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# SA poised for Admiral's Cup

By DALE GRANGER

SOUTH AFRICAN yachting is poised for a return to the Admiral's Cup next July after a 20-year absence. The country's small-boat entry for the prestigious regatta was unveiled at the Royal Cape Yacht Club yesterday.

Ballyhoo 2, the first Mumm-36 designed by the world's top designer, New Zealander Bruce Farr, and the first of its kind to be built in South Africa under strict license awarded by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, is the hot favourite to win Rothmans Week which starts next Friday.

Defending champion Chris King, who last year became the first skipper in South Africa to

win both the Joko Lipton Cup and Rothmans Week in the same year, will be at the helm of the boat.

King, who successfully defended the Lipton Cup earlier this year, is set to repeat his all-conquering feats in next week's regatta, with both the skipper and his entry being touted as the outright favourites.

South Africa last competed in the Admiral's Cup — regarded as the Grand Prix of keelboat racing and the holy grail for any yachting nation — 20 years ago when Bobby Bongers and Dave Abromowitz sailed Frigate, Gordon Neill skippered Golden Fleece and Bertie Reed and

Keith Bellamy sailed Omuramba.

South Africa plans to sail the regatta with Ballyhoo 2 as their small boat, Ellian Perch's ILC-40 Orion Express the second craft and a yet-to-be-announced 44-to-50 foot IMS big boat likely to be skippered by Geoff Meek.

"Sending a team to the Admiral's Cup will firmly establish us once again in international keelboat racing," Ballyhoo 2's owner, Rick Garratt, said yesterday.

The big-boat slot remains a problem for South Africa, however, and team manager Bellamy and Meek are investigating various options. An overseas boat may have to be chartered.