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Martin, Reed to team up

Own Correspondent

CAPE TOWN — Months of anguish and frustration ended yesterday when solo yachtsman John Martin flew from Cape Town to Johannesburg en route to Newport in the US, where he will join Bertie Reed in the gruelling transatlantic race to England.

The race starts on May 20 at Newport and will end early next month.

Since Martin abandoned the R1,5 million yacht Allied Bank in the Southern Ocean after it struck an iceberg in February, he has remained in South Africa while his fellow competitors completed the last two legs

of the 50 000 km BOC Round the World Challenge.

Martin, who was rescued by fellow competitor Reed, won the second leg to Sydney and was overall leader and about 3 000 km from Cape Horn when Allied Bank struck the iceberg.

Now, almost four months later, Martin will be joining up with Reed, his former mentor as co-skipper of Grinaker, in the dash across the Atlantic.

They will be assisted by two experienced crewmen, Rhett Goldswain and Jan Reuvers, both from Cape Town.

Martin said the decision to enter the transatlantic race had been taken while they were having dinner, after he had returned to South Africa and Reed had

completed the third leg to Punta del Este in Uruguay.

He said Reed had invited him to sail on Grinaker "for old times' sake" and because he felt it would be good for the future of yachting to show that rivals who had been fierce competitors could still sail together.

"Perhaps it can also show the rest of South Africa that fierce rivals can still work together for the benefit of everyone."

Martin said he appreciated the gesture from Reed and Grinaker because he needed to race again after the loss of Allied Bank.

"It was necessary to close the loop on a very sad saga," he said.

It will be the first and the last time in 10 years that the two internation-

ally renowned yachtsmen will sail together.

Reed, who came eighth in the BOC Challenge, is retiring from solo sailing to run a sailing academy, but Martin is determined to sail solo for a number of years.

Regarding their chances in the transatlantic race, Martin said: "We will try to sail Grinaker faster from west to east than the record set by my brother Ian and myself last year going east to west."

Martin said he believed Grinaker would perform well in the west-to-east crossing against the French yachtsmen because the yacht sailed well downwind.

"Allied Bank sailed very well upwind but Grinaker, with a crew of four, could do very well."



Teaming up . . . Bertie Reed and John Martin will be teaming up with two others for the Transatlantic race from Newport, US, to Plymouth, England, which starts May 20.