

## Yachting

# Navy have the right brew

DURBAN — The grand old navy racer, Anchor Yeast Voortrekker, was the fourth boat to finish the first leg of the Portnet Dias Yacht Race when she sailed into Ponta Delgado in the Azores shortly after 4.30 am South African time yesterday.

The 23-year-old sloop — which has the mileage equivalent of four circumnavigations recorded in her impressive logbook — has been sailed magnificently by skipper Rob Shelley and his navy crew, and is now fourth on handicap in the 6 000 nautical mile race.

Meanwhile, a nail-biting dice is taking place in the Atlantic between the top three handicap boats, Jasco Spirit of St Gerard, skippered by Jerry Harrison, Gerie Hegie's Natfish Touchwood, and Walon, already in the Azores.

On handicap ratings Jasco is still in the lead, but has to reach the Azores first-leg stopover by May 11 to head Walon, skippered by Dave Abramowitz.

For Jasco and Touchwood, beating Abramowitz's handicap time to the Azores is critical as the final leg to Lisbon is usually a downwind slide which could see the high-speed Walon really come into her own.

In the Open class, Ghostdancing, skippered by Bill Murray, is leading, 15 nautical miles ahead of Gus Mostert's Corcolem Shelley Anne, and 17 nautical miles ahead of IGI Insurance Gilana — Sapa.