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# Award for yachting champ

CAPE TOWN — World champion South African yachtsman Shaun Ferry left Cape Town for Mexico on Wednesday night, minutes after being told he is to receive the biennial State President's Sport Award.

Ferry (33) won the last Hobiecat 16 Worlds championship staged at Guadeloupe in the Caribbean in January 1993 by a wide 30-point margin and is on his way to defend his title.

He will miss the ceremony at President Nelson Mandela's Tuynhuis offices on May 16 and his mother, Val Wilson of Simon's Town, will receive the award on his behalf.

A Hobiecat sailor from the age of 14, Ferry was runner-up — by a mere quarter-point margin on both occasions — at two previous World Cup

regattas before winning the Worlds.

The award by Mandela, given every two years under the auspices of the Department of Sport and Recreation, comes as a result of his achievements in all three international events.

This year's Hobiecat Worlds takes place at Huatulco on the Mexican coast, beginning on May 16 — the day the President's Sport Award is to be made.

Last year Ferry was awarded the SA Yachtsman of the Year title by the SA Yacht Racing Association. He is a nephew of former Cape Town mayor Gerry Ferry.

Ferry's crew in the Mexican event is Alison Lewis (28) of Camps Bay near Cape Town. — Sapa.