

Oldest skipper is due in today

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Chief Reporter

THE oldest skipper in the BOC solo round-the-world race, Harry Mitchell, is expected in Table Bay early this morning.

The 62-year-old Portsmouth mechanic will then be the 19th first-leg finisher, in his aluminium sloop Double Cross.

Of the 25 starters from Newport, USA, on August 30, only 21 are still in the race. The two outstanding boats are the Australian yacht ACI Crusader, skippered by John Biddlecombe, and Neptune's Express, skippered by New Zealander Dick McBride.

A race spokesman said yesterday it had been agreed that the rules be relaxed to allow these two boats to continue the race, although they are not expected in Cape Town till well after the restart on November 15.

● Air Force, an American BOC boat skippered by Dick Cross, sank near Bermuda in September. Another American entry, Quailo (Mac Smith), retired officially yesterday at Rio de Janeiro after being rolled twice in a gale. Brazilian Eduardo de Almeida in Miss Global and Takao Shimada of Japan in Madonna are also expected to drop out of the race.

5/11/86

CARE TIMES