

Small ones will show their pace

ONE aspect of the recent Wilbur Ellis da Gama race from Durban to East London which was again highlighted this year is the performance and seaworthiness of the Royal Cape One Design class of yacht.

This type of ocean racer, which will be in action in next week's Crystic Week regatta off Durban, is an ongoing success story. Originally designed in England as a light displacement racer, the design was imported to Cape Town where the first yacht, named Zee Zlang, was launched during the '60s.

The original yachts were constructed in wood but in 1980 three yachts — Sun Tonic, Reaction and Foxy Lady — were made from the new C-Flex material.

Recently, further development saw Durban's Venture Marine going into production with a complete glassfibre RCOY with a re-vamped interior.

To date, five yachts have been constructed in their Glen Anil factory — four for Durban and one for Cape Town.

The RCOY is a rela-

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SAILING

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tively small yacht, as ocean racers go, being slightly less than 30 feet long and carrying a crew of four.

Over the years however, the RCOY fleet has competed in every major regatta around the country, each time proving their hard and fast sailing qualities.

The yacht Sun Tonic holds the record for the fastest passage between Durban and Richards Bay in both directions.

Although several bigger yachts have attempted to break this record, Sun Tonic has retained it for the past five years.

Few yachts can retain the constant speed of an RCOY required in the heavy weather needed for this type of record attempt.

In this year's Da Gama race, the RCOY Cameron Simpson Plant — one of six yachts on this class competing in a fleet of 42 — was awarded the coveted Rubicon Trophy.

This trophy, named after the yacht which was lost with all hands during the disastrous

1984 race, is for merit and is not always awarded.

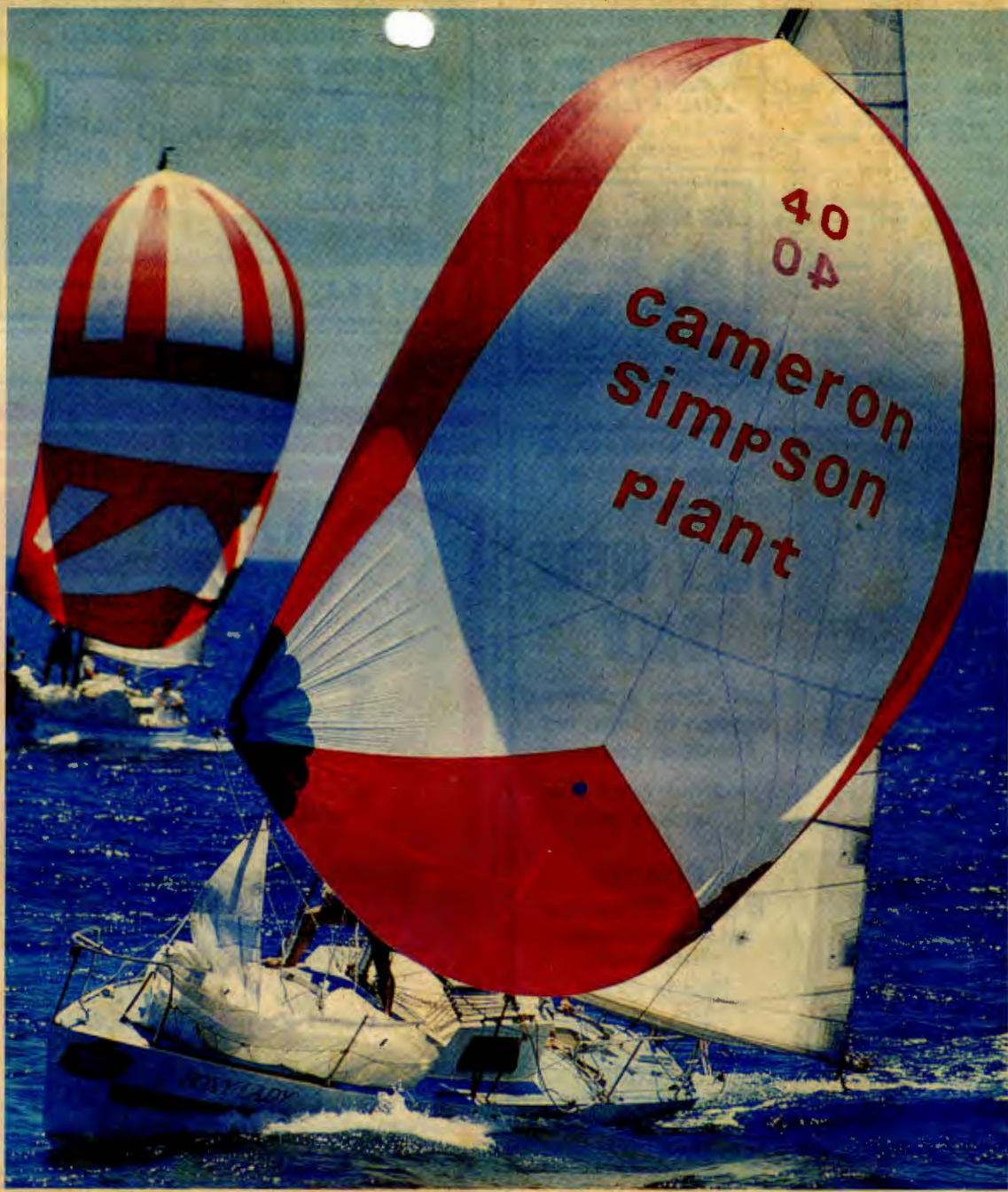
This year however, the race officials decided that Cameron Simpson Plant, under skipper Martin Payne and formerly named Foxy Lady, had put up such a gallant effort in the gruelling 240 nautical mile race, that she should be awarded the trophy.

She finished ninth overall on corrected time and had 28 other yachts behind her.

RCOYs have also gone international. Recently two former Durban yachts — Deriaba IV and Nomad — were spotted at anchor at St Maartin in the Caribbean.

Two Durban RCOYs — Sun Tonic and Reaction — have also completed the gruelling Crystic Beachcomber race from Mauritius to Durban.

For next week's big regatta, there will be an interesting battle between two old rivals — Durban's Jack Goldsmith in Prion II and Sheriff Saville from Cape Town at the helm of Ariel.



□ Cameron Simpson Plant sails off Durban under spinnaker and mains'l. The yacht, under the command of Martin Payne, won the Rubicon trophy in the recent Wilbur Ellis da Gama race