Jerry Whitehead, veteran of countless RORC classics, took over *Seven Seas*, but never quite got going against the determined opposition.

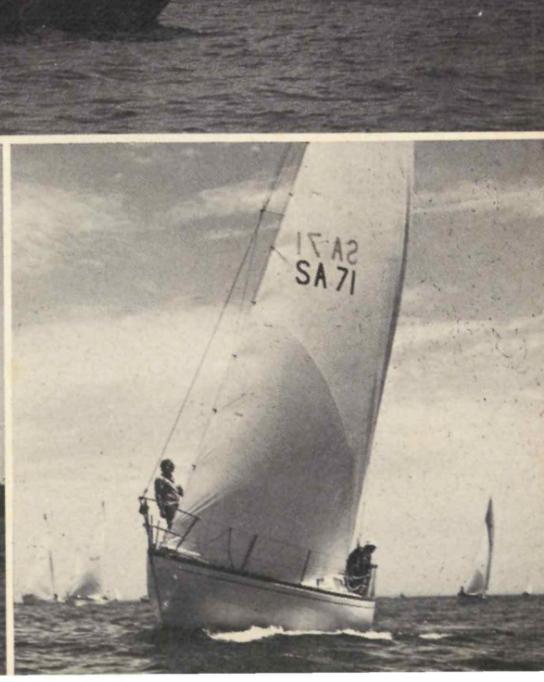
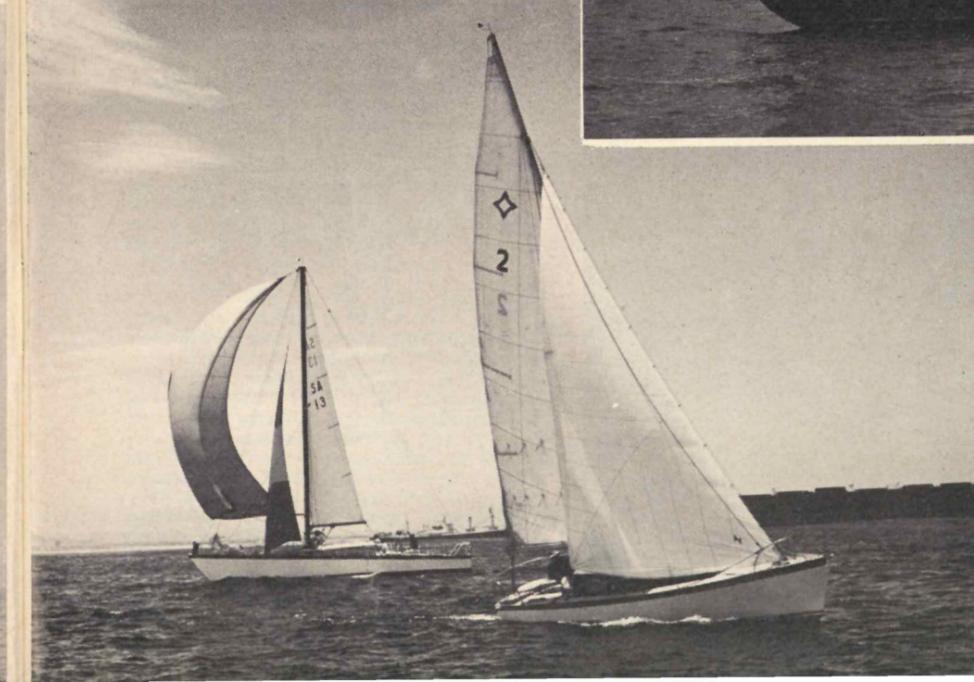
In spite of the passion for IOR, it was great to see the Folkboats in contention and 1819 was Barry Dickinson's *Penny Lane*.

Bay Glenn (RCYC) never let up under skipper Bert Gibson. (SA 71.)

Two Van de Stadt hard-chiners, Brian Robertson's *Applemist* (SA 13), L. Geraghty's *Sewin*.

Lex Raas's *Mistral*, down from Vaaldam, more than held her own with the coastal "salts", while in the foreground is Freddy Scholtz's *Buccaneer Tosca*, of FBVC.

On the far left Ed Gordon's *Rondinella* crosses courses with the consistent *Kumaree*—both, of course, from Oom Ricus' drawing board.





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older boats that she is in an entirely different category to them while racing. Add her outstanding performance and she shows what South Africa must have to feature respectably in the Admiral's Cup while we still have helmsmen and crews with English Channel experience.

Regatta organisation was by the Cruising Association, with Royal Cape as host club. Rothmans of Pall Mall provided the first sponsorship of an offshore regatta and, as expected, produced the right and competent know-how immediately. Sailing Programme details showed three one-a-day "round the buoys" races, followed by a long-distance race for each class which would count double points.

Floating trophies were put up by the sponsors for the overall winners in each class, with prizes for first, second and third in each race and gold, silver and bronze medallions for the overall top three in each class. The Rothman's Sailing Trophy is quite unique and goes straight into top rank status as a yachting trophy for class 1.

All races were decided on corrected times derived from time correction factors based on Royal Cape Rating measurements. Three TCF tables were used to cover light, medium and heavy conditions and the one to use was chosen by taking the elapsed time of the first boat home in the class, using this and the length of the course to calculate its actual speed over the course and, from a table of rated speeds for each boat, working out what this was as a percentage of the rated speed.

Weather was the gamble factor. Racing was to start on Monday 16 and a raging storm over Table Bay all day Sunday was no surprise. An almost complete calm on Monday was—and it was a relief when 10.30 and 10.45 a.m. starts were possible.

