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COMMUNICATIONS

*Laptop
Linked
Via SSB*

BUDGET CRUISING

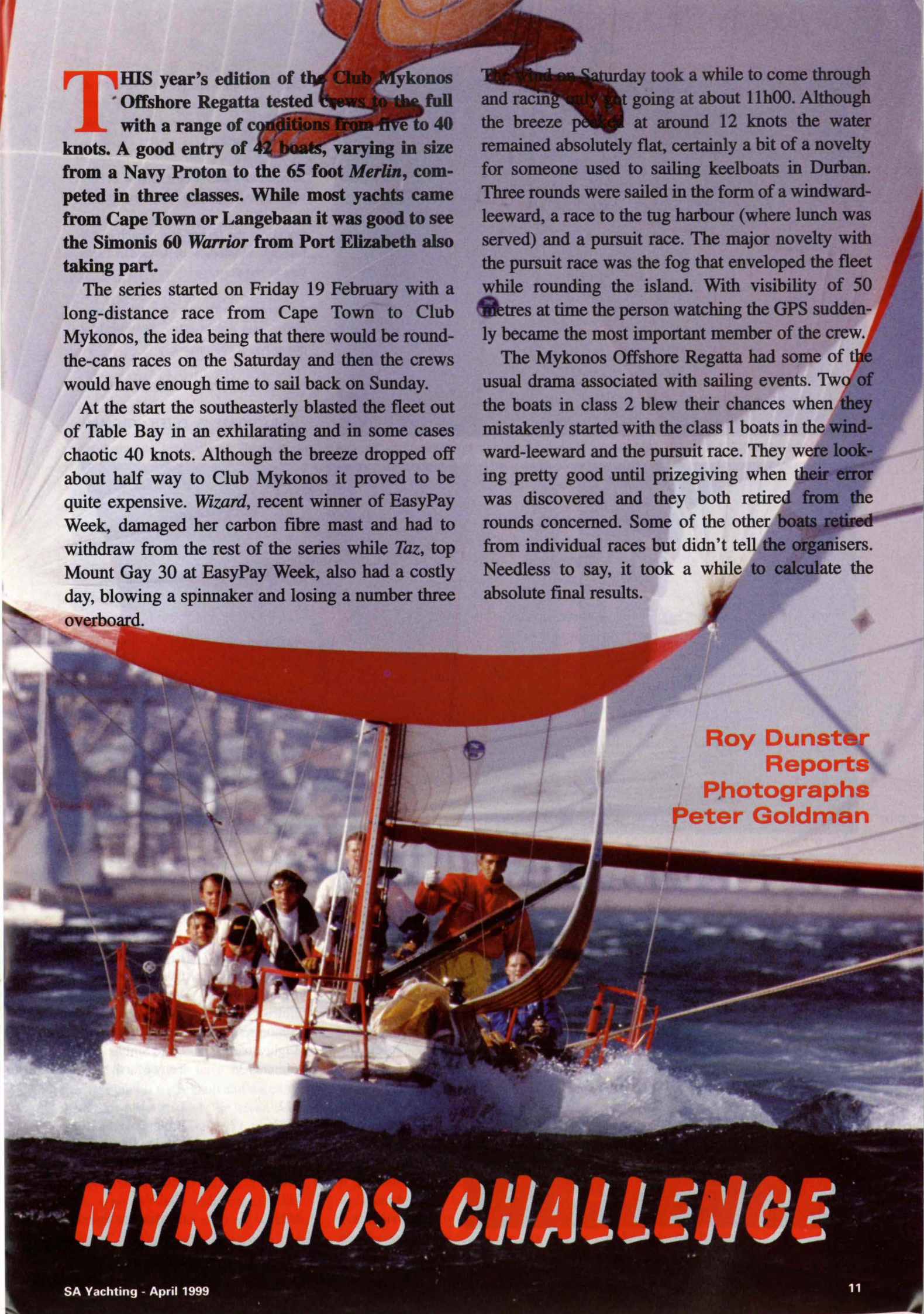
*Frugal but
Free to Sail*

DRAMA QUEEN

*Autissier Saved
Again*

- Tobago still unspoilt
- RCYC's Auckland Match
- Mykonos Challenge





THIS year's edition of the Club Mykonos Offshore Regatta tested crews to the full with a range of conditions from five to 40 knots. A good entry of 42 boats, varying in size from a Navy Proton to the 65 foot *Merlin*, competed in three classes. While most yachts came from Cape Town or Langebaan it was good to see the *Simonis 60 Warrior* from Port Elizabeth also taking part.

The series started on Friday 19 February with a long-distance race from Cape Town to Club Mykonos, the idea being that there would be round-the-cans races on the Saturday and then the crews would have enough time to sail back on Sunday.

At the start the southeasterly blasted the fleet out of Table Bay in an exhilarating and in some cases chaotic 40 knots. Although the breeze dropped off about half way to Club Mykonos it proved to be quite expensive. *Wizard*, recent winner of EasyPay Week, damaged her carbon fibre mast and had to withdraw from the rest of the series while *Taz*, top Mount Gay 30 at EasyPay Week, also had a costly day, blowing a spinnaker and losing a number three overboard.

The wind on Saturday took a while to come through and racing only got going at about 11h00. Although the breeze peaked at around 12 knots the water remained absolutely flat, certainly a bit of a novelty for someone used to sailing keelboats in Durban. Three rounds were sailed in the form of a windward-leeward, a race to the tug harbour (where lunch was served) and a pursuit race. The major novelty with the pursuit race was the fog that enveloped the fleet while rounding the island. With visibility of 50 metres at time the person watching the GPS suddenly became the most important member of the crew.

