



# DULUX DOUBLE CAPE RACE

by RALPH THOMAS

**This very unique and successful race could be called the Clubman's Agulhas Race. It is longer than the normal club race but shorter than the Agulhas Race with a rhumb line course of 130 miles. So as to attract more cruising boat entries the RCYC handicap system was used to decide the winner and inter-club winner. The RCYC handicap system gives an advantage to the more cruising orientated boats.**

The last pip of the 18h00 news on Friday 11th September, saw the boats of RCYC, FB, YC, SADFSA and GBYC off to a slow start. The Gordons Bay boats benefitted from the light easterly and crossed the leading RCYC boats off kommatjie at about 02h00 Saturday. 09h00 and Voortrekker sailing from Simonstown crossed the leading RCYC boats at Cape Point. It was now evident it would be a small boat race with Impulse and Mini Mouse. 3rd and 4th behind Archangel and 34 South (from

RCYC).

Archangel, Nutcracker and 34 South rounded the Simonstown bouy at lunch time in a NE. The following boats got through the hole and into the SE to be lifted inside them and set sail on the rhumb line. What a sail. Beautiful 8—10 knots SE across False Bay with warm sunshine and flat sea. To crown it all W.P. beat O.F.S. to force a semi-final play-off.

Meanwhile off the Apostles and in Table Bay the other boats struggled to make headway in a next to nothing breeze and flat seas.

Rounding Navigator (S.A.N. training vessel) in Gordons Bay Omuramba had caught up. Then a fetch to Cape Point in a most perfect red sunset. Who ever says 'Red in the morning sailors warning, Red at night sailors delight' should have sailed this race. Penguin (handle for Cape Point light) used a gale warning as the glass had

dropped 4 points in a hour. The giant cold front which had been held off by a high to the south was striking. The north-westerly was recorded at 60 knots on Sunday. It came through just as Nutcracker was finishing at dawn to take line honours for the race.

The Miura Woodstock (FBYC) was off Kommetjie in this wind when she broached, broke her spinnaker pole and twisted her mast. Then her mainsail tore near the 1st reef. She still had to round the point and beat for home. She managed this and still finished 8th Overall and 10th in IOR1. For this she got the prize for best effort.

This race has really stimulated interest in all the clubs. Without all meeting at one venue we can now race against one another. Clubs can compete against one another. RCYC squeaked home by 40 mins in the Inter-club Challenge. GBYC are already planning their revenge as DULUX have promised to sponsor the event again next year.

## UNICORN & MIRROR PROVINCIAL

by JANET SAWYER

**The Natal Provincial Championships for the Unicorn and Mirror classes were held at Midmar Dam from the 9th to the 11th of October. There was an entry of twenty Mirrors and eighteen Unicorns for this event. They sailed together with the Paper Tigers, who were having their Nationals at the time, and so it was rather a large fleet which took to the water for each race.**

Professor 'Wog' Hawksworth had the task of Race Officer for the regatta, assisted by Jerry Bellengere who was the mark-layer, and between them they set some excellent courses for the fleet.

The first day of the regatta was rather disappointing and frustrating, as the wind refused to settle down from any one direction, and during the course of the day came from most points of the compass. Twice an attempt was made to start a race, only to have it abandoned later.

The following day was completely different, however, as the wind came through at about twenty-five knots from the south in the morning, building up some large waves on the surface of the dam. The size of the chop on the water caused some problems for the competitors and there were some breakages in the fleet. For those on the Committee Boat it was not very pleasant either, as the waves were so large that they were at times breaking over the windshield.

In the Mirror fleet Mark Hawksworth had some bad luck when he capsized while in the

lead and filled up with water, thus being forced to retire from this race. Those who managed to survive had a fast and exciting sail. Louis Brik from Michaelhouse School won the morning race in this class, with Liz Burnett turning in a very creditable third place considering the conditions.

In the Unicorn fleet, George Ilse was first across the line, followed by John White and Graham Beattie. Fortunately for the weary competitors the wind moderated to between fifteen and eighteen knots for the second race of the day, and there were fewer casualties for this race. Once again, Louis Brink revelled in the conditions and took first place in the Mirror class, followed by Liz Burnett, with Mark Hawksworth third. Alan Pitt-Pladdy showed a good turn of speed by winning the Unicorn race, with John Watkins second and Graham Beattie again third.

On Sunday it was hoped to fit in three races for the Unicorn and Mirror fleets, so that they would have one discard for the regatta. However, once again the wind had definite ideas which did not seem to coincide with those of the Race Officer. The fleet took to the water early to attempt the first race on Sunday morning, but the wind was very fickle, and after two abortive attempts it was decided to have an early lunch in the hope that this would entice the wind to settle down.

Thus the first race of the day was started

shortly after 1—30 p.m., with the wind still a rather light easterly of about eight knots. Keith Ribbink and Alan Pitt-Pladdy had a good tussle all the way round the course in the Unicorn class, with Keith keeping his first position to the finish.

The second race was sailed immediately after the conclusion of the first, with the wind increasing to ten to twelve knots and then dropping towards the end of the race. Once again Keith and Alan had a very close race, with Keith being strongly challenged for the lead all the way round. Peter Williams picked up a shift on the last beat and came powering through to snatch second place away from Alan.

Liz Burnett sailed a very good race, having a sizeable lead over the rest of the Mirror fleet. Trevor Gibb was second, with Mark Hawksworth third.

Due to the shortage of time the proposed third race of the day was not sailed, and so all four races had to count for results purposes.

### Results:

Mirrors (20 entries)

- 1 E. Burnett/J. Ric-Hansen . . . . . 16,7 pts
- 2 L. Brink/M. Duffy . . . . . 21,7 pts
- 3 T. Gibb/S Fry . . . . . 28 pts

Unicorns (18 entries)

- 1 A. Pitt-Pladdy . . . . . 22,7 pts
- 2 J. White . . . . . 35,7 pts
- 3 G. Beattie . . . . . 39,4 pts