

## HANK MCGREGOR : KING OF THE 2016 BERG RIVER CANOE MARATHON



To say Hank McGregor has dominated the Berg River Canoe Marathon is the understatement of the decade – he has owned it.

On Saturday, as he has done so often, he crossed the finishing line in Veldriff in first place to register back-to-back victories and his 11<sup>th</sup> overall from 13 starts.

The 38-year-old, six-time world marathon champion clocked 4hr 7min 32sec for the 62km final stage from Zoutkloof to Veldriff and 17hr 37min 39sec overall for the four-stage 240km race that started in Paarl. His winning margin over second-placed Simon van Gysen was a tad over seven-and-a-half minutes.

McGregor was in a league of his own throughout the race paddling in his newly designed **Derakane™ Resins** boat. The Euro Steel/Kayak Centre star received a nasty gash on his forehead on the second stage after he connected with a tree. He required four stitches, but apart from that, it was pretty much plain sailing for the Durbanite, who won his first Berg at the second attempt in 2000.

McGregor confirmed that he would return next year if the internationals keep coming back.

“For sure, I’m not racing for any other reason than to paddle against the best paddlers in the world. We had four overseas entrants and they were pushing me hard and I wouldn’t want it any other way.

I’m sure the organisers of the Berg will be punting the race to such guys and the more we get to participate, the better for the Berg. This race is a real tester and is easily the toughest ultra-marathon in the world, so here’s hoping the best make a point of coming to show what they’re made of.”

