



Light winds ruin record chances

THE new 17.3-metre catamaran Sundreamer and the veteran ocean-racing keeler Anticipation set the fastest times in their divisions in the first Easter Auckland-to-Tauranga race, which ended yesterday.

Sundreamer, designed, built and sailed by Auckland artist David Barker, completed the course in about 18 hours. Light winds ruined her chances of taking the course record.

The late Noel Angus set the record in 1970 when the old Christmas Auckland-Tauranga race was revived for one year.

Anticipation, a 15.2-metre Ben Lexan design campaigned successfully by Don St Clair Brown during the last decade, scrapped in by one minute from Urban Cowboy in the keeler event.

Removed

Urban Cowboy, a 12.1-metre Murray Ross design sailed by Jack Balemi, broke her top spreader in the dark just short of the Channel Islands.

The captain of the Tauranga Yacht and Power Boat Club, Mr D. J. Peet, said the spreader was on the lee side.

The crew was able to get up the mast, remove the spreader and rig a jockey pole to give the extra leverage to hold the mast up.

The spreader was repaired by dawn yesterday and replaced.

But for the delays in fixing the spreader, Urban Cowboy would have been the first keeler home.

Late in the race a crew member in the Auckland entrant Jenesta became ill. He was taken off near Karewa Island and brought back to Mount Maunganui, where an ambulance was waiting.

He is understood to have recovered.

The race started at 6 p.m. on Thursday and the multihull division followed 10 minutes later.

By North Head, Sundreamer had taken the lead and was pulling away from the fleet.

Enough

Yesterday morning she was sailing close along the Matakana Island foreshore with the 12.1-metre Auckland trimaran Krisis (Duncan Stuart) further out to sea.

Krisis in stronger winds was catching up, but Sundreamer had enough in hand to finish 74 minutes clear.

Mokihi, a 10.9-metre trimaran (Max Purrell), finished a minute after Krisis.

The race fleet was on the wind to the Channel Islands,

rounding about midnight. From there on the fleet sailed downwind.

By Slipper Island the wind had dropped and many of the leading yachts were bunched up.

By the finish the wind was freshening and the sea was so rough that the finish boat, De La Mer, could not stay anchored. It used its motor to stay in position.

The first three keelers home were all Auckland boats — Anticipation, Urban Cowboy and Borderline (David Wade).

The surprise fourth finisher was one of the shortest yachts in the race, the Ross 930, Shockproof, sailed by Wayne Eaton, from Tauranga.

Scare

Then came the Warkworth boat Domino II (Geoff Roper) and the Bill Mitchinson-designed, built and sailed 12.1 metre Berenice, from Tauranga.

Handicap positions were not available this morning.

Mr Peet said the only scare in the race came when the Tauranga trimaran Blaydon Racer (Nick Wilson) failed to report in.

It was later found she had broken a strut in the main beam, returned to Auckland to have it welded up and

then continued the race.

The club and the sponsor, Malcolm Fowler Motors, were both delighted with the response.

Another race would be held but at this stage it was not known whether it would be next year or in two years.

Originally it was planned to alternate the race with the Tauranga-to-Port Vila race, which is held every two years.

Leading finishing times yesterday were:—

Multihulls: Sundreamer 12.07 p.m., Krisis 1.21 p.m., Mokihi 1.22 p.m., Tigress 1.44 p.m.

Keelers: Anticipation 2.03 p.m., Urban Cowboy 2.04 p.m., Borderline 2.14 p.m., Shockproof 2.16 p.m., Domino 2.26 p.m., Berenice 2.27 p.m.

New yacht sails to race victory

DAVID BARKER'S catamaran Sundreamer setting fastest time in the race. The crew, with Barker centre front, are (from left) Gary Baigent, Graham Minhinnick, Chris Barker (navigator), Fiona Kay and Richard Pilkington.

