



SAILING

ROY DUNSTER

Lynnath seeks fame, fortune

TOP South African navigator, Lynnath Beckley is off to seek fame and fortune in the Whitbread Around the World Yacht Race, due to start in England on 21 September this year.

She will be sailing as navigator on the Team EF Women's crew (the boat will be called either "EF Language" or "EF Education") and is the only South African in a crew which draws top woman sailors from seven countries. The yacht will be skippered by Christine Guillou of France and includes several Olympic medalists in the crew. Team EF has put together one of the most professional campaigns for the 1997/8 Whitbread and has two boats, a men's and a women's, in the race.

Both crews have been practising for some time on training boats, bought after the last Whitbread, and have also been provided with brand new craft, designed by Bruce Farr, for the race itself.

The team will be based in Gothenburg, Sweden, until August (when they will relocate to England) and their next race, on 14 June, is to Iceland.

Lynnath's most recent success in South Africa was a navigator on "Harken Wizard", line honours and corrected time winner of this year's Autohelm da Gama Ocean Race from Durban to East London.

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This weekend's Royal Natal Yacht Club AMT Match Racing Regatta for Flying Fifteens and Sprogs should be a whole bundle of fun.

Racing starts at about 10am today and the organisers expect to have elimination rounds and a final which will probably happen tomorrow. Current Nations Cup World Match Racing Champion, Bruce Savage, is due to sail a Sprog.

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Next weekend, the keelboats and the Finns will race for Provincial Championship medals.

At the moment, the L34s look to be the only keelboat class likely to get their act together and should have a fleet of about six yachts.

The Finn class will hopefully build on the 15 or so boats that raced last year.

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Preparations for this year's NCS Regatta (6-12 July) are in an advanced stage and the organisers expect over 300 sailors to participate.

The Lasers will use the event to hold their Nationals. For further information about NCS, contact the Sailing Secretary at Point Yacht Club on 031-3014787.

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