

Inspecting the damage



Durban yacht hits rocks after capsized drama

Chris Kilshaw (left) and skipper Craig Millar examine the damage to their boat after it was washed on to rocks near the North Pier yesterday.

Picture by
ALAN COXON

By Nicola
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TWO Durban yachtsmen abandoned ship yesterday and dived into the sea at a spot where they had earlier seen a shark when their boat capsized and washed on to rocks near the North Pier.

Durban businessman Craig Millar and crew member Chris Kilshaw, a matric pupil at DHS, were racing their fireball 'Cloudbusting' in an

offshore regatta when the incident occurred.

'We attempted a manoeuvre, which didn't come off as our timing was wrong, so we capsized,' a dampened, but unharmed, Mr Millar said.

'The problem was that our spinnaker was out, so we couldn't right the boat as quickly as usual. Water leaked into our flotation tanks, which filled up.

'The waves were really big

and kept washing over the decks into the boat. We just couldn't bail-out the water, so attempted to steer back to the Yacht Club.

'However, we couldn't steer properly and began to drift on to the North Pier. We both dived out into the sea.

'Luckily the Point Yacht Club Rescue team were watching and they picked us up and took us back for our boat,' he added.

Mr Millar said they hadn't had time to feel frightened, but had seen a shark in the area earlier, and he had jokingly remarked that he hoped they wouldn't capsize.

He described his boat as 'a write-off', with the decks smashed, the mast broken and the sails badly torn.

He said damage amounted to about R12 000.

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