

Age runs 22/1/85



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Instead of carrying his bride across the threshold, skipper Gerhard Aab took his bride Carol aboard Momentum Life — the 22-metre yacht they will race to Uruguay — after their wedding at the St Martini Lutheran Church in Long Street yesterday. Picture by Alan Taylor

Conditions ideal for race start

By ROGER WILLIAMS
Chief Reporter

IDEAL conditions for a spectacular getaway under spinnaker — a south-westerly to southerly wind of 10 to 15 knots — has been forecast for the 2.30pm start in Table Bay today of the 1985 South Atlantic Race.

The wind-speed is expected to pick up to 20 knots in the late afternoon, when the fleet of 35 yachts will be heading north-westward at the outset of their long haul of 4 500 nautical miles to Punta del Este in Uruguay.

The first sight of land the yachts' crews will have after drawing away from the South African coast will be the remote and forbidding mid-ocean outcrop Ilha da Trindade, 600 nautical miles east of Brazil. The competing boats must pass the island to port before heading south-westward towards the finish.

Thousands of people are expected to watch the start from vantage points around Table Bay, and an armada of spectator craft in and around Granger Bay, and helicopters hovering overhead, will add

to the air of excitement in which these transoceanic races are invariably started.

Only the 10 big yachts in Class I — Apple Macintosh, 3CR12, Momentum Life, Wesbank, Paper Pack Voortrekker II, Paloma, Genkem Voortrekker, Nero, Cullinan and The Contractor — will be started on the stroke of 2.30pm. The rest of the fleet, in classes II and III, will start at 2.40pm.

There will be two warning guns, at five-minute intervals, before each start.

The yachts must round

a marker buoy close inshore off Rietvlei, near Bloubaai, before heading out to the open sea.

Table Bay harbour will remain open to the public but a large part of it, from Alfred Basin through to the breakwater, will be closed to traffic not displaying official stickers.

The Portwood Road entrance to the docks will be closed to vehicular traffic.

Special buses have been arranged to convey people from public parking areas along the Duncan Dock to the breakwater area. They will stop on demand.