

# Martin in Plymouth in record 39 days

By HENRI du PLESSIS  
Yachting Reporter

**SPRINGBOK** solo sailor John Martin has reached Plymouth, England, in a record 39 days.

The time he set for this voyage in his new yacht, Allied Bank, broke the record for this route as well as Martin's own record for a similar distance from Newport in the United States to Cape Town during the 1986/87 BOC around-the-world race.

## TOP CONTENDER

This was the first time Martin had taken the new yacht on a long ocean passage.

He sailed to Plymouth alone to qualify for the BOC, which starts in September.

With the new records under his belt, he is likely to be regarded as one of the top contenders.

He will also be at the start line in time for the two-man transatlantic yacht race from Plymouth to Newport on June 10. His brother Ian will join him on the yacht for this race.

Martin arrived in Plymouth late yesterday and made for a warm bath and a cold beer — in that order, said his spokesman Mrs Jeanne van Rooyen.

Martin sailed Voortrekker II, now one of the leaders in the **Portnet Dias** race to Portugal, to victory in two of the four legs of the previous BOC. He also achieved two victories in North Atlantic crossings.

ARGUS

26/4/90