Paul Bennet was overall Bridge Master with guest judges from a roll of yachting notabilities taking the line in turn each day. Allan de Villiers, of False Bay YC and a founder member of Mossel Bay YC, was assistant bridge master, while halliard staff, gun crew and all-round assistance was supplied, invariably efficiently, by crew members of *S.A.S. Fleur* which acted throughout as committee boat.

Monday's slight-wind start worked up to a stiff breeze to give a brisk finish, with *Golden Fleece* behind *Jakaranda* and *Voor-trekker*, but near enough to win on handicap. Corrected results put *Golden Fleece* first, *Breezand* second and *Sprinter* (B. van der Westhuizen) third. In Class 2 the *Flamenca*, *Relax*, with Simon Kramer sailing her, was first; Peter Knipe, the 18 year old Western Province Buccaneer champion, second; and another Buccaneer, *Freya*, sailed by R. Tucker, third.

**THE PRIZE-GIVING:** Yachtsmen were delighted to be honoured by the Chief of the Defence Force, Admiral and Mrs. H. H. Biermann at the Rothmans' party at the President Hotel, Cape Town, and Mrs. Peggy Biermann presented the trophies.

At the top, Highvelder Lex Raas, who sailed *Mistral* so well, gets his just deserts. Then Bobby Bongers who specialised in line-honours finishes with Theunis Bester's beautiful *Jakaranda* and, at the bottom, it was good to see Sean French getting well-earned recognition.

Photos: David Baker



**ROTHMANS TROPHY WINNERS:** The conquering Natal team, who crewed *Golden Fleece* to victory in Table Bay, gather round their handsome prize which will be one of the most prestigious in yachting's annual calendar in years to come. The line-up, from the left: Keith Wilson, Hal Hofmeyr (from Vaaldam), David Hudson, John Wolfe, Gordon Neill, Fanie Louw, Frank Carrington and Tony Collier. Photo: David Baker

Tuesday started just as slowly but worked up faster and, by the late afternoon, was worrying some of the Class 2 boats.

The third race round the buoys started on time in a promising puff but lingered on for three hours on promising puffs which cropped up every time a postponement was considered. The abandonment was popular, but skippers seemed to appreciate the sound reasons for delaying the decision for so long. What no-one enjoyed was the stiff wind which blew up within minutes of the abandonment.

Next day conditions were worse for the planned long-distance races and sailing was postponed "until a later date", with a decision on the long courses to be made next morning. Courses to meet a variety of conditions were planned.

At nine next morning a near gale blew in the yacht basin but, by the time *Fleur* and the fleet reached Granger Bay for the starts, crews were whistling for a wind. Class 2 was sent off to round Robben Island anticlockwise and return to Granger Bay.

Class 1 had been set to round the Cape and a mark ship on bearings in False Bay in an all-night race, but the mark ship was brought round to Slangkop and the course shortened considerably. This race was notable in the fast take-off of *Voor-trekker*, trailed almost to Hout Bay by *Jakaranda*, with *Golden Fleece* creeping into third place

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**FINE LIAISON JOB** for sea rescue and other services was rendered by that efficient bunch, Oceana Power Boat Club, who are also running the Western Province Catamaran Championships. Typical of the boats that turned to every day was *Sea Bronco*, above right, owner Bruno Steverlynick. Photo: Brian Lello

Popular Simon Kramer and his sailing men turned their talents to the *Flamenca* Class with great effect, showing that it is crews that mostly win races—Nigel Hocking, Oom Simon, Dieter Mielke who now has his eye on the Rio Race, and Peter Muzik. Photo: David Baker



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slowly. From then positions changed often as boats slid through the sunset into night. *Jakaranda* lost a spinnaker as she creamed along the coast homeward off Sandy Bay.

Finishing order at the line was *Jakaranda* (22:09:30); *Breezand* (22:56:39); *Golden City* (23:19:44); *Outburst* (23:25:38); *Voortrekker* (00:16:04); *Applemist* (00:19:13); *Sprinter* (01:13:54) and *She Sha* (Ken Warr) at 01:25:25. Eleven boats retired from the race or were time-expired.

On corrected time the order was: *Breezand*, *Golden Fleece*, *Outburst*, *Jakaranda*, *She Sha*, *Applemist*, *Sprinter* and *Voortrekker*. This gave *Breezand* the equivalent of two first places to be level on points with *Golden Fleece* which won both the round-the-buoy events. The points tie for the Rothman's Sailing Trophy was broken in favour of *Golden Fleece* on the correct and popular grounds that she had actually won two races against *Breezand's* win of points equivalent to two races.

Class 2 saw *Mistral* (Lex Raas) beat Simon Kramer in *Relax* by 46 seconds to

the finish after 5½ hours at sea. This position held on corrected time, with *Carita B*, *Freya*, *Freebooter*, *Sandpiper*, *Boy Blue*, *Ole*, *Jumbo Rondinella*, *Tosca* and *Miss Chugalug* following in that order.

*Golden Fleece* was a worthy winner of the main trophy and added plenty of interest to the Agulhas Race when she met the Cape boats in ocean racing.

Rothmans can be proud of what they have done for South African yachting by their sponsorship and by the way it was conducted throughout.

## ROTHMANS RESULTS

### Overall Class I

*Golden Fleece*—Gordon Neill (RNYC).  
*Breezand*—S. French (RCYC).  
*Jakaranda*—B. Bongers (RCYC).

### Overall Class II

*Relax*—Simon Kramer (FBYC).  
*Mistral*—Lex Raas (Triton Sailing Club).  
*Freya*—R. S. Tucker (Aeolians Yacht Club).