

Coetzee helps Wave Warrior to a third place finish

Paul Martin 10/4/1997

SA YACHTSMAN Kobie Coetzee was overjoyed to be back on dry land after helping the crew aboard Toshiba Wave Warrior to a third place finish in the fourth stage of the BT Global Challenge in Table Bay yesterday.

Coetzee, a poultry farmer from the Paarl-Wellington, paid tribute to the racing skills of leader Group 4, skippered by Mike Golding.

"They are doing almost everything right at the moment and deserve the success that is coming their way," said Coetzee, after stepping ashore after 38 days 3 hours 11 min and 30 secs during the leg from Sydney to Cape Town.

Group 4 finished the stage in 37 days 23 hours 5 min and 5 secs, with Concert, skippered by Chris Tibbs, second over

the line after 6 300 miles of sea travelling, just 25 min off the pace.

"There is no breathing time when you are out there," said Coetzee, who is involved in a side competition against Port Elizabeth's Boris Webber, to see who will be the first SA yachtsman

to successfully complete the east-to-west course, dubbed the "wrong way around the world" yacht race.

"This was the hardest leg of the event so far. It is really cold and rough out there."

Group 4 head the overall standings with

Toshiba Wave Warrior in second place.

The fifth leg of the Global Challenge begins on May 4, with the boats leaving the Mother City for Boston. The final leg of the event, from Boston to the starting point in Southampton, should be completed by July.

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