

**SPORT**

Rough seas forced abandonment of El Tico event to St Ouen's Bay

# Stower takes Cat Dash honours

**■ HOBIE CAT FLEET**

IT was all change for the Hobie fleet's El Tico Cat Dash to St Ouen's Bay last weekend.

Organised by the Royal Channel Islands Yacht Club, the race started from St Aubin's Bay on the Saturday morning, but the 14 boats encountered large swells after rounding Noirmont point on the way to Corbiere. With the sea state of Corbiere even more severe the race was abandoned on safety grounds.

With light winds forecast for Sunday the race was re-routed to two half-distance races in and out of St Aubin's Bay, though mild conditions forced race two to be shortened.

**Beach**

In race one the Hobie 16s were first to set off from the beach start, in a light southerly wind, with Adrian Jesson and Steve Troy taking a flying lead on starboard tack, towards Elizabeth Cas-

tle, followed by Darren Stower and Darren de Louche. Gordon Burgis and Kenny Snell were next, just ahead of the chasing pack. Some boats had tacked over to port and leading this group were the El Tico team of Ben Rogers and David Howell.

**Decision**

Stower and de Louche made a good decision and were the first of the starboard boats to tack for the mark off Noirmont, giving them a clear advantage, which they held for the rest of the race to place first. Jesson and Troy maintained their position for second place, with Burgis and Snell third. Rogers and Howell sailed well to place fourth, after losing their tiller on the latter part of the course.

In race two Jesson and Troy again enjoyed an excellent start, but were overtaken by Stower, fresh from highly competitive racing in the F18



The Hobies hit the water after a beach start (01011134)

**Pictures by David Ferguson**

Worlds held in France the week before, registering his second win of the day. Burgis and Snell managed to get their noses in front of third-

placed Jesson and Troy to come second.

In the Hobie Tiger and Wildcat class, Andy Hart and Michael Kinross dominated

the racing, with tactical decisions giving them the edge and top spot in both races, staying ahead of the speedy Wildcat of second placed Stephen and Peter Longstaffe. Jim Fullerton, sailing with Mick Doleman, came third.

Peter and Kate Scriven flew their hull the highest on Saturday, to win the Hull Flying prize. The Longstaffes christened their new Hobie Wildcat with the most spectacular Wipe Out prize ... a home gardening kit.

**Prizegiving**

The prizegiving took place outside in the evening, in front of a setting sun at El

Tico Beach Cantina, where thanks were given to the guard boat crews for their excellent cover, to beach officer Barry Jenkins and his team and to Andrew and Abbie Hosegood of El Tico for sponsoring the event.

**RESULTS:**

First six Hobie 16s - 1, Darren Stower & Darren de Louche; = 2, Gordon Burgis & Kenny Snell / Adrian Jesson & Steve Troy; 4, Ben Rogers & David Howell; =5, Luc Richard & Louis Sangar / Jermy Smith & Kleber Chapon.

Hobie Tigers/Wildcat: 1, Andy Hart & Michael Kinross; 2, Stephen Longstaffe & Peter Longstaffe; 3, Jim Fullerton & Mick Doleman.



Hull flying winners Peter and Kate Scriven in action (01011079)



Gordon Burgis, centre right, gives information to the crews before the start of racing (01011079)



The Hobie Fleet line up in St Aubin's Bay (01011135)