



DASSEN IS. RACE

Once again there was ten-knot planing by the Royal Cape One-designs, which dominated this years Dassen Island Race.

Above: Ken Warr's *Schatzi* slices over the top of one of the big swells, setting her storm jib (by the foot) under the chute.

Right: Monie Salamon and Gordon Burn Wood, who drove *Cirrus* to the limit, but were narrowly beaten by redoubtable *Zeeslang*.
Photos: Eckhard Kramer

ROYAL Cape Yacht Club's annual race to Dassen Island and back started this year at 1500 hours on September 4. There were 15 starters out of the 18 entries, one of the biggest fleets for an ocean race ever seen in this country. Turning mark this year was the yacht *Chycaron*, moored half a mile to the east of the island, thus avoiding some of the confusion of the past when yachts were required to turn on a bearing.

At the start there was a light south-easter blowing and the majority of the fleet edged across the line of the wind towards Blouberg. A few, however, headed out to sea, and this paid when they met a fresh westerly blowing outside.

With the exception of *Zeeslang* (C. Leih) all the yachts made for the inside passage between Robben Island and the shore, and by a few miles past Robben Island the leaders were *Zeeslang* (still well out to the west) and the three One-Designs, *Cirrus* (J. Salamon), *Schatzi* (K. Warr) and *Granger* (E. Kuttel).

Spinnakers were set and with the wind at about 20 m.p.h., with a short steep south-westerly sea running the yachts had an exhilarating and sizzling race. The wind later swung to the south, making it a dead beat home.

Several yachts had gear trouble, but the leaders rounded the mark closely bunched at nightfall, just over four hours after the start for $\pm$ 35 miles—a fair pace!

The beat home was long, wet and decidedly uncomfortable. Here *Malgas* (E. Juraans) came into her own, as she had on the windward leg of the past Gansbaai race, and made up time on the others.

The *Slang* had a good lift close inshore and finally crossed the line first, with a large lead of 1 hr. 36 min. ahead of *Malgas*, with the next six places all taken by One Designs. Once again *Melody* (D. Price) proved her worth, finishing some three hours ahead of the first Protea, *Giselle* (G. Baigrie). It certainly was not pleasant weather for Proteas!

All in all, though, this was a most enjoyable race, and one that will be long remembered for that fantastic downwind leg, particularly among the One Designs.

