

REFLECTIONS OF A BACK MARKER

hand, especially imported for the series to offset the geriatric tendencies of the rest of us, successfully recovers the kite, while we watch another J24 BAD HABITS test the water temperature for the second time with his spreader tip. Despite this, he has gained over 800 yards.

HIGH JUMP 1st, STUNNED MULLET 2nd, DESPERADO 3rd.

Race 5, a ninety miler around the gulf. We start off in high spirits, plenty of food, hot drink and other goodies to see the night out. Our tactician is safely on dry land and we think that alone should be worth several places.

We make the first mark, Long Spit, some 23 miles in just over 2 hours on a shy reach. We beat the 13 miles to the next mark, the Orontes, and we begin to worry, our strategy calls for us to anchor off the Orontes as the fleet sails the obligatory second time to Long Spit and back to the Orontes, but there is still too much daylight and we have to press on.

STUNNED MULLET (Sonata 8) passes us; they seem to revel in the heavier weather, but the boat is sailed well and they finish 3rd overall. TIME MACHINE drops his stick behind us. Metal fatigue? It costs them dearly as the race counts for double points, and until then they are looking good for a place, or possibly a win overall. Darkness falls as we close Long Spit for the second time, it begins to get cold - January but it must be 10°C. So much for average temperature 27°C and steady winds of 15-18 knots - We finally make the Orontes and head for home.

It is 1 am and definitely colder 6°C. I go below to change, and find my sailbag open and my clothes floating in 2" of water. The remains of the chocolate have found their way in a sticky trail to the cabin sole; the Kentucky Fried is looking very strange, the coffee is finished and it is still drizzling. 3.30 am we all agree we will never ever ever do another overnight

REFLECTIONS OF A BACK MARKER

race in such a small boat (until the next time).
DESPERADO 1st, STUNNED MULLET 2nd, HIGH JUMP 3rd.

Wednesday, 12th January 83, sometime after the prize giving.....I make a mental note to move my large empty trophy case to the back of the garage. I resolve to buy a new boat for 1984 Championship which in honor of my ex crew, I will name YOU SHOULD HAVE, or WHY DON'T YOU, and with my new all girl crew in the unlikely event we don't win, I will at least be surrounded by boobs boobs boobs instead of booze booze booze.....

Reprinted with the kind permission of the Editor of the JOG of SA Newsletter.

WANTED TO SELL

ACHERNAR. Classic 48 ft Alden ketch. Hull - N Z Kauri, Deck - Teak. New 6 cyl Volvo motor '82. Incl fridge, deep freeze, rubber dinghy, echo sounder, ocean clock. A very comfortable, seaworthy, cruising yacht.

Contact: Gernot Balzer, 388 2269.

GISELLE. 28'6" Serendipity. 8 years old, 8 sails, 27 meg radio, 8 hp Yanmar.

Contact: R Jay, 272 5000, or 271 5953 (A/H).

ONE AND ALL (formerly SAYALA). Beautiful 30' double ender, raised topsides. Ideal cruiser for 4 people. Inventory includes 2 mainsails, 2 staysails, 2 yankees, working jib, drifter and trisail. Near new Yanmar 15 hp diesel. Also 27 meg radio, electronic sumlog, wind speed gauge, echo sounder, L P gas oven and 2 burners, plus much more. Survey detail available. \$25,000.

Call Mike Dyer, 248 1968, or 248 4873 (A/H).