

Chance for women to get in step

THE term 'Salsa' brings to mind visions of exotic dancing but for many women in Durban it now means getting in step with the tempo of sailing.

SALSA in the acronym for the South African Ladies Sailing Association, an organisation recently formed to promote the sport among the fairer sex. They have now launched a Natal branch with Josie Franklin and Avril Sellars jointly at the helm.

Both have considerable sailing experience with Avril being the owner/skipper of the RCOD class yacht Little One, having clocked up over 14 000 sea miles on various ocean races and regattas. Josie has her provincial colours for sailing and both were members of the all-girl crew of Braby's Equinox in the 1989 Crystic Beachcomber race from Mauritius to Durban.

Avril said this week: "The aim of the organisation is to encourage more women to take part, especially at competitive level. With the lifting of the ban on international sporting

SAILING

Norman Sheriff



Joint chairmen of SALSA, Josie Franklin, left, and Avril Sellars

links, we anticipate an upsurge in interest in events like the Olympic Games where sailing is an official sport.

"Already we have the world Windsurfer championships in Port Elizabeth next month which will include Olympic selection and the dinghy Olympic selection trials will be held off Durban in January.

"Several South African women have already ventured abroad and

acquitted themselves very well. Examples of this are Judy Provoyeur, Molly Warr and Marian Pike who have all competed twice in the Women's Keelboat Championships in Newport, Rhode Island.

"We are encouraging more women to take part in the Wednesday evening fun races on Durban Bay and, looking further ahead, there is the Cape to Rio race in 1993 and we plan to have

at least one all-girl team."

Any women, irrespective of age or experience, interested in either skippering or crewing on a dinghy or keeler or requiring any information on sailing should contact Avril (848236) or Josie (3053624).

□ The PYC keeler prize-giving was staged over the weekend with the yachts Jabulani, Schatzi, Solar Wind, Point Blank, Seaboard Ceramica and AFI Fireglass Warrior taking most of the major trophies.

Among the many personalities honoured was John Rennie who received the Beneteau Trophy for outstanding services to keeler sailing.

PYC rear commodore (keelers) Dave Rushton said: "We have had an exceptionally successful season, the highlight of which was the Crystic Week.

"One aspect of sailing which brings the sport closer to spectators is match racing which has seen a great deal of interest this past season and which we will be developing considerably especially as it is now an Olympic sport.

"Looking ahead, 1992 is our centenary year and we have many special regattas, races and events planned."