

Skipper of winning yacht thought he did not have chance

The Argus Yachting Correspondent

I DIDN'T think we had a chance of winning the Lipton Cup,' Mr. Harold Kohler, the Port Elizabeth timber merchant, whose yacht, Trickson II, finished first on overall placing in the contest, said last night.

He said: 'Before we got to Cape Town we had never sailed before as a crew, and we had not raced either, as there is no boat at Port Elizabeth to race against.'

We began sailing here as soon as we arrived, but we were completely green, and like the other boats were badly held up by the weather before the racing started.

SHOT FILMS

We were so sure that we would not win that we spent a lot of time shooting colour films of the races—I don't imagine any Lipton Cup skipper has done that before.'

Mr. Kohler began sailing in 1930 in racing dinghies, and

switched to deep-sea boats only when he acquired Trickson II last year.

The challengers for the cup will now have to meet Mr. Kohler on his home ground—the first time a major race will be sailed in Algoa Bay. This should help to raise interest in deep-sea racing in Port Elizabeth.

The overall placings at the end of the three races were:

Trickson II (H. Kohler, Red-house Yacht Club), 1.

Yvette (M. Gronn, Zeekoevlei Yacht Club), 2.

Chiquita (J. Whittle, Henly Sailing Club), 3.

Vanja V (W. Gunn, Point Yacht Club), 4.

Tarpon (M. Kuttel, Royal Cape Yacht Club) and Sunmaid (W. Hancock, Royal Natal Yacht Club), 5.

Rapid (L. Policansky, Hermanus Yacht Club) and Inger (N. Horsfield, Bluff Yacht Club), 7.

RAGING WIND

This series of races will probably go down as that most unfavourable to the competitors.

Two days before the scheduled start last Saturday, the boats were unable to sail because of the raging wind and heavy seas. On Saturday the weather was not much better and the first round was postponed until Monday.

On Monday the boats went out into a strong north-wester to sail the triangular course still in a raging sea. Wilfred Hancock in Sunmaid came in first followed by Trickson II, Yvette, Inger, Chiquita, Rapid, Vanja V and Tarpon.

That night in at least one skipper's home every possible means of warmth was used to dry sails stretched out over furniture in anticipation of more rain on the second leg.

DRIFTING MATCH

The second leg was a drifting match over a square course—the wind had gone, and the remains of the swell just served to knock the fitful puffs out of the sails.

Tarpon, sailed by Mike Kuttel, who had finished last the day before, came in first, followed by Trickson II, Yvette, Vanja V, Rapid, Chiquita, Sunmaid and Inger.

Yesterday, the weather at the start of the race portended another drifting match, but after an hour a north-westerly breeze freshened and the boats made better time than expected.

Chiquita, skippered by Jimmy Whittle, came in first, ahead of Vanja V. Yvette only just beat Trickson II to the line. Tarpon was fifth, followed by Sunmaid, Inger and Rapid.

Trickson II, who had not won one race but had two seconds and a fourth, had gained most points to win the cup.

LIPTON CUP winning crew of Trickson II (from left): Rob McPherson, Scott Pearson, Harold Kohler (skipper), Nigel Atkinson, all of Port Elizabeth, and Ron Chedburn of Cape Town.

