

Reed opts out after winning first leg

Own Correspondent

Cape Town

BERTIE REED has taken line honours in the first leg of the Portnet Dias race to Lisbon, but reached "home" only an hour ahead of arch-rival Hanno Teuteberg on SAA Voortrekker II.

Reed's yacht Grinaker crossed the finish line at Ponta Delgado in the Azores, ending the Springbok sailor's involvement in this race.

Grinaker will not be at the start line for the second leg to Lisbon, because Reed is sailing on to Plymouth where he will start off on the two-man transatlantic race on June 10.

SAA Voortrekker II pressed the veteran sailor and his five crewmen hard throughout the race, and at times Grinaker had to play second fiddle to the older and heavier navy yacht.

Teuteberg and his crew are virtually certain to win overall line honours now, as their nearest rival, Dave Abromowitz's Wagon, still has to go about 500 miles to get to the Azores.

Grinaker was entered in a class of her own, because she is a purpose-built single-hander.

The leg to Lisbon is a 1 000 mile dash with normally following winds and with spinnaker set, nobody should touch SAA Voortrekker II.

On handicap, Jasco Spirit of St Gerard still seems to be leading, but handicap positions are shady while a race is in progress.

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