

The thoroughbred of yachts is racing

"Mercury" Reporter

WITH ONLY 10 30-metre class yachts left in South Africa the annual Lipton Cup series of races has become a tradition for a small group of yachtsmen dedicated to keeping alive this thoroughbred of racers.

With sleek polished hulls up to 15 metres long and an enormous sail area, the

"30-square" is a stirring sight as it skims over the water.

"This is the thoroughbred of all yachts," said Mr. Jimmy Whittle, Commodore of the Royal Natal Yacht Club, last night. "Unfortunately they are very expensive and cannot be transported easily."

Jimmy is the current

holder of the Lipton Cup, which he won last year after taking part in the race about 18 times.

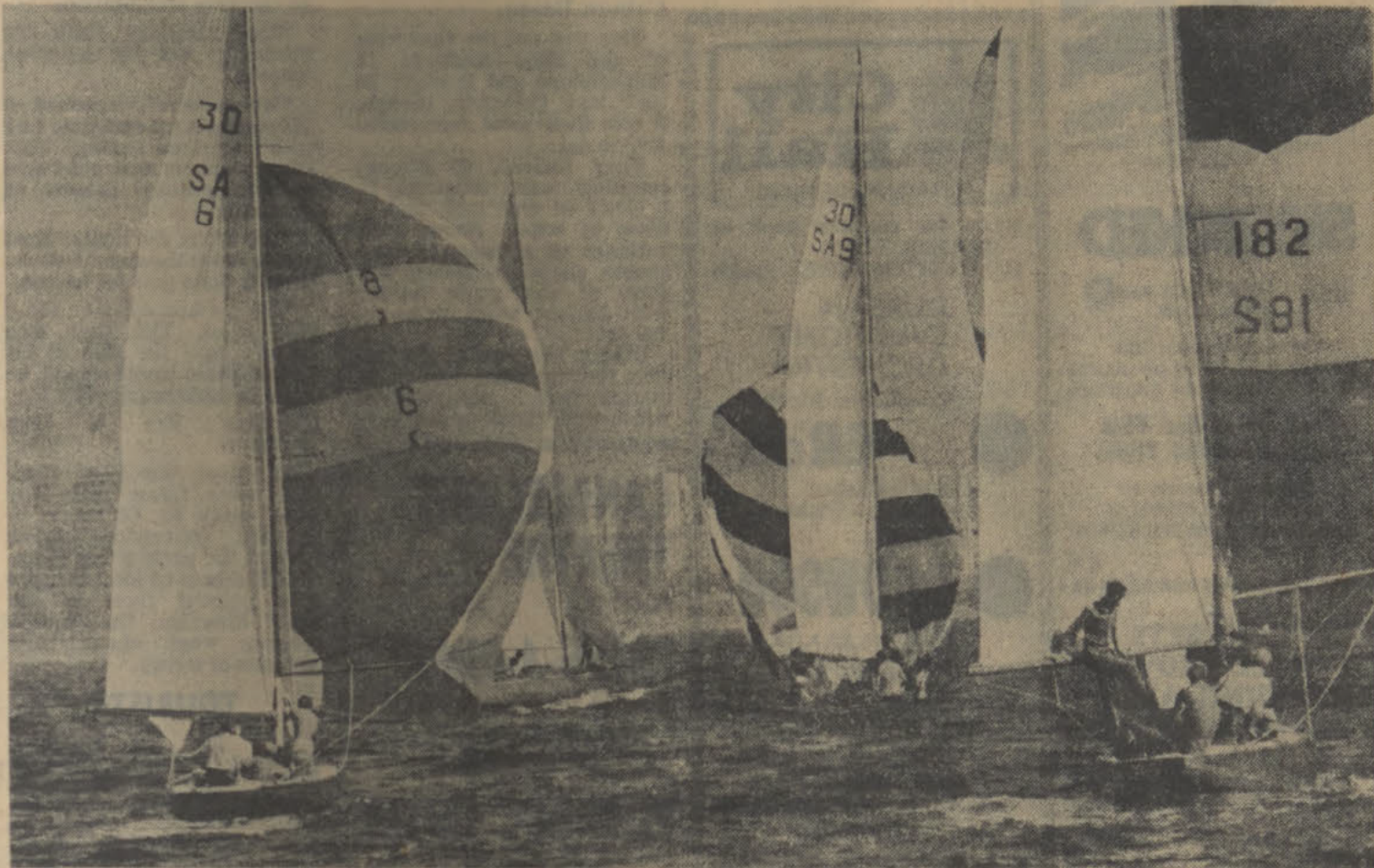
This year Jimmy is sailing Sunrose and in yesterday's first round he came second to Tintomara sailed by David Cox. This has amusing implications for Jimmy owns both yachts and his rival is Commodore

