



Sweet win for Joko

Above: Joko II, the RCYC's defender in the Lipton Tea Challenge, SA's Grand Prix in yacht racing, bellies across the line to win the country's most sought-after sailing event.

Below: The jubilant Royal Cape winning crew (from left to right): Tich Mitchell, Peter du Toit, club commodore Joe Walden (holding cup), Gary Little, skipper Etienne van Cuyck, and Tony Gardner.

Pictures:
ALAN TAYLOR.

From CHRIS CAIRNCROSS

THE LIPTON TEA Challenge, SA's grand prix sailing extravaganza, was recaptured by the Royal Cape Yacht Club in a tactical dance choreographed by Etienne van Cuyck, skipper of Joko II.

Behind him, on points, came Zeekoevlei YC (SS Stainless Steel), Deneysville YC (Ronnie Bess Motors), Point YC (Neb-sport).

The results do not fairly reflect the intense tussle which took place in Table Bay this week, but they do indicate how necessary it is for crews to adapt to changing weather patterns.

The Cape contenders fared well in the consistent, strong winds on the first day, but trailed when variable conditions — very much the environment of up country "jockeys" — dictated the conditions.

The extent to which sponsorship has been forthcoming in this premier event — even at a late stage — is encouraging, and is bound to stimulate SA's yachting talent to greater endeavour.

Protests marked most of the events, even

though they were resolved in the end without too much acid; perhaps that is what is needed to keep future 'touch judges' on their toes!

Proud Lipton Cup holder Etienne van Cuyck confessed that the sponsorship issue played a big part in creating added tenseness to the event — but hardly sees that as a negative feature.

