



**A LOVELY SEND-OFF:** Miss SA Michelle Bruce was in Cape Town to see intrepid skipper Dave Abromowitz off on the arduous race to Portugal

# Cape to Lisbon race isn't plain sailing!

By ALAN DUGGAN

TOP skipper Dave Abromowitz threw down the gauntlet to veteran yachtsmen Bertie Reed, Bobby Bongers and Ted Kuttel yesterday to beat him as 24 yachts set out from Table Bay at the start of the gruelling Port-ned Dias Yacht Race to Portugal.

It was a friendly challenge — but it was accepted with alacrity by the fiercely competitive yachtsmen.

Among them was the tough and talented Lieutenant-Commander Hanno Teuteberg, skipper of SAA Voortrekker II and a young man not easily daunted by reputations.

The 6 000 nautical mile odyssey will take

the fleet to St Helena and Ponta Delgada in the Azores before the final leg to Lisbon, where the crews are assured of an enthusiastic welcome.

Abromowitz, sailing the hi-tech 15m Walon, is a strong favourite for line honours.

He said before the start yesterday afternoon: "To have a yacht of this calibre is a great privilege.

"In my experience she is one of the fastest yachts in the world for her size — and we'll be going all out."

His experienced crew include Transvalers Giles Stanley and Neil Guthrie, Capetonians John Levin, Mark Carter-Johnson and Peter Stringer, and Paarl teacher Iain Hudson.