

Former Springbok to fly Tricolour in BOC

By HENRI DU PLESSIS
Yachting Reporter

FORMER Springbok yachtsman J J Provoyeur has entered the 1990/'91 BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race, but is to sail so under the French flag.

Provoyeur, a Cape Town yacht-builder and yachting equipment agent, will face veteran Springbok solo-sailors Bertie Reed and John Martin in his quest for honours.

The BOC begins at Newport, Rhode Island, in the United States on September 15, but all three yachtsmen will first take part in the Carlsberg short-handed transatlantic race from Plymouth to Newport.

While both Reed and Martin have already announced their extensive sponsorships and new yachts, Provoyeur is still officially without either.

Damaged Grinaker

However, his spokesman, Mr Tony McKeever, said an announcement would be made "within the next two weeks".

Reed is on his way back home after damage to his yacht Grinaker forced him out of the Globe Challenge non-stop solo circumnavigation race.

Martin has been testing his yacht Allied Bank thoroughly since its launch last year.

Allied Bank, designed by naval



J J Provoyeur

architect Angelo Lavranos, is believed to be technically the most advanced yacht yet built in the country.

Provoyeur is to partner Reed in the Carlsberg race, while Martin and his brother Ian will be sailing together on Allied Bank.

The BOC Challenge — considered the grand prix of international ocean racing — is held every four years.

Reed sailed in both previous BOC events, coming second in the first race in 1982/'83. Martin was the only sailor to win two legs in the second BOC in 1986/'87.

So far, 47 entries have been re-

ceived from 11 countries for this year's event, BOC organisers said.

The race is over 26 000 miles with compulsory stops at Cape Town, Sydney and Punta del Este.

The BOC Challenge is sponsored by the worldwide gases and health-care company, the British Oxygen Company Group. Afrox, as part of the BOC Group, will co-sponsor the first leg from Newport to Cape Town.

Three women

The US heads the entry list with 13 competitors. Britain has 10, Australia seven, France six, Japan and South Africa three, Canada two, and one each from Ireland, Holland, Hungary and Spain.

For the first time, three women have entered. They are Isabella Autiassier of France, Noelle Corbett of Britain and Jane Weber of Canada.

Ten competitors from the 1986/'87 race have entered. Yukoh Tada, of Japan, is the only other competitor apart from Reed to have competed in the first race.

The 1990/'91 BOC Challenge is expected to be highly competitive with some 21 new boats having been specially built for the race.

Of 42 starters in the first two races, only 26 finished.

Top yachts set to tackle opening classic of 1990s

Yachting Reporter

TOP ocean racers and cruisers are expected to enter the first city yacht race of the new decade — the Anglo-Alpha Agulhas Race from Hout Bay to Mossel Bay and back to Simon's Town.

The race, which starts on January 27, restarts the city racing programme after a lay-off over the festive season. Many in the yachting fraternity consider it one of the toughest coastal races because of rough seas and unpredictable weather along its route.

At a function at the Royal Cape Yacht Club this week, sailor and organiser Mr Derek Louwrens said most of the Cape's top ocean racers and cruisers were expected to enter. The skippers of Get More Fun, Thunderchild and Spirit of Club Mykonos attended.

Skipper Ian Martin has already put the crew of his aluminium yacht Get More Fun through their paces during training runs in False Bay, and Club Mykonos skipper Geoffrey Meek is still glowing from his Rothmans Week win.

There is also a possibility the other aluminium superyacht, The Boss, might be back after a breakage in her hull forced her to withdraw from last year's Crystic Beachcomber race from Mauritius to Durban. She is reportedly being repaired in Durban.

Race organisers are also waiting to hear from the South African Navy about Voortrekker I and Voortrekker II.

The Agulhas race starts in Hout Bay on Saturday, January 27 at 10 am and the first boats are expected to arrive in Mossel Bay the next evening.

The return leg starts on Thursday, February 1 and the leaders are expected to be back in Simon's Town on February 3.

Another race — the Anglo-Alpha South Coast Race — starts in Port Elizabeth at the same time as the start in Hout Bay and the Cape and South Coast boats will be battling to see who can reach Mossel Bay first.