Eastern Province Interschools

By Warren Schmelzer

THE EIGHTH annual Coca Cola inter schools regatta held at Redhouse on the Zwartkops River over the weekend of March 24th-25th attracted a large entry of Laser II's, Lasers, Dabchicks, Mirrors and Optimists from schools throughout the Eastern Cape and Border.

Organised by Rhona and Vaughn Clark of the Redhouse Yacht Club — with a lot of help from many other willing hands — the regatta proved an unqualified success and the ideal tonic for junior yachting in the Eastern Cape.

Yachtsmen were treated to a mild south-easterly wind which provided excellent sailing throughout the regatta.

The 16 Lasers produced the most exciting racing of all the classes, and in the six races there were five winners. Only Grant Hardman, of Lawson Brown High, clocked up two firsts in a fine display of river sailing that saw him emerge the overall winner. He was followed by Anthony Stephenson of Woodridge, Wayne Girdelstone of Pearson, Kurt Bulbring and Peter Rist of Grey.

These five skippers and John van Rensburg of Queens College, dominated the series and were in a class of their own with Hardman leading the way. The Grey High School team of Rist and Bulbring took the Laser Trophy with Queens second and Woodridge third.

In the Mirror Class, Derek and Wendy Aarts of Alexander Road and Redhouse Yacht Club completely dominated the series and won five of the six races against a fleet of 17 Mirrors. They left the last round to L. Galpin and S. Denny of Woodridge. Alexandria Orton and Ann Marie Ward of Collegiate, did well to come in third, but this did not prevent Woodridge from capturing the Mirror Trophy.

The Dabchicks, 28 in all, were headed by Stuart Farqueson and Christopher Carthew of Queens College. They won four out of the six races, having lost the fourth round because they rounded the buoy incorrectly, leaving Linda Giles and Helen Calitz of Collegiate to get the gun.

In the last round, Farqueson and Carthew allowed team mates French and Whitehouse to win. This enabled Queens to take the Dabchick Trophy with Kingswood second and Collegiate third.

Aldo and Silvio Scribante of the Redhouse Primary and Zwartkops Yacht Club must receive a mention. They more than held their own against older opponents and were always with the leaders.

The Optimist Class, which attracted an entry of 36 yachts was dominated by Grey Junior, in fact, they took the first five places. Andrew Ward won three races, Robert Snowball took the first round, Christian Orton the fourth round and Simon Ball won the last round.

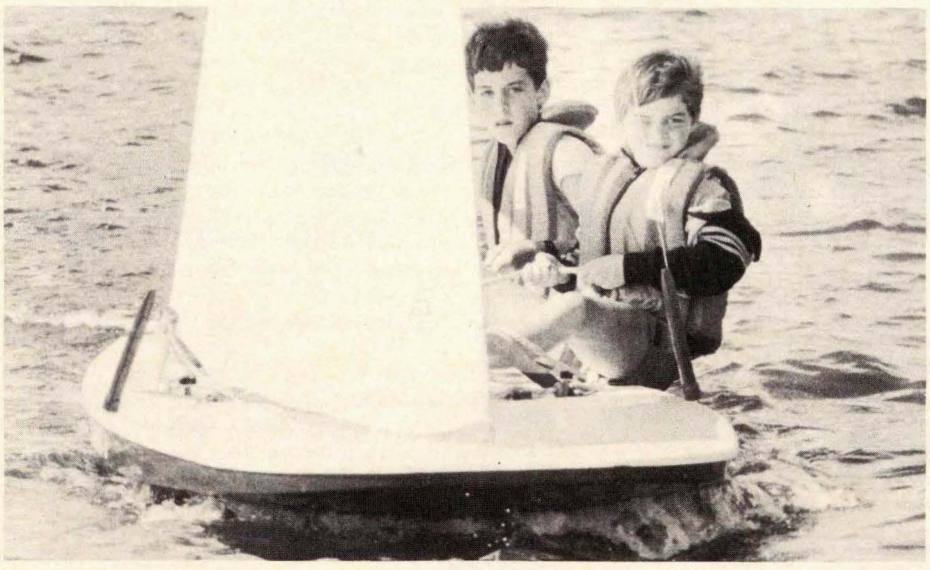
Michael Giles had bad luck in the first race. Over the line at the start, he went back to re-start, but still did not clear the line. He then proceded to fight his way through the fleet and eventually won the race comfortably but was disqualified.

Andrew Ward's three victories were enough to give him the title, followed by Snowball, Orton and Fehrsen.

Ian Gray won the High School Optimist trophy, while Grey Junior took the inter-Schools Junior trophy with first, second and third places.

Queens College just pipped Woodridge to the post for the coveted High School trophy, with Collegiate in third place.

Aldo and Silvo Seribante of Redhouse Primary were always up with the leaders in the 28 strong Dabchick Fleet.



ULTIMATELY IT IS THE HUMAN FACTOR

APPLICANTS TO form crew for the maxi yacht, *SA Challenge*, for the Cape to Uruguay Race, and ultimately the 1985/6 Whitbread Round-the-World Race, are now being sought.

Although fitted with computerised systems, all functions on board will be manual, which means that the quality of the *Challenge's* crew will play a significant role in determining her success.

The following qualities are essential:

Yachting Skill: A maxi yacht requires talented yachtsmen. A yacht of this size can turn into a lethal piece of equipment if incorrectly handled. For example — the load on the genoa car can be as much as 16 000 kg.

Personality: As the crew will have to work towards achieving the same objective as a team over a period of 20 months, compatability is essential. There will be times of triumph and times of stress and disappointment.

Availability: Not only must the applicant be available for the 10 months of the race, but there is the Uruguay Race and various other races in the USA and Europe during the 10 month preparation period.

Fitness and strnegth: With a maxi yacht everything is maxi size. If you can imagine a genoa which requires 12 people to carry it, 4-8 people to sheet it in and a mast of over 30 m, it becomes clear that the bigger and stronger the crew, the better the control of this racing machine. Crew members must not only be strong, but also have the necessary fitness to "go for it" for over 30 successive days for 24 hours a day.

Special Skills: The *SA Challenge* will have to survive without outside assistance for periods of 30 days or more, and each crew member will be responsible for a special area of the yacht. Skills include: port and starboard watch captains; meteorologist, navigation; tactics and logistics; radio operation; computers and electronics; sailmaking and repairs; rigging and chafe; winches and deck gear; engineer (diesel engines); electrician; nutrition, food and water (desalinator); medical; photography and film.

Interested persons may contact the project head office and request a crew application form. All forms must be returned for evaluation by June 15. Interviews will be arranged after July 15.

Application forms are available from: P.O. Box 2653, Cape Town 8000. Telephone 021-234270/1, Telex 57 24069.