

Teuteberg enthuses over his 'new' toy

By Dave Beattie

South Africa's most famous yacht, Voortrekker II, has been given a new lease on life.

The nine-year-old, 18,2 metre vessel has been given a major facelift and she will be sponsored by South African Airways in the Portnet Bartolomeu Dias race from Cape Town to Lisbon starting on March 31.

And the man who is really flying high over the new sponsorship is Lieutenant-Commander Hanno Teuteberg.

It will give the 31-year-old submarine weaponry officer the chance to go for honours again in the 6000 nautical-mile race. In the last race, Bertie Reed took line honours and Teuteberg won the Open class.

After yesterday's sponsorship launch at the Royal Cape Yacht Club, Teuteberg admired the "new" Voortrekker II, resplendent in blue and white, and the national airline logo, and said: "Beautiful. She looks more beautiful than ever."

Since her launching in 1981, Voortrekker II has been in the hands, mainly, of Reed, John Martin and Teuteberg — all SA navy men. Along the way she has broken many records.

Late last year, on the way from Cape Town to Mauritius for the start of the Crystic Beachcomber race, the boom broke. Jury-rigged, she still broke the "up" run record.

Teuteberg and his young crew then took her, with a new boom, to second place in the race for line honours from Mauritius to Durban.

It has been a costly business, however.

"Last year, it cost about R350 000 to modify her," said Teuteberg. "Now we've had a new deck fitted and quite a few further modifications done. Again, it has cost a fortune."

The accent will again be on youth when Voortrekker II sets sail on March 31. The six men with Teuteberg are all servicemen.

But included in the six are two who sailed on the Mauritius-Durban race — Rowen Clark and Rob van Wiering, who played a major part in designing a rig for the broken boom.

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