

Reed is well ahead

By **ROGER WILLIAMS**

GRINAKEE, Bertie Reed's high-tech racer, is expected to sail into Jamestown harbour on St Helena island about noon local time today, well ahead of the rest of the almost-becalmed **Portnet Dias Race** fleet.

Reed, sailing north-east of the main body of the fleet to avoid the near-windless conditions brought by the advancing South Atlantic "high", yesterday increased his lead over former leader **SAA Voortrekker II** to 110 nautical miles.

Grinaker was sailing towards the island at 7,5 knots.

Trekker II, skippered by Hanno Teuteberg, was in turn 176 miles ahead of her smaller sister **Anchor Yeast Voortrekker**, skippered by Rob Shelley, which was engaged in a duel with the British Admiral's Cup racer **Walon**, skippered by Royal Cape Yacht Club's Dave Abromowitz.

Latest position reports showed these two 50-footers only 11 miles apart.

The new **IMS** handicap leader yesterday was **Natfish Touchwood** skippered by Gerrie Hegie of Cape Town and flying the Dutch flag.

Touchwood was averaging 6,9 knots — exceptionally good in the prevailing light conditions south of St Helena, where all boats in the race must make a 36-hour stop-over before resuming the first leg, to **Ponta Delgada** in the Azores.

Following **Natfish Touchwood** in the new handicap positions given yesterday were: **Anchor Yeast Voortrekker**, **SAA Voortrekker II**, **Bonheur**, **Jasco**, **Walon**, **Scardyburg** and **Mike's Kitchen**.

Elapsed-time positions in the 22-boat fleet were: **Grinaker**, **SAA Voortrekker II**, **Anchor Yeast Voortrekker**, **Walon**, **King's Transport**, **Natfish Touchwood**, **Dunkelly**, **IGI Insurance Gilana**, **Corcoleum Shelley Anne**, **Bonheur**, **Shekinah**, **Ghostdancing**, **Spirit of Sunpak**, **Jasco**, **Mike's Kitchen**, **Cheers**, **Lapwing**, **Smokey Bear**, **Arctic Tern**, **N1 City Potlatch**, **Scardyburg** and **Camdeboo**.