



A famous old lady, the yacht Voortrekker I, was shipped into Port Elizabeth harbour today, off-loaded, and will be taken tomorrow by another ship to Britain to participate in the prestige Trans-Atlantic single-handed race. Picture by Evert Smith.

Voortrekker I arrives in PE en route to Britain

Post Reporter

SPRINGBOK yachtsman Bertie Reed was in Port Elizabeth harbour this morning supervising the trans-shipment of the famous yacht Voortrekker I, in which he will compete in the Trans-Atlantic Single-handed Race next month.

Also trans-shipped was Voortrekker II, which is to be manned by Springbok John Martin.

"What a splendid old lady the Voortrekker I is," a former editor of the magazine SA Yachting, Mr Brian Lello, said from Cape Town today.

"Twenty years ago she won fame for South Africa with Bruce Dalling when she came second in the same race.

"Today she is as good as

ever and she stands more than a fighting chance in this year's race, all the more so because Bertie, whose a world-class yachtsman, will be in charge of her.

"Lots of newfangled things have been introduced to racing yachts in the 20 years since Voortrekker I was built, but she proves that that's all bosh.

"It's design that counts, not gadgets and all that sort of stuff.

"The Voortrekker I was designed by a Hollander, Ricus van de Stadt, and she is a shining example of his

inspired ability as a designer."

The race is due to start on June 6 and should last no longer than 20 days. The entries have been limited to 100.

Voortrekker I and II both belong to the SA Navy.

There were "no political hassles" about the South African entries, Mr Lello said.

"We have had a long and friendly relationship with the people who are organising the race, the Royal Western Yacht Club, and have experienced nothing but kindness and goodwill from them."