of the rival Point Yacht Club.

Among Jimmy's crew is Cyril Warne who previously sailed with Wilfred Hancock who won most of the Lipton Cups in the past.

Father and son are also rivals in this year's event. Joe Harris, a city licensing officer, is a hand on Sunrose while his son, Robin, is on Tintomara.

The South African Navy this year is represented by Mike Avery (skipper), Tony Rendell, Rodney Cross and Mike Spruce all of Simonstown and Vim de Lange of Durban North Command. They are in Trickson II which came third yesterday.



WITH FULL spinnakers, four 30-square-metre yachts run before a 10-knot breeze in ideal sailing conditions yesterday during the first round of the Lipton Cup race. They are (from the left) Yvette, Mariquita, Tarpon and Trickson II.

TINTOMARA WINS LIPTON CUP ROUND

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TINTOMARA, skippered by Dave Cox, of Durban, won the first round of the Lipton Cup series in Durban yesterday after a closely fought race with Sunrose, skippered by Jimmy Whittle.

Tintomara crossed the line only 2 min. 24 sec. ahead after overtaking her rival on the last leg.

The advantage was due to superior sailing by her crew of five, especially their fast spinnaker drops right at the buoy.

Both Tintomara and Sunrose belong to Jimmy Whittle, a member of the Royal Natal Yacht Club and last year's winner.

He loaned Tintomara to David Cox, commodore of the Point Yacht Club.

The other placings were Trickson II (W. O. Avery, South African Navy Sailing Association), Tarpon (E. Waller, Saldanha Bay Yacht Club), Mariquita (H. Fransclaeder, False Bay Yacht Club), Yvette (R. Chedburn, Royal Cape Yacht Club), and Hjalmar (J. Bentley, Zululand Yacht Club).

Yesterday's start at 11.30 a.m. was half an hour late due to a shift in the wind from north to north-east.

The wind shifted still more after the start which meant that the yachts had to do less tacking than was intended, and they covered the 14 nautical mile course in good time.

Tintomara crossed the line at 1.49 p.m.

David Cox described the 10-knot breeze and smooth sea as "ideal for sailing."

Although Tintomara got away to a good start she was overtaken by Sunrose on the first leg.

She lay in a close second position up to the last buoy which she rounded almost touching the stern of Sunrose.

A few minutes later she overtook Sunrose and went on to win.



TINTOMARA, her sleek white hull in contrast with a squat South African Navy minesweeper, takes the lead during yesterday's first round of the Lipton Cup race. Tintomara overtook Sunrose on the last leg and won by 2min 24sec.

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YACHT RACE LAUNCH CRIPPLED

"Mercury" Reporter

INYATI, a 14-metre motor launch limped into the Durban yacht basin on one of her two engines yesterday with the main cabin awash to bunk level.

The Inyati, skippered by George Stewart, was being used to observe the Lipton Cup yacht race when one propeller shaft parted. Water poured in through the shaft bearing and by the time the launch reached the yacht mole the cabin deck was awash and she was listing heavily to port.

The Inyati was pumped out and preparations were being made to pull her onto the slips for repair.