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Three Spears sweep?

By **ROGER WILLIAMS**

THREE SPEARS, the smallest boat in the fleet, sailed to a provisional clean-sweep victory in the IOR Class of the 1985 Anglo-Alpha Agulhas Race yesterday, by crossing the finish line in Simon's Bay nearly two hours ahead of her main challenger, Spirit of CIW II.

Three Spears, a Royal Cape Yacht Club $\frac{3}{4}$ -tonner skippered by Jan Reuvers, crossed at 4.35am to take line honours and a provisional handicap win as well, and "Spirit", also of RCYC and skippered by Ernst van der Laan, crossed in second place at 6.31am.

Black Pepper (John Levin) was the third yacht to enter False Bay but had a long battle to reach the finish, in flat-calm conditions, and it looked as though some of the remaining boats in the fleet might still be at sea for at least part of New Year's Day.

Three Spears' time, 112 hours 34 minutes, for the course — Table Bay to Mossel Bay and finishing in Simon's Bay — was the slowest on record for the Agulhas Race. The previous slowest winning time was 104 hours, in 1976.

The slow times in the current race were due to extreme conditions — flat calm at the start and then a spell of heavy weather that hit the nine-boat fleet in the vicinity of Cape Agulhas, emphasizing the reputation of this event as one of the toughest offshore races in the world.

Three Spears was handicap winner in the recent Beachcomber Indian Ocean Crossing race, from Mauritius to Durban, and her runner up in the current race, Spirit of CIW II, took overall honours in the 1985 South Atlantic Race, to Uruguay.