

Sunday's gale ended regatta at Algoa Bay

Herald Yachting Correspondent

THE Thomair Centenary Cup Regatta began at Algoa Bay Yacht Club on Saturday. This event is traditionally a regatta for the serious racers and involves the use of standard Olympic courses.

The first race was sailed in an ideal 15-knot south-westerly, in sunny conditions on a flat sea, perfect for hectic "round the cans" racing.

In the nine-strong Class 1 fleet, Mirage won convincingly from Geneth and Arrow. Chinook did her cause no good by flying her spinnaker sideways up.

Class 2, consisting of seven boats, was a handicap affair and was won by Margaret Anne from Tikalox and Bellatrix. Sunday's gale put paid to further racing.

The regatta will continue

this weekend, starting at 2pm on Saturday.

Up the river at Zwartkops, ZYC Commodore Neville Schmelzer led a small fleet on a suicide mission down to D buoy, a dead run before the screaming westerly, against the deadly chop built up by the flowing tide.

Dave Rist's mast went by the board, sheering off at deck level, as an enormous blast struck his Laser, while Dave Oldham was towed home, shell-shocked, by the rescue boat.

What remained of the fleet somehow made it back

upriver to A buoy, before retiring to find refuge up against the mahogany reef.

ZYC will be holding a full racing weekend on December 17 and 18.

At Redhouse Yacht Club, a small Optimist somehow survived the gale, while the senior fleets decided that discretion was the better part of valour.

This weekend, the RYC will sail the traditional Island Races, starting at 3pm on Saturday.

In the evening, the club will celebrate its 90th anniversary.

1 December 1994
E.P. Herald.