



CLUB NOTES

Ocean Race to P.E.

SIX starters lined up at the Bullnose, Simonstown, for the second Simonstown to Port Elizabeth ocean race to be held by the Cruising Association of South Africa in conjunction with the Royal Cape Yacht Club. They all got away to a good start at 11.00 hours on Boxing Day in a fresh south-easter across False Bay, making for Cape Hangklip.

There was feverish activity among most of the crews, who were still reefing down on the starting line in the gusty fresh wind. As the yachts passed Cape Hangklip *Parergon III* showed her power in these conditions by taking a definite lead, although at this stage she was still being challenged by *Viking*, close astern—with *Active*, *Parergon II*, *Atalanta* and *Stella Maris* all beginning to string out.

The burning question for all the navigators on rounding Hangklip was to decide whether to stay close in shore, making short tacks, in the hope of finding the slight counter-currents which sometimes occur along this coast. But it soon became apparent that Commander "Micky" Thomas—who is on the staff of the General Botha at Gordon's Bay—plotted the right course for *Parergon III* by standing fairly well out. Apparently he found a slightly freer wind than the yachts that stayed inshore, with the result that they could make their desired course hard on the wind without continuous tacking.

The current did not seem to affect their progress appreciably, although it can run at three to five knots at its worst in this area.

By the end of the second day *Parergon III* had established a commanding lead. *Viking* battled doggedly on in second place, and *Active* pursued her policy of tacking close inshore, which seemed to give her the worst of the current as well as the worst of the wind.

By this time the two elderly ships in the race, *Parergon II* and *Stella Maris* had had to retire, the conditions being more than their aging hulls could safely withstand. *Atalanta* found the continuous beating a strain with her gaff rig, retired from the race and proceeded to Mossel Bay under power.

This left only three of the starters in the race, *Parergon III* being well in the lead, *Viking* still pursuing her, with *Active* bringing up the rear.

Only a wind change to the West could have put *Active* back in the running. On Tuesday night, after five days of beating, she retired, having lost all chances of getting to Port Elizabeth before the New Year.

On Tuesday, December 30, at 15.00 hours, *Parergon III* crossed the finishing line, having taken five days for the trip, which was

more than a day longer under these conditions than it took her in 1957.

Parergon III's latest success emphasizes again that a tough crew, early preparations, and a highly-experienced navigator are the factors that count most when conditions are adverse.

The list of the yachts competing, and their skippers were:

<i>Atalanta</i>	F. P. Kuttel	Gaff Ketch
<i>Stella Maris</i>	G. Martin	B.M. Sloop
<i>Active</i>	J. Salamon	B.M. Cutter
<i>Parergon II</i>	E. Black	B.M. Cutter
<i>Parergon III</i>	R. I. Jamieson	B.M. Cutter
<i>Viking</i>	F. A. Smithers	B.M. Sloop



OFFSHORE RACE: Two of the starters in the P. E. event—above, *Viking*, who battled through to a well-merited second; and, left, *Atalanta*, who found the contrary winds more than a match for her rather modest gaff rig.
Photos: Jock Webster.

