

Yachting Log

by Keith Gerson

Clean sweep for Henley Midmar

HENLEY Midmar Yacht Club skippers scored a clean sweep in the Highveld Regatta for 505's held at Sterkfontein dam over the weekend.

Sailed in light fluky winds the local sailers proved their superiority in taking the first three places in a field of 10 yachts.

First were Dave and Peter Vinnicombe followed by Rob Hancock and Alan Franklin with Harry and Anton Ellens third.

At the same venue a fleet of 30 Fireballs were competing in the Tugela/Vaal regatta. Transvaal skippers dominated this event with Rob de Vlieg (Pretoria Sailing Club) first and Martin Lamprecht and Pat Mitchell second and third respectively.

Top local yacht was that of Rob Tarboton/Mark Hawksworth who came fifth with Tony Cockerill/Sam Walford 10th.

With the 505's and Fireballs away, last weekend was a quiet one at Midmar.

On Saturday HMYC Keelboat race number six attracted six entries. Sailed in a light easterly it was an exciting race with the leading hunters battling with a flying fifteen most of the way.

Eventually line honours went to Yestin Hundley and Vaughan Gerson who sailed an excellent race to finish ahead of Keith Gerson and Eric Naude. Unfortunately the flying fifteen of Rob Bell retired towards the end of the race.

The Stadt 23 of Derek Brown finished third with Fritz von Klemperer/Elspeth Gray fourth.

On Sunday, despite the congestion at Midmar for the Midmar Mile, a small fleet of 12 in the morning race and 14 in the

afternoon contested HMYC Summer Series races five and six. These events were for all classes competing together on handicap.

Competitors left on their set times, slower yachts being chased by the faster ones. The handicaps this season seem to have favoured the Miracles but in race five John and Liz Pilcher's Miracle just beat the scratch Fireball of Andrews/Dolloway by a few seconds.

Gareth Willington sailed his Laser very well coming third with another skippered by A. Broadhurst finishing fourth.

In the afternoon, the easterly freshened to 10 knots and with a long course set, a very interesting race developed.

The result hung in the balance up to the last few metres with John and Jonti Field (Miracle) finishing just three seconds ahead of the Pilcher's (Miracle). Kevin Knox-Davies (Laser) came third just in front of Yestin Huntley (Laser).

Schools sailing on Saturday took place in a pleasant easterly making for some close finishes.

Race D1

Laser: 1 D. Stainer (Michaelhouse); 2 R. Dingley (Hilton); 3 J. Guimerans (Hilton).

Dabchick: 1 R. Turner (Hilton); 2 B. Hatfield (Michaelhouse); 3 M. Blake (Michaelhouse).

Windsurfer: 1 M. Vise (College); 2 J. Kelmanson (Hilton); 3 T. Drewett (Hilton); 4 J. Walters (Hilton).

Race D2

Laser: 1 R. Dingley (Hilton); 2 A. Broadhurst (Hilton); 3 C. von Klemperer (Michaelhouse).

Dabchick: 1 R. Turner (Hilton); 2 B. Hatfield (Michaelhouse); 3 M. Blake (Michaelhouse).

Windsurfer: 1 M. Vise (College); 2 J. Kelmanson (Hilton); 3 J. Walters (Hilton); 4 T. Drewett (Hilton).

On Sunday HMYC are holding their class championship series D1 and D2 and Albert Falls Yacht Club will be away sailing the Dart Inter-Regionals at Sterkfontein.