

THE Lipton Cup challenge event finishes today with indications that the series will again become an annual event.

From this year's series have come two separate schools of thought on how to conduct any future Lipton Cup events — in level-rated quarter-tonners (as this year) or switch to one-designs.

Two of this year's entrants — Fuel Free of Durban and Royal Flush of Cape Town —

By Norman Sheriff

represent the present heights of development work in hull and sail design and are perhaps the most competitive yachts in the country.

However, each cost between R30 000 and R40 000 and could be obsolete within 18 months.

The one-design idea would appear to be the fairest way of running a competition such as this, with each yacht exactly the same as the

next, and only skipper and crew skill — with a little luck — making the difference.

But this idea encourages no development work, no new ideas in sails, hulls and rigging to be tried out — as with the America's Cup — to arrive at the ultimate racing yacht.

Whatever the organisers decide, Lipton Cup 1982 has certainly revived this prestige event in the racing calendar.