

# Rothmans Week newcomers may find the going tough

AT first glance, a total of 59 seems to be a disappointing entry for the annual Rothmans Week, but a closer inspection of this year's fleet reveals some high-quality yachts in a contest which may be the most competitive in many years.

All indications are that the star of the show, the newly launched R1.6-million Fast-40 Orion Express will indeed be at the starting line on Monday. She will be co-skippered by Bruce Savage and Howard Edwards, who are determined to drive the state-of-the-art yacht to a maiden-race triumph.

The only other new yacht in the race is the Farr-40 Unibank, with famed Lipton Cup-winning skipper Chris King at the helm and his ever-present partner in sailing, Rick Nankin, who will call the tactics.

But, the pack, led by eight-time winning skipper Geoff Meek and his crack crew on the J-33 MSC Donna Mia, former Yachtsman of the Year Greg Davis on the Lavranos-30 Playboy, the young UCT turks on the Judel and Vroulik half-tonner Three Spears, Rob Meek on the L-34 Suburban Hardware and Greg Prescott on the Lavranos-30 Kenning Car Hire will be out to spoil the party for the two new yachts.

Pre-race jibes were flowing thick and fast this week. MSC Donna Mia's crew was in an exuberant mood, and Meek quipped about Unibank: "How can they be rivals if they aren't equals?" Bowman Anthony Spillebean took his cue with "Uniwho"?

Davis is supremely confident and has predicted a repeat of the epic David-and-Goliath contest of 1990 when he slammed the door on Meek in the very last race to triumph, but the difference this time around is that all the hot entries are in the 30- to 40-foot range. Dirty air could play a major role in the outcome, with Orion Express and Unibank least likely to be affected by the bunch.

For sheer elbow grease, the UCT team, led by Stephen Golliker, has put in the most effort. After nearly failing their examinations and losing their girlfriends during 2½ months of preparing Three Spears for the regatta, the keys are keen to effect a changing of the guard with victory by a crew with an average age of 23.

The Simonis-56 Wizard Sunday Times is almost certain to be the scratchboat, but grumblings are emanating from skipper

Jan Reuvers about her 1993 rating, which has evoked little sympathy from rivals quick to point out that last year, when Wizard came second, she was accorded about 20 seconds per mile more than she should have been given.

The 150-mile long-distance trip from Table Bay to Saldanha and back will be a race within a race with valuable points up for grabs in the offshore series, which is currently being led by Craig Sutherland on the Simonis-35 Ballyhoo.

In second place is Scatterling (Alan Geeling). The South African Navy's 60-footer Voortrekker II is in third place and has only entered the long-distance race next week to score point for the series.

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FORMER South African captain George Mayou reached the one goal which had eluded him thus far during his surfing career when he won the Open division at the Just Juice Western Province championships.

In small cross-shore surf, the former professional turned in a top-class performance to get the better of 1992 South African team member Warren Kushner, professional Cass Collier and the WP Surfer of the Year, Glen Drysdale.

Prior to his triumph, Mayou had reached the final on four consecutive

occasions only to be beaten to the title. In his victory speech, he thanked rival Adrian Fields for bowing out in the semifinals.

Melkbosstrand's Michael Moore clinched the junior title for the third year in a row. Andre Mory was a late entry, but still triumphed in the masters division, with Howard Gold taking the grand masters crown and the trophy for the Sportsman of the Year. John Grendon took the veterans title.

The u-16 division was won by Daniel Beatty, the u-14 section by Dylan Olivier and the u-12 title by Rodney Somogyvari.

Down to the grommets it was Thomas Kleynhans who dominated the u-10 final. Kerry Espey kept surfing trophies in the family with her win in the u-15 girls' section and Justin Polley took the women's title.

National champion Tich Paul had little problem in taking the longboard title.

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OVER half the boardsailors at the Continental speed trials at Milnerton Aquatic Club at the weekend managed to eclipse the speed of a fierce 25-knot south-easter as Cameron Bruce continued his comeback in fine style.

After a lay-off of almost three years, Bruce was fastest over the 300-metre course with a

speed of 31.80 knots, with Matthew Swart 0.12 knots off the pace in second spot and Pierre du Plessis's 30.26 knots clinching third place.

The fastest woman on the afternoon was Hannelie Spalding (23.84 knots), followed by Penny Thesen (20.04) and Lisa Kriedemann (19.57).

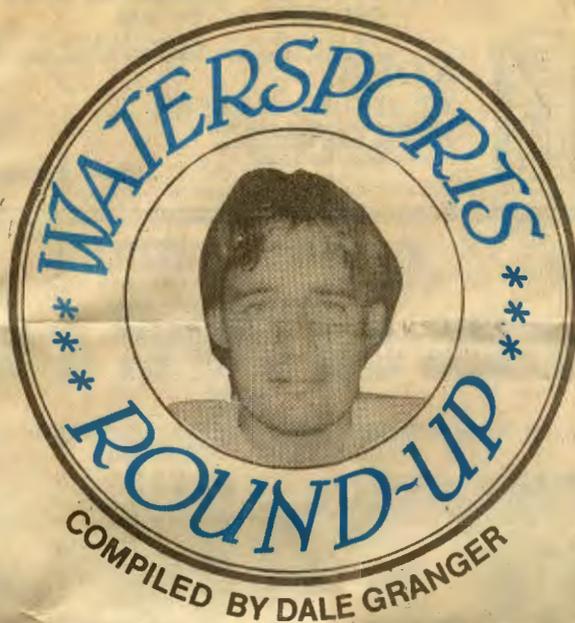
Grant Bovim's new South African record of 39.85 knots was never seriously challenged, let alone Frenchman Thierry Bielak's world record of 46 knots. But for most of the fleet using standard boards and production sails, it was a case of celebrating achieving a personal best.

