

CAPE AGULHAS

1985-12-30

'Trekker out of Agulhas race

Yachting Reporter

VETERAN yacht Voortrekker retired last night with damaged gear after encountering rough seas and high winds on the return leg of the Anglo-Alpha Agulhas race.

North-westerlies of up to 40 knots off Cape Agulhas forced Voortrekker, skippered by Chris Lemmer, to turn back and run for Mossel Bay with a blown mainsail and several torn headsails.

Race headquarters at False Bay Yacht Club today confirmed Voortrekker had officially retired.

The positions of the remaining yachts are unclear, but it is known that two of the leaders, Three Spears and Spirit of CIW II took shelter off Struisbaai and should be near Quoin Point.

The yachts Magic (Fred Seiderer) and Majimoto (P Mare) sat out the storm off Cape Infanta and were thought to be sailing again this morning.

The remaining yachts, Black Pepper, Fleur, and Goblet, presumably rode out the storm at sea and are well on their way to Simon's Town.

By mid-morning the wind had backed and west-north-westerlies of 18 knots were measured at Danger Point, increasing to 20 knots at Cape Agulhas.

These headwinds have made the return leg a slog and unless some yachts sailed through the night, the leaders, Three Spears and Spirit of CIW II, are expected in False Bay late tonight or tomorrow morning at the earliest.