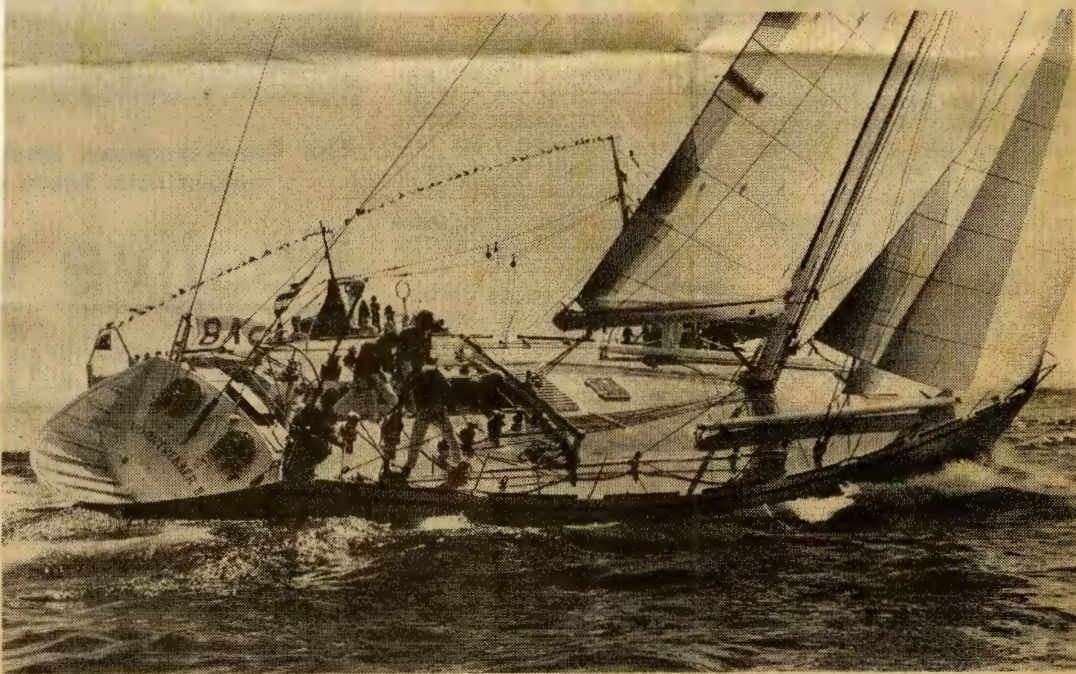


Thunderchild, skippered by her owner Vince Goldswain, beat Voortrekker II in a long-distance race in December.



Voortrekker, skippered for the last time by an avenging John Martin, who has promised to turn the tables.

Dual race will see big duel between old rivals

by HENRI DU PLESSIS
Yachting Reporter

THE duel between Rothmans Week foes Allied Bank Voortrekker II and Thunderchild could be one of the highlights of the gruelling Anglo-Alpha Agulhas yacht race to Mossel Bay this weekend.

The race, which starts at Hout Bay at 10am today, will be contested by some of the Cape's top yachts and yachtsmen.

Thunderchild, skippered by her owner, Vince Goldswain, beat the larger but older Voortrekker II, skippered by John Martin, around the buoys and in the long-distance race of the Royal Cape Yacht Club-hosted regatta in December.

Martin, however, has promised to turn the tables in the Agulhas race. It is the last time he and Voortrekker II will be

teamed up in competition.

The Agulhas has been planned to incorporate a stop-over at the turning-point, Mossel Bay, and competitors face not only each other but also Eastern Cape sailors taking part in the Anglo-Alpha South Coast race held at the same time.

A spokesman for the sponsors the South Coast race, from Port Elizabeth to Mossel Bay, said it covered the same distance and started at the same time as the Agulhas race. The first yacht in either event to cross the finish-line, either at Hout Bay or in Algoa Bay, will earn the top award.

Top dog

Many of the entries in the Agulhas race are veterans who have taken part in previous years and know the fickle weather around the southern-most point of Africa.

Local L34 top dog Suburban Hardware, skippered by Rob Meek, is one of two in the class to be entered.

The other is Medlease IV, of the Ocean Sailing Academy in Hout Bay, skippered by John Cooper.

A new yacht launched just in time for this race is Sentinel, a Montevideo 43 skippered by David Gough.

She was launched on Thursday last week and her crew, including Anglo-Alpha man Quentin Dollman, his brother Peter Dollman and brother-in-law Brian Rookledge, has been putting her through her paces in sea trials all week.

False Bay Yacht Club entry Windswift, skippered by club commodore Derek Louwrens, will also be a major contender.