This Saturday, the Strand Boardsailing Club will be hosting a slalom event. For details, would-be competitors may phone 72-9516 after 9 am on Saturday.

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SIX South African Formula One powerboat pilots will be racing in the final leg of the 1993 world championship series in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates next Friday. This is the largest number of locals ever to race abroad.

The pilots are Peter Lindenberg, Renier Engelbrecht, Terry Moore and Fred Repsold, Kevin Smith and Mark Shephard. Smith and Shephard will take part as an invitational side.

Italy's newly crowned world champion, Guido



Cappellini, will be in action at the championship race, which is a major event in the UAE capital. A fireworks-and-laser show, music supplied by top pop groups and camel rides will all be part of the festivities.

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IN conditions that were not ideal, Springbok waterskier Brett Nieuwstadt proved that he is over his recent back injury with some sound performances in the second B Class event at the Milnerton Aquatic Club at the weekend.

He won the slalom, tricks and ramp events to finish a comfortable winner in the overall results. His performances in the slalom event, five buoys on a 13-metre rope, was particularly noteworthy for so early

in the season.  
Billy Rossouw finished second overall, with Natal skier Dino Scribante in third place.

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The results  
Slalom: Dolphin: 1 Hugh Lloyd and Julian du Preez. Junior boys: 1 Brett Nichols, 2 Kevin Carmichael, 3 D Bruce. Men's Open: 1 Brett Nieuwstadt, 2 Billy Rossouw, 3 Bryan Lloyd. Men's II: 1 Howard Ramsden, 2 Mike Schwan. Junior girls: 1 Tamara Scribante. Senior women: 1 Val Hewitt.

Tricks: Dolphin: 1 Hugh Lloyd, 2 Julian du Preez. Junior boys: 1 Kevin Carmichael, 2 D Bruce, 3 Brett Nichols. Men's Open: 1 Brett Nieuwstadt, 2 Dino Scribante, 3 Billy Rossouw. Junior girls: 1 Tamara Scribante.

Ramp: Dolphin: 1 Julian du Preez, 2 Hugh Lloyd. Junior boys: 1 Kevin Carmichael, 2 Brett Nichols, 3 D Bruce. Men's Open: 1 Brett Nieuwstadt, 2 Dino Scribante, 3 Bryan Lloyd. Junior girls: 1 Tamara Scribante.  
Overall: Dolphin: Hugh Lloyd. Junior boys: Kevin Carmichael. Men's Open: Brett Nieuwstadt. Junior girls: Tamara Scribante.

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A TOTAL of 100 divers turned up at the Antipolis at Oudekraal on Saturday to take part in the treasure dive run by the Atlantic Underwater Club and Old Mutual Sub Aqua Club.

Conditions were perfect, with the high wind keeping the sea absolutely dead flat and making visibility a diver's wish come true. The number and quality of prizes were amazing: from diving holiday packages to wet suits, fins and masks. All prizes not won were put into a lucky draw, much to everybody's delight.

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INTERCLUB underwater hockey this year has seen a slight change in positions, with the usually strong Normálair team forced into second place and a French team in third place.

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The standings  
Men's A League: 1 Manta Bay, 2 Normálair, 3 French team, 4 Momar A, 5 Potchefstroom, 6 Pretoria University, 7 Manta B, 8 Momar B, 9 Atlantic Underwater Club.

Women's A League: 1 Manta, 2 Proteus A, 3 Normálair, 4 False Bay.

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South African teams  
(for tournament in France in 1994)  
Women: Elise Viviers (capt), Lindi Benic, Jacky Tosh, Robin Andersen, Cathy Carlitz, Lyn Spiby, Cheryl Walker. Coach: Jimmy Herbert.

Men: Dave Chapman, Colin Walker, Mike Saunders. Coach: Albert du Toit.

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Date to remember  
Sunday: Dive-In (Long Beach, Simon's Town — next to the station). Come try scuba diving in an SA Navy dive tank on the beach. Entry fee: R5.00 per dive. Starting time: 9.30 am. Further information: Alex Papayanni at tel 932-8457 (office) or tel 72-2778 (home).



**OLD FAITHFUL . . .** Greg Davis, the 1991 Yachtsman of the Year, has signed a sponsorship deal with Playboy magazine and is back on his old faithful, the 15-year-old Lavranos-30 Ragtime — the smallest and oldest Class 1 Rothmans Week yacht — in a bid to reclaim the glory which saw him winning the showpiece regatta in Table Bay three years ago.