

# 'You'll kill yourself,' yachtie Steward warned

**GRAHAM LIZAMORE**  
Weekend Argus Reporter

SOUTH African yachtsman Anthony Steward, who is due to leave Brisbane for Durban next week, has been warned: "Stop before you kill yourself."

The warning came from one of the world's top singlehanded sailors, Britain's Paul Rodgers.

Rogers left Cape Town for England a week ago in a bid to make the longest non-stop voyage in an open boat but was forced to turn back after he discovered design faults in his

5.5-m boat and his self-steering gear failed.

Although deeply disappointed that he had to abort his trip, Rodgers wished Steward luck in his 7 000-mile non-stop voyage.

The Briton described Steward's achievement of a 20 000-mile voyage from Cape Town to Brisbane in a 5.8 m open boat as "absolutely fantastic" and that Steward had proved he was one of South Africa's great sailors.

"I hope he succeeds in the Brisbane-to-Durban leg, but it

really does seem an awfully long way in such a small boat," said Rodgers.

"He has proved himself and I don't think he should kill himself — he is simply too good to waste on this type of sailing and should be preparing for the 1994 BOC Challenge."

His main concern was that Steward would be sailing the cockleshell **NCS Challenger** through shark-infested waters along Australia's Great Barrier Reef and down the unpredictable Mozambique Channel between Africa and Madagascar.

He warned the South African that he would have to endure "terrible" heat and mast-snapping gales and squalls.

"Anthony's last leg is exceedingly dangerous and wouldn't appeal to me in the slightest," he said.

This from a man who in 1988 failed in his first attempt to sail non-stop from Cape Town to England. Four days out of Hout Bay he capsized, lost his mast and spent 10 terrifying hours clinging to the keel of his 5.5 m open boat, Homeward Bound, in a howling gale.

After righting the boat and breaking several ribs in the process, Rodgers drifted under jury-rig for a month in the Atlantic before landing exhausted on St Helena Island.

Last week's departure in the 5.5m Emily Aged 2¼, was an attempt to complete his failed 1988 voyage. Before he left he said he was more nervous of the voyage than any other he had undertaken.

This week he said he would attempt the voyage again as soon as he had the money to build another boat.