

John Martin in Kuttel's crew

By ROGER WILLIAMS
Chief Reporter

JOHN MARTIN, one of South Africa's top yacht-racing skippers, has joined the international crew of the maxi racer Portatan, which with a new mast fitted in Cape Town will start as a hot favourite for line honours in the second ("Roaring Forties") leg of the Whitbread Round-the-World Race.

Skipper "Padda" Kuttel said Martin had been appointed as a watch-captain for the rest of the race.

He also said Australian Kim "Shag" Morton would take over as his sailing master, in place of David Bongers who was remaining in Cape Town, and that apart from Martin, three additional crew members would join in Cape Town — Padda's 19-year-old son Peter, American Bill Riley and Tracy Edwards of Portsmouth, England.

The restart of the Whitbread race is on December 4, in Table Bay.



John Martin

The second leg ends in Auckland, New Zealand, and from there the yachts will race back into the Atlantic, around the Horn.

Portatan was dismasted in stormy weather three weeks ago about 200 nautical miles from Cape Town, while leading the fleet of 15 yachts in the first leg, from Portsmouth. A makeshift mast made of steam-pipes also collapsed.

Padda Kuttel subsequently announced his retirement from the first leg.