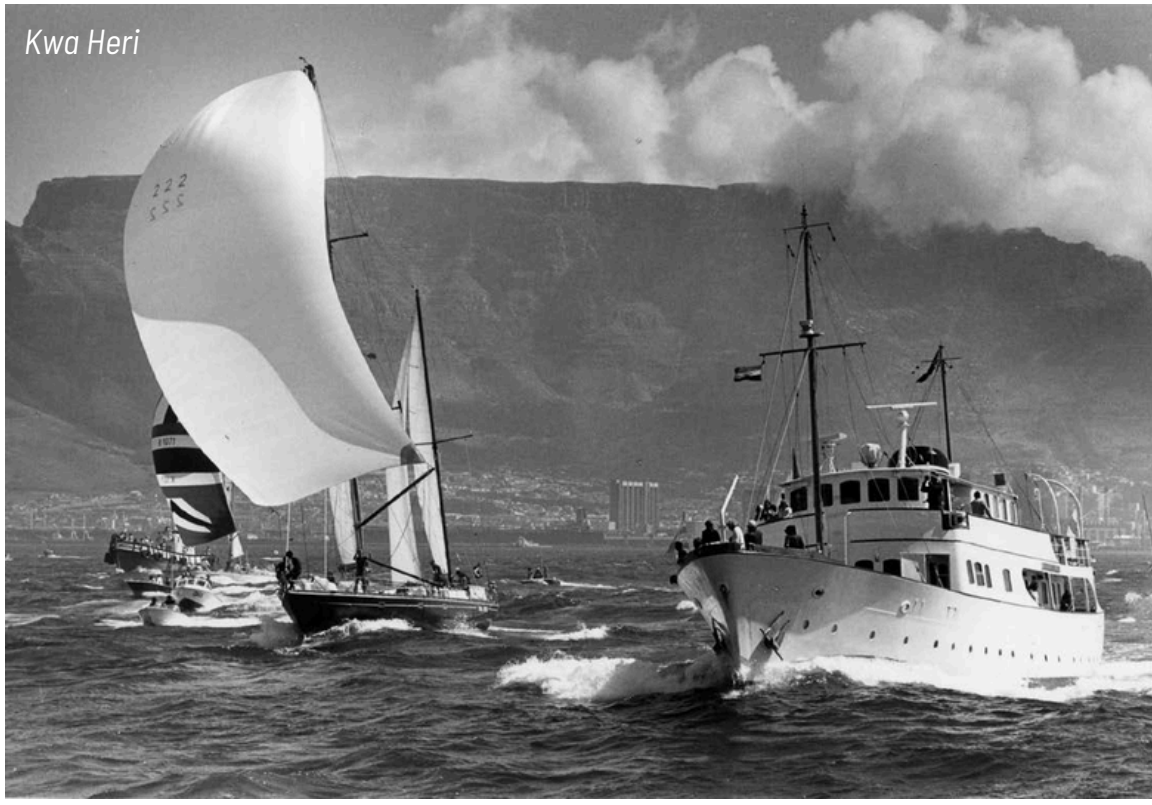


# 1979 CAPE TO PUNTA DEL ESTE RACE

Start 13 January 1979 | Entries 38 | Nations 3

Line Honours Kwa Heri, John Smeddle

Overall Handicap Winner Weetbix, Bobby Bongers



Punta del Este, Uruguay, became the new finish for this race after political concerns moved it from Rio.

Competitors faced the fearsome Pampero wind, which could reach 70 knots near the finish.

Among the fleet was *Foschini Girl*, an all-female crew averaging 20 years old. The favorite for line honours was *Kwa Heri*, a 20.95m ketch, while *Spar*, a newly launched 15.54m sloop, impressed as a downwind flyer. A thrilling duel unfolded, with *Kwa Heri* crossing first in 24 days, 10 hours, and *Spar* just seven hours behind. *Weetbix*, a Lavranos one-tonner, claimed handicap victory, outperforming rivals *Touch Wood* (David Abromowitz), and *Bootlicker* (Jerry Whitehead), believing it was due to its 7/8ths rig as opposed to the other yachts masthead rigs.

Breakages abounded, but most yachts managed impressive repairs, showcasing determination in this challenging race.