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Bubbly welcome for 'amazing' Martin

From RAMSAY MILNE, The Argus Foreign Service
NEWPORT (Rhode Island). — Cape Town yachtsman John Martin put on a spectacular display of sailing for the hundreds of spectators who cheered him across the finish-line here as he won the final leg of the BOC solo round-the-world race.

Martin, 32, repeated his record-breaking first-leg win from Newport to Cape Town by roaring in at midday yesterday (local time), well ahead of the 16 survivors in the race, as he completed the 8 528km leg from Brazil.

As helicopters clattered overhead, Martin, looking fit and fresh in spite of the tenseness of the competition from the tough French skippers in the past few days, guided Tuna Marine under full sail through waters congested by a flotilla of small boats.

Martin raised his hand in acknowledgment of the applause and the sounding of hooters and foghorns — and then smiled broadly and waved when he spotted his wife Lynne, his mother Mrs Ina Martin and his seafaring brother Ian aboard two of the welcoming boats.

"There's one very proud South African right here," Martin told reporters after Tuna Marine had been towed to a jetty in this historic harbour town.

His total round-the-world time was 147 days 5 hours 14 minutes.

THREE-LAYER CHOCOLATE CAKE

Sapa-AP reports that French sailor Philippe Jeantot arrived in Credit Agricole last night to claim a world record and overall victory for a second time in the race.

Awaiting the victorious Jeantot after 27 000 miles in 134 days, 5 hours, 46 minutes was R30 000 in prize money, nine litres of champagne and a band playing *Alouette* on the dock. There was also a three-layer chocolate cake for his 35th birthday today.

"It's very nice," Jeantot said modestly with a grin. "You need to have determination to do this and be willing to suffer."

Second was French author and artist Titouan Lamazou aboard *Ecureuil d'Aquitaine*. He finished in 137 days, 17 hours, 36 minutes and won R20 000.

Other arrivals last night were French American Guy Bernardin aboard *Biscuits Lu*, Australian Ian Kiernan on *Triple M/Spirit of Sydney*, and South African Bertie Reed (*Stabilo Boss*).

But the day — and veteran Newport yachtsmen say the race — belonged to the South African.

"Martin is the only sailor to win two legs. He broke Jeantot's record run from here to Cape Town by five days and by winning the final leg he will be the acknowledged winner," said one racing expert at Newport.

LIKELY TO FINISH FOURTH

Martin, who battled with equipment failures on the second and third legs of the race, is likely to finish fourth overall.

He had to cope with 15-metre waves and his boat capsized 4 000km off Australia.

What kept him going?

"Courage," said Martin. "You've just got to find the courage to survive."

● In Cape Town last night Martin's fourth-leg victory was the toast of the town.

"Bloody proud of him, that's all I can say," said a jubilant Mr John Martin sen, who was celebrating with family and friends at his Scarborough home.

"I'm very pleased. He had a few very bad breaks in the second and third legs, but he came through.

"He's done us proud."

Martin's victory was a tremendous image booster for the



FIRST IN PORT: John Martin of South Africa takes a swig from a bottle of champagne after winning the last leg of the BOC round-the-world solo yacht race.

Right: Philippe Jeantot of France gives the thumbs-up signal as he sails his boat *Credit Agricole III* into harbour as overall winner of the world race.



South African Navy (he is a lieutenant-commander), said Navy Chief Vice-Admiral Glen Syndercombe.

"He showed immense courage and innovation to cope with the setbacks he had in the second and third legs. Each time he came back fighting."

"It's absolutely wonderful," said Mr Angelo Lavranos, designer of *Tuna Marine Voortrekker II*.

"I'm glad John and the boat completed the race safely. It's such a dangerous business."

Said Mr Dave Abromowitz, chairman of the South African committee of the BOC Challenge: "It's amazing and so good for John and for the country."