

# French trimaran takes two-star race line honours

Yachting Reporter

THE multihulls failed to break the record for a transatlantic crossing when the French trimaran Elf Aquitaine took line honours in the two-star race from Plymouth to Newport.

Frenchman Philippe Poupon's single-handed record of 10 days and nine hours set in 1988 still stands, with a safe margin of 11 hours.

Elf Aquitaine, sailed by Jean Maurel and Michel Desjoyaux, beat rival Fujicolor (Mike Birch and Didier Munduteguy) by four hours and nine minutes yesterday, a close margin in a race of about 3 000 miles.

The 18m monohulls, Allied Bank, Hunter's Child and Grinaker, also seem unable to break the standing record in their class set by John Martin in Voortrekker II in 1986.

They had to cross the Newport finish line on Monday, but according to Hunter's Child's last position, the first monohull would possibly get in only on Tuesday.

## 850 MILES TO GO

Hunter's Child today reported she still had 850 miles to go.

There is still no news about brothers John and Ian Martin in Allied Bank. They have not yet been able to make radio contact since their radio broke down at the weekend and have relayed no messages through ships.

Grinaker, sailed by Bertie Reed and Greg Prescott, maintained her position behind Hunter's Child and seemed to have crept up slightly.

The yachts were sailing over the top of a high pressure system near latitude 41 degrees north and were thought to be in favourable winds, a race spokesman said.