

● Admiral's praise

COMPLIMENTARY letter in the post yesterday morning about our team in the Admiral's Cup series. Enough to make their ears glow at the pleasant remarks people have been passing . . . even Mr. Heath.

It comes from Kent Durr, a member of our local Durr clan but now living at Tanyard Farm, Danehill, Sussex. His sister is married to Lieut.-Commander Peter Poland, who skippered Matchless II in the Rio race and in the Admiral's Cup series.

Kent writes: As a Cape-tonian who has just completed the Admiral's Cup ocean racing series aboard Matchless II, I thought that you may be interested to hear about the popularity of the South African team.

Leading skippers and organizers of the series almost unanimously agreed that our team was the most popular foreign team of the 17 countries competing.

Not being a member of the team, but sailing under the RNSA flag, the remarks I overheard were always extremely flattering both as regards the skill and charm of the SA boys, and they have done an enormous amount of good work for SA ocean racing.

Yesterday I was talking to the Prime Minister, Mr. Heath, and he remarked to me that Olin Stevens of Sparkman and Stevens, the designers of several yachts in the series, told him that the crew of Jakaranda were the greatest crew he had ever sailed with. Mr. Heath also assured me that we were most welcome and he looked forward to seeing our team at Cowes in 1973.