



**EASTERN
CAPE**

Regional News



Sailing PE
20 Maitland Street
Millard Grange
Port Elizabeth



With the world in chaos and uncertainty over travel and future restrictions, the Vasco da Gama race for 2021 faced numerous challenges to get off the ground. At SailingPE we would have dearly loved to host the finish. With the uncertainty around and venue issues we were not able to commit as hosts which we were, and still are, disappointed to concede.

However, it remained the correct decision for this edition of the race and have no regrets. SailingPE were still represented with two boats competing and the 50th Vasco challenge was on.

On arrival at Point Yacht club all competitors were made welcome, and following registration the fun in port race was enjoyed by all.

The conditions led to a tricky decision being made in postponing the start. Another correct decision made to ensure the safety of all competitors. The early Monday morning start meant the boys had a good competitive race to the safe water mark before making the turn and racing down the start line. The middle of the fleet all seemed to converge on the mark together making for great racing. Nemesis also tried to live stream the start of the race for spectators to view the action from onboard. Unfortunately the early start meant the video was largely shot in the dark. This is definitely a tool we will be making use of for future races of this nature.

Strong breeze meant a long beat down the coast as competitors had to choose between going out to sea or awaiting the north-east forecasted land breeze. The 25th race between Durban and East London did not disappoint in terms of tactical decisions and a technical sailing challenge. The last few miles in almost zero breeze and tidal changes were

arguably the most frustrating, but the beer and braai hosted by Buffalo River more than made up for the required endurance to cross the line.

We firstly would like to congratulate Point Yacht Club and Buffalo River on co-hosting this event and we eagerly anticipate any announcement of the next edition as promised by Buffalo River Yacht Club's Facebook page. Phezulu sailed a great race and deservedly took all the honours at prize giving, well done to Phezulu and her crew.

As competitors started returning to Durban, news quickly spread of a problem on Majimoto. We commend the skipper and crew for their efforts, as well as the crew of NSRI station 7 for providing their assistance. It cannot be highlighted enough the voluntary and dedicated services of Sea Rescue along the South African coastline.

There must also be a special commendation to the crew of the Spirit of Anna Wardley. The skipper and crew from Sail Africa had a great start to the race and were ahead of some much faster boats at the turning mark. They went on to finish what is arguably the toughest coastal race in the Southern Hemisphere. We hope to see you all next year again.

Commodore: Mark Dawson; **Vice Commodore:** Tony Bailes;
Secretary: Rodney Idris; **Treasurer:** John Tudehope