

# Massive sponsorship in the offing for John Martin

By DALE GRANGER

FRESH from victory with Bertie Reed in the BOC Transatlantic race a determined John Martin returned to Cape Town over the weekend facing a race against time to tie up a multimillion rand sponsorship for next year's Globe Challenge.

Martin said yesterday that he had missed the prize-giving in Torquay as he was eager to return home to begin sponsorship negotiations towards his aim of becoming the first South African to sail solo around the world non-stop.

Bertie Reed sailed in the race in 1989 but retired at Cape Town.

"I'm hungry, I am really hungry and when I feel like this I can do a lot of things. This year was meant to be my year and for the last few months I had been feeling really down. During the Transatlantic race I thought about

how much I had put into sailing and a few friends said that I couldn't just throw in the towel," Martin said.

"The next BOC race is four years away and I can't just wait for it. I am a professional sailor and I need to race every year but I am aiming to sail one more big solo race," he added.

Martin said that he had just two months to secure a "winning sports marketing sponsorship" to compete in the Globe Challenge which starts at the French port of Les Sables d'Olonne next November.

"The job has to be done properly like the Allied Bank project," he said.

Martin hopes to build or buy a 60 foot ballast boat for the race.

Martin's short term sailing goal could also involve September's popular **Crystic Beachcomber** race from Mauritius to Durban and he is currently negotiating to sail a top 50 foot Cape Town yacht in the race.