

Rio race leader's gamble paying off

By LOURENS SCHOEMAN

THE South African Navy Rio race entry Broomstick, skippered by Lieutenant-Commander Hanno Teutenberg, has increased her lead and has an incredible second position on handicap.

Broomstick is taking the risk of a westerly course but this has so far suited her well and set her up for a clean sweep in the transatlantic classic.

Her main rival for line honours, the 22,8-metre Parker Pen, has sneaked up to second position ahead of Padda Kuttel's Namsea Challenger.

Port Elizabeth entries Witchdoctor, Blue and Jacana are still holding their own among the frontrunners in the pack.

The superfast IMS 15,2-metre racer Morning Glory is in fourth position and clinging to her race handicap lead.

The other handicap contender, Wizard, skippered by Jan Reuvers, is in fifth position, but still third on handicap after Broomstick shot into handicap contention yesterday.

Dave Abromovitch on IGI Sea Rescue is sailing consistently in sixth position, followed by MBS Flyer II in seventh and the new J44 Cavalier in eighth position.

The other new J44 in the

race — Belgium-registered Antwerp Express — has maintained her fourth position on handicap, followed by MBS Flyer II, Cavalier and Lady Lorna II.

Exciting position changes have, however, taken place in the cruiser mono-hull class.

Bertie Reed on Harbour Island maintained his lead and has improved his handicap position to 19th.

Diel has moved up to second position with the Knysna yacht Realty I moving into third position.

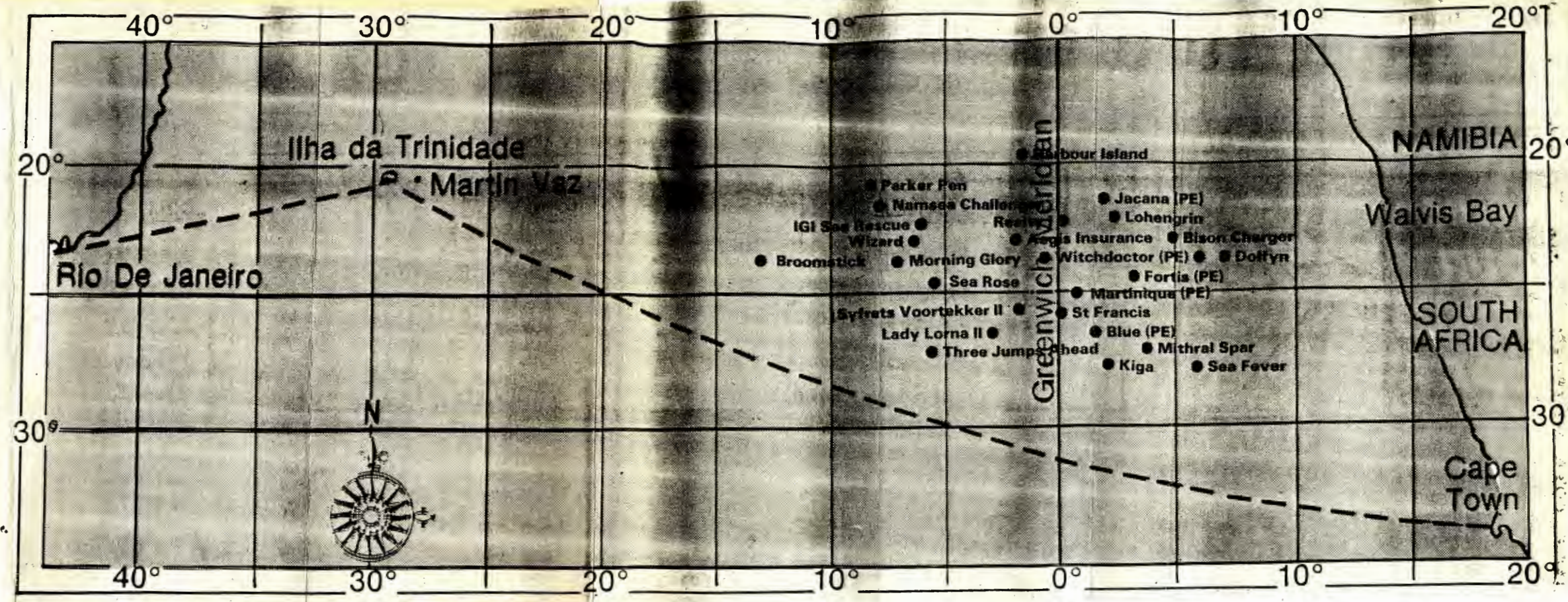
Michel Bertier's round-the-world yacht Lohengrin has maintained her handicap lead in this class, but has slipped to seventh position.

Isaac Kopman on Second Wind has moved into second position on handicap with Bison Charger third and the small Zippa, fourth.

Still chasing the IMS leaders and leading the multi-hull class is Searose skippered by Chris King.

Obelix, with Rio organising committee chairman John Levin at the helm, is still in second position, with T Bay moving into third position.

Windless conditions yesterday spawned fishing competitions among the racers, but late yesterday afternoon fresh 10 to 15-knot trade winds were reported.



Port Elizabeth and other Eastern Cape yachts are holding their own in the Cape to Rio race. St Francis (of St Francis Bay) and Witchdoctor should have crossed the Greenwich Meridian by this morning, with Blue and Jacana also sailing steadily.

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Rio racers go fishing

SAS DRAKENSBERG — Broomstick continued to bewitch the other Cape to Rio competitors yesterday, stretching her lead on the risky westerly course which has given her second position on handicap and setting her up for a clean sweep in the transatlantic classic.

The windless mid-Atlantic conditions yesterday spawned fishing competitions and for some prayers, but the frustrating conditions gave way late yesterday afternoon to fresh 10 to 15 knot trade winds.

Firmly in the lead, Broomstick has contained the concerted challenges of the controversial superlight catamaran Searose and rival maxi favourite for line honours Parker Pen.

Broomstick, skippered by Hanno Teuteberg, has covered 1769 miles, averaging 9,5 knots since she blasted out of Cape Town and seriously threatens the 1976 record crossing of the

American maxi Ondine of 17 days five hours.

But Bertie Reed, skipper of Harbour Island, was one of the fleet's skippers sceptical of Teuteberg's course and he has opted for the tried and tested more northerly route.

Bruce Tedder's Parker Pen reclaimed second place from Padda Kuttel's Namsea Challenger after clocking 214 miles, the best of the day and one more mile than Broomstick.

Morning Glory was clinging onto her IMS handicap lead and maintained her fourth position overall sailing just to the north of Broomstick.

Handicap contender Wizard, skippered by Jan Reuvers, was in fifth position, but dropped to third handicap place.

Crewman Brian Georgeon aboard Viking claimed the line honours in the first unofficial fishing tournament after landing a broad bill swordfish — which the crew subsequently ate, accompanied by a cheeky bottle of white wine.