ALBATROS GAVE LESSON IN SKILL 

How Albatros recovered from disaster in the first hours of the Rio race and sailed on to become overall winner is described by a witness in the latest issue of the False Bay Yacht Club Journal.

Bill Smith, rear-commodore of the club, editor of the Journal and owner of Vagrant, had a particular interest in the race after his own recent South Atlantic voyage, and wanted a grandstand view of the start. So, with a crew of visiting Transvaal yachtsmen, he sailed Vagrant round from False Bay and hovered on the fringe of the course past Robben Island.

His impressions of the leaders, along with all sail making another story, finally Vagrant moored, with permission, in Robben Island harbour.

Soon after they arrived, Albatros sailed in with a bad bend in her mast and a tangled mass of gear aloft. Very obviously a plan had been agreed on as the limp proceeded. Without discussion, all hands set to, the tangle was straightened, tackle was set up, downhauls improvised, the right movements made at the right times. The mast came straight and Albatros left, three hours later, to rousing cheers from Vagrant's very impressed crew who had had the experience of a lifetime watching first-class seamanship from the beach.

What else is important is that every man on Albatros is an amateur yachtsman with all his skills acquired from following a love of the fun and games of sailing boats.

But behind the whole Albatros venture is the family craftsmanship tradition carried by the first Albatros, which this modern one commemorates, and it seems that when the family picked this crew, including young Hal Thesen, they passed the tradition to safe hands.

EXOTIC BULLION

Albatros sails back from Rio to Cape Town, which may have to find extra hold space for some exotic bullion. On the prize list is an impressive list of awards for which she may be eligible. The South Atlantic trophy is for the overall winner, the Royal Cape Yacht Club trophy is awarded to the Class 3 winner on corrected time, and the Tropic of Capricorn trophy to the best placed South African-built yacht. The best South African entry on corrected time receives the Southern Cross trophy, and first South African boat to the line earns the Royal Natal trophy.

That works out to nearly one major trophy to each one of the crew.