

# Yachting challenge is off to a great start

*Mercury 3/7/59*

AFTER the near windless conditions of the past week, and Saturday's drenching rain, the Crystic Ocean yachting challenge — the country's largest offshore keelboat regatta with 92 competitors — got off to a spectacular start at the Point Yacht Club in Durban yesterday.

The entire fleet lined up and sailed past a harbour tug where the port captain of Durban, Mike Coper took the salute.

From there, competitors proceeded to the starting area where the business of the week really began.

The race officer, Prof 'Wog' Hawksworth set an exceptionally good course in the steady 12-knot north-easterly wind.

So keen were some competitors to get going that both the L34 and L26 classes were ordered back under the general recall rule and both had to restart.

Racing in all classes was generally tight with final finishing positions in some classes very close.

In the L34 class, any one of three boats was in contention right up until the finish gun, with Vuarnet Roulette finally taking the honours ahead of AFI Warrior and Close Again.

In another closely fought race, Rick Nainkin, sailing the L26 SX Stainless Steel, led

from the start until halfway through, when he was overhauled by Durban yacht MMI Mazda, sailed by Graham Dibb out of Point Yacht Club.

## Results:

L34 Class: 1 Vuarnet Roulette (Derek Warne) Royal Natal Yacht Club; 2 AFI Warrior (Ernie Shaw) Point YC, Durban; 3 Close Again (Ian Park-Ross) Point YC.

L26 Class: 1 MMI Mazda (Graham Dibb) Point YC; 2 SX Stainless Steel (Zeekoeivlei YC, Cape Town); 3 Victoria B (Geoff Meek) Royal Cape YC.

J22 Class: 1 Voodoo (Ian Ainslie) Lake Deneys YC, Vaal Dam = 2 Mr Bojangles (Robbie van Rooyen) Transvaal; 3 Fun & Games (W Ramage) Deneysville Aquatic Club, Vaal Dam.

Hunter Class: 1 ET (Herbert Karolius) Deneysville Aquatic Club; 2 Dunaeng (J Ainslie) Seal Point YC, Vaal Dam; 3 Assagaai.

RCOD Class: 1 Foxy Lady (Derek Payne) SA Defence Force; 2 Little One (Harry Ellens) Royal Natal YC; 3 Sun Tonic (Rob Stevenson) Point YC.

Stadt 23 Class: 1 Seawave Inn (Peter French) Deneysville Aquatic Club; 2 Crusader (P Vaughan) Vaal Cruising Association; 3 Stadt van Oranje. — (Sapa)