The Mykonos Offshore Regatta had some of the usual drama associated with sailing events. Two of the boats in class 2 blew their chances when they mistakenly started with the class 1 boats in the windward-leeward and the pursuit race. They were looking pretty good until prizegiving when their error was discovered and they both retired from the rounds concerned. Some of the other boats retired from individual races but didn't tell the organisers. Needless to say, it took a while to calculate the absolute final results.

**Roy Dunster
Reports
Photographs
Peter Goldman**

MYKONOS CHALLENGE



Clockwise from left: After a broach at the start *Warrior* battles with a damaged spinnaker while red-hulled *Merlin* surges ahead.

Ballyhoo II with Geoff Meek at the helm snapped up the IMS honours.

Warrior in the throes of a broach in the testing conditions experienced in Table Bay at the start.

By contrast with the start the lagoon racing was a mild affair. *Nina* leads a group flying spinnakers.

Previous page: Mount Gay 30 *Taz*.

PHOTOGRAPHS: PETER GOLDMAN



Class 1

1st	<i>Warrior</i>	Simonis 60	Gutsche/Nankin
2nd	<i>Ballyhoo II</i>	Mumm 36	Rick Garratt
3rd	<i>Merlin</i>	Simonis 65	Craig Middleton

IMS

1st	<i>Ballyhoo II</i>	Mumm 36	Rick Garratt
2nd	<i>Warrior</i>	Simonis 60	Gutsche/Nankin
3rd	<i>Taz</i>	Mount Gay 30	Mark Sadler

Class 2

1st	<i>Megafreight</i>	Simonis 35	Jendo Ocenasek
2nd	<i>Touch 'n Go</i>	Lightwave 395	Dave Smith
3rd	<i>Scatterling</i>	Simonis 35	Tony Marsh

Class 3

1st	<i>After Dark</i>	J22	Lance Burger
2nd	<i>Morning Wings</i>	H23	Brian Cole
3rd	<i>Smidgen</i>	H23	Gordon Fitzsimon

H23

1st	<i>Morning Wings</i>	H23	Brian Cole
2nd	<i>Annie</i>	H23	Paul Van
3rd	<i>Smidgen</i>	H23	Gordon Fitzsimon