

SPROG nationals

Saldanha Bay was the venue for the first ever Sprog International event. Four visitors from the UK. attended. They were Tim Cavana, Neil Spacagna, Charles Tolcher and James Pearson. PSI. supplied 2 boats for the visiting teams — boat numbers 999 and 1000.

Competition was intense throughout the week with 4 sailmakers (representing 3 makes of sails) competing. Dave Hudson sailing with his wife Jane again showed his expertise as he has done in many different classes throughout the country. 2nd and 3rd were Michael Matter and Dave Collins. Both were World Youth Trialists this year with neither getting selected. This goes to show the depth of talent we have in South Africa.

The tune up race was sailed on Saturday in a very switchy and gusty northerly. Gill Theunissen came through as winner but a lot of the "heavies" pulled out early or joined in late so as not to show their form.

Race 1

8 to 12 knots Southerly with the Starboard side of the course paying. This set the pattern for the week as did Dave Hudson's win. Barry Douglas went for the right cover in the 1st beat and hang in for his 2nd place. Rick Nankin, Dave Collins and Dave Evans had a good tussle for their respective 3rd, 4th and 5th places.

Race 2

The wind picked up to 20 knots in the puffs. Dave Hudson took this race from start to finish but had to battle to keep Tim Savage behind. Tim showed what could be expected of him when it blew. He really moved after a not so good 1st beat. Ric Nankin again in 3rd with Dave Savage in 4th and Adam French in 5th

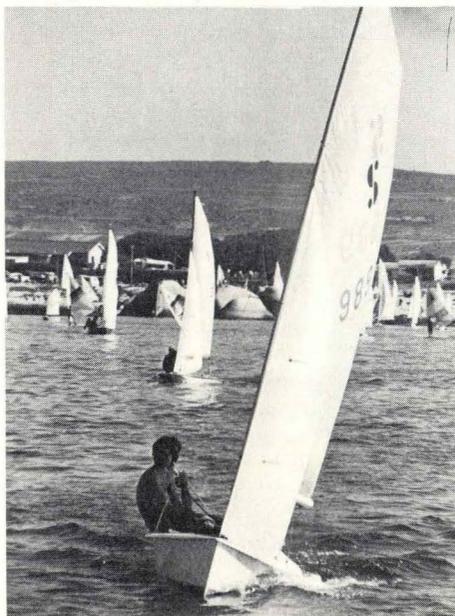
Race 3

With the race only scheduled to start at 2 o'clock on the Monday, the wind started blowing at about one. A light 5-10 Southerly with the right side paying and Hudson again leading from start to finish. Michael Matter showed his preference for the lighter breezes by coming in 2nd. Harry Ellens had his best racing to date with Gill Theunissen and Dave Collins following closely. Rick Nankin was unfortunately disqualified for not taking a tally out with him.

The evening saw lively discussion on the proposal at the AGM to disallow unparted masts. This is an attempt to keep the cost of sailing sprogs down. Possibly a method to

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10th placed overall, Jan Reuvers and crew managed an individual best place of 7th.



Results

D. Hudson	1 1 1 1 5 3 1	5,7
M. Matter	9 29 2 2 2 15 1 2	42,0
D. Collins	4 9 5 6 4 5 3	47,7
R.Nankin	3 3 DSQ 14 2 9 4	49,4
G. De Vlieg	6 6 7 9 12 2 5	54,4
H. Ellans	18 11.3 5 6 6 6	56,4
T. Savage	11 2.12.16 1.14.7	58,0
A. French	13 5 18 8 3 RAF	8 72,7
P. Thomas	10 17 9 3 11 DNC	9 76,7
J. Reuvers	23 30 10 7 8 8 10	86,0

use would be to allow people only to measure in one suit of sails for a regatta. The AGM was followed by the Sprog Dinner which was exceptionally well attended and a pity that people had to leave with partially full stomachs. Worst of all though was

Dave Hudson who lost the 1st event of his stay in Saldanha — a game of lie dice against the experts Adam French and Howard Ammoils.

Race 4 (Tuesday)

The previous evenings festivities had no effect on Dave who proceeded to lead the fleet from beginning to end. Herda Silverman rounded a close 2nd at the 1st weather mark but threw it away by continually taking flyers to the left side of the course. Mike Matter put in another 2nd with Dete Thomas having his best race. Gill Theunissen again in 4th and Harry Ellens in 5th

Race 5 (Wednesday)

A strong northerly of about 20 gusting 25 knots with overcast skies set the scene. After two rounds the race was abandoned as the weather mark was drifting so fast it was hard to keep up with it with run!

While the course was being reset the wind died slightly. The first beat saw progressive port tack lift after a big leader just on the start. The only start line of the week that was not square! The people who sailed well into the leader came out best. It developed into a close race with Tim Savage taking Rick Nankin. Adam French went well to get a 3rd. Tearing 4th was Dave Collins who edged out Dave Hudson.

Wednesday night was supposed to be prize giving but Herbert Mc Williams had to wait another day to give out the prizes. What he did give, though was a really fine cheese and wine at a local hotel. Evidence of which was found in your lead the next morning! The designer of the Sprog really did us proud and when on the bridge boat the next day he was proud to see sail number 1000, as well as 42 other Sprogs.

Race 6 (Thursday)

Race postponed by ¾ of an hour and started eventually in glassy waters with about 4 knots of wind. It picked up to 8 knots with the Starboard ride of the course paying.

With Dave and Jane Hudson having won the title, the 'dice' was on for 2nd place any one of 6 skippers could taken it. (Rick Nankin, Harry Ellens, Jill de Vlieg, Tim Savage, Dave Collins or Michael Matter).

Harry Ellens was looking good at the 1st mark but it soon developed into a close race between De Vlieg, Hudson and Matter. Matter took the honours with De Vlieg just getting through Hudson at the finish. 4th Gill Theunissen and 5th Dave Collins.