

REGATTA OF CHAMPIONS

Hout Bay Yacht Club's 2019 Admiral's Regatta, now in its 29th year, was held in picturesque Hout Bay, Cape Town, and played host to the inaugural 2019 South African ORC National Championships.

By Kirsten Veenstra and Luke Scott

The story behind the name of the regatta is a rather interesting one. Hout Bay's Round Table decided on a major fundraiser in 1986. The idea behind it was to proclaim Hout Bay a 'republic'. It was a daring endeavour but promised multiple media exposure. So, the 'Republic of Hout Bay' was unilaterally declared and a 'President' elected. Minister portfolios were up for sale as the main source for the fundraiser and a well-known businessman in Hout Bay, with his ownership of a genuine minesweeper purchased from the navy, became the 'Minister of Defence'. Thereafter, he became known as the 'Admiral'. In 1991 the Admiral agreed to sponsor a regatta to be sailed over a long weekend in the waters of the South Atlantic off Hout Bay. There was also clearly a little jibe here at the Royal Ocean Racing Club's (RORC) Admiral's Cup. This was the start of

the annual Admiral's Regatta in Cape Town, which has been sailed ever since during March or April and has become one of South Africa's premier offshore keelboat sailing events.

Running the regatta for the third year in a row was regatta director Peter Roeloffze and his committee. Luke Scott, chairman of ORC South Africa, also played a valuable part in the planning and organisation of the regatta. Sister companies Literally Tax Consulting (LTC) and Phoenix Business Consulting were the title sponsors for the third year in a row, with a five-year commitment to the event.

The LTC Phoenix Admiral's Regatta boasts four main sailing classes, three

bridges, one race director, four race officers, seven mark-laying boats and more than 50 staff and volunteers. The racing was overseen by race director Doug Alison, with race officers Rob Willcox, assisted by John Wright (ORC and offshore fleets), Mary-Ann Sharwood (dinghies) and Tom Ambrose (small inshore keelboats).

Day 1

Day 1 of the regatta, Friday 12 April, had racing scheduled for the offshore keelboats only and featured very light winds with lingering fog. Although the race committee and the entire fleet were out on the water and ready to roll, ultimately there was no racing to count, for lack of wind. Instead, Doug and





Rob decided to make the most of the afternoon out on the water by introducing a fun race back to the marina in Hout Bay Harbour, with the first boat in winning a magnum of Hout Bay Vineyards' Petrus, generously donated by Peter. In the ORC fleet, the aptly named J/11 *Tenacity* was the only boat to stick out the race, and finished before 6pm. The winner in the Medium Distance Class was the yacht *Corum*.

After racing, there was a warm convivial atmosphere in the cosy Hout Bay Yacht Club (HBYC), with a delicious complimentary meal served to all competitors. HBYC Commodore Paul Tomes welcomed all competitors.



Day 2

Day 2 of the regatta dawned with the potential for fantastic weather and a consistent and favourable mid-teen breeze. As the fleet cast off their moorings and headed out beyond the dramatic mountainous amphitheatre that surrounds Hout Bay, the prediction appeared to be coming true: a light breeze from the south, building to the early mid-teens by 10am, and staying there until mid- to late afternoon. Alas, it was not to be. There was some light rain about and a short period 1.5-2m swell made for a bumpy ride for the offshore keelboats. The wind did build initially but faded during Race 1 for the offshore classes.

The ORC National Championships saw two races sailed in tricky conditions and the medium-distance offshore sailing class enjoyed one long and challenging race.

On the dinghy course in the bay, the competitors enjoyed four races. And on the inshore keelboat course, the 13 competitors completed four races.

The wonderful touch after racing was complimentary Urban Brewing Co. craft beer, served to the competitors on the dock as they came in after racing. This was followed by prego rolls and a social evening at the club.

Day 3

Day 3 dawned rainy and windless, and some wind forecasts looked rather dire, but the



SAIL ADMIRAL'S REGATTA



wind came up at around 10am and laid on the best racing of the regatta.

The ORC National Championships enjoyed three races, with a nail-biting last race to determine the national champion.

The medium-distance offshore fleet also managed three races, the last being the traditional John Coles sprint race from the finish line of the last race to the harbour wall. The ORC boats had the option to enter this as an additional race (not part of the National Championships) with everyone being scored together on the RDD rating system.

On the dinghy course, the dinghies enjoyed three races in a decent breeze, and the inshore keelboats enjoyed four races in the bay.

Hollard Jacana, skippered by Patrick Holloway, ended up taking the title of South African ORC National Champions, *CuAl6(PO4)4(OH)8.4H2O*, skippered by Lance Burger, took silver and *Hot Ice*, skippered by Peter, bronze.



Kudos goes to Peter and his organising committee for a fantastically organised event. The LTC Phoenix Admiral's Regatta will certainly grow further in the years to come. The Admiral's Regatta is already one of the major multi-club keelboat regattas on the Cape Town sailing calendar and there is certainly big scope for it to become one of the very few major offshore dinghy regattas as well.

The 2020 LTC Phoenix Admiral's Regatta is scheduled for 13-15 March 2020 at HBYC.

For more information, visit admiralsregatta.co.za. To join the mailing list for information on next year's regatta, or for any questions, please mail info@admiralsregatta.co.za.

S+L



RESULTS

Dinghy

- First: Owen Middleton – Extra (Imperial Yacht Club)
- Second: Ian MacRobert – Extra (Vogelvlei Yacht Club)
- Third: Ross MacKinnon – 420 (Zeekoevlei Yacht Club)

Inshore keelboats

- First: *Vuma* skippered by Theo Yon (HBYC)
- Second: *Bad News* skippered by Richard Evans (HBYC)
- Third: *Ddu* skippered by Emil Feuillette and Adam Paisley (HBYC)

Medium-distance sailing class

- First: *Corum* skippered by Craig Middleton (Royal Cape Yacht Club)
- Second: *Lapwing* skippered by Alan Keen (Zeekoevlei Yacht Club)
- Third: *Moonraker* skippered by Max Ozinsky (Royal Cape Yacht Club)

South African ORC National Championships

- First: *Hollard Jacana* skippered by Patrick Holloway (Royal Cape Yacht Club)
- Second: *CuAl6(PO4)4(OH)8.4H2O* skippered by Lance Burger (Zeekoevlei Yacht Club)
- Third: *Hot Ice* skippered by Peter Roeloffze (HBYC)

John Coles Sprint trophy

- Scarlett Sun* skippered by Ian Lomberg (Royal Cape Yacht Club)

Club team prize

- Royal Cape Yacht Club