

THRILLING CLIMAX IN LIPTON CUP

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“Mercury” Reporter

SUN ROSE, representing Henley Sailing Club, led the way past every mark in the first round of the Lipton Cup racing, which took place off Durban during the week-end, but she was beaten on the finishing line by Tintomara—2ft. separating the yachts as the winner's gun fired.

This thrilling climax came at the end of a race sailed over a quadrilateral course of 12 miles which the winning boat took three hours 46 minutes 27 seconds to complete.

The result must be a bitter disappointment to J. Whittle, the skipper of Sun Rose, who has tried so long to achieve success in this premier yachting event, but credit is due to Tintomara's skipper, G. Packer, for coming out on top in such a vigorous test of sailing ability.

The race started on time with the contestants on the port tack and well spread out. There was a light north-easterly wind, a low swell and southerly set.

During the first leg—to the south-east—it was clear that Sun Rose and Tintomara had a good tactical position in the centre. W. Hancock's new boat, Mariquita, was going well, and Inger, with her crew lying flat on the starboard side, looked business-like.

Sun Rose, with a large Genoa jib set, reached the first mark after an hour and Tintomara followed her round. Vanja V was third and Inger fourth. W. Gunn, Vanja's skipper, had done well to be in the van at this stage.

The next leg was a long beat to windward against the set. The second mark was difficult to see, as it was not floating upright.

Sun Rose lost a comfortable lead during the run to windward—Tintomara was 45 seconds behind her at the second mark. Astern of these two a tense duel had developed between Mariquita and Inger.

After rounding the mark Inger, lying fourth, set a large blue spinnaker which paid good dividends—her example was quickly followed by the others. At this stage the yachts were

well spread out, with more than three miles between the first and the last boat.

The result of Saturday's race was: 1, Tintomara (Zwartkops Yacht Club), G Packer; 2, Sun Rose (Henley Sailing Club), J Whittle; 3, Mariquita (Royal Natal Yacht Club), W Hancock; 4, Inger (Bluff Yacht Club), J Sully; 5, Vanja V (Point Yacht Club), W Gunn; 6, Rapid (Royal Cape Yacht Club), L Policansky; 7, Trickson II (Redhouse Yacht Club), H Kohler; 8, Sea Swallow (SA Naval Sailing Ass), S Moffatt; 9, Avocet (Island Sailing Club), Dr R Elsdon-Dew. The judge was Captain F. Ratsey.

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www.sailing.co.za - editor@sailing.co.za