

Martin further ahead

By ROGER WILLIAMS

JOHN MARTIN in Tuna Marine Voortrekker II built up a commanding lead in the BOC solo round-the-world race at the weekend, leaving the French boats Biscuits Lu and Credit Agricole III 192 and 295 nautical miles astern, respectively.

Martin, who led at the start from Newport, Rhode Island, a month ago today had just over 2 000 miles to go to Cape Town on his last-reported position, and on present progress he could be here by October 10.

Biscuits Lu, skippered by Guy Bernardin, took over the lead at one stage when Martin headed far south, to pick up stronger winds.

The South African's strategy paid off, and it was not long before he was out in front again, putting distance between himself and his French pursuers.

Credit Agricole III is skippered by Philippe Jean-tot, outright winner of the last BOC race, in 1982/3.

He and Warren Luhrs of the US, in Thursday's Child, have been among those favoured to win the current race, but both have been well back in Tuna Marine's wake since the start.

● Meanwhile the other South African in the race, Bertie Reed, who had a four-day delay at the start, is also improving his position in Stabilo Boss, which was still in 17th position yesterday but gaining fast on the 16th-placed boat, Finland's Colt by Rettig, which was little more than 20 miles ahead.