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TOP TEAM: South Africa's team to compete in the Admiral's Cup in Britain next month was announced last night. Key members are, from left: Rick Garrat, owner, Ballyhoo 2; Bruce Savage, skipper, Orion Express; Geoff Meek, skipper, Titan; Ellian Perch, owner, Orion Express; and Chris King, skipper, Ballyhoo 2.

CAPE TIMES

PICTURE: YUNUS MOHAMED

Top SA team for Admiral's Cup

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SOUTH Africa is back in the Admiral's Cup after a 20-year absence — and the team feels it has an excellent chance of winning the championship.

Three SA boats and crews will compete next month in the world's premier offshore yachting contest on the Solent near Portsmouth, England, which culminates in the famous Fastnet Race.

Only Geoff Meek, skipper of South Africa's 20m entry, Titan, team manager Keith Bellamy and captain Dave Abromowitz have previous experience of the Admiral's Cup as SA representatives in 1975.

"It's a 'no excuses' team — we haven't had one like this before on highly competitive boats," said Cruising Association of South Africa chairman Mr Eric Bongers.

"We're not the favourites but we are going over to win, or I wouldn't be wasting the time, effort and money," said Meek.