

Big welcome for tired Bruce

THE South African yachtsman, Bruce Dalling, was welcomed by more than 200 people when he arrived at D. F. Malan Airport last night. Four police officers had to escort him through the enthusiastic crowd of fans and autograph hunters.

An official reception committee, including the head of the South African Navy and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Springbok Ocean Racing Trust, Vice-Admiral H. H. Biermann, greeted him as he stepped off the aircraft.

Dalling, who is to make a symbolic homecoming in Voortrekker at Granger Bay this afternoon, told the *Cape Times*

that he was exhausted and was looking forward to getting out of the public eye.

"I just want to go home for a few days, relax and beat my father at golf," he said.

In October, he is to fly to London to receive two awards from the Duke of Edinburgh — a trophy for being second to cross the line in the Transatlantic race and a large silver tray for winning on corrected time.

Dalling said that many South Africans living or holidaying in the United States, including the South African Information Officer stationed in Washington, contacted him after the race and congratulated him. He appeared on several TV and radio programmes.

Asked about the book he is said to be writing on his experiences in the Atlantic, Dalling said "no comment".

He said that he would jump at the chance to compete in the next single-handed transatlantic race — "provided I have a boat that has a chance of winning".

"Voortrekker was technically the best boat in the race, but she is already in some ways obsolete."

Dalling told me that his mascot — a tiny Koala bear called Wilber — sailed with him in Voortrekker.

Last night, Dalling, who was accompanied to Cape Town by his parents, Major and Mrs. Bill Dalling, of Witbank, was

the guest of honour at a dinner for members of the S.O.R.T. board and organizing committee at the Civil Services Club.

This morning, Dalling and several technical advisers will board the Safmarine cargo ship, SA Weltevreden in Table Bay, to prepare Voortrekker for her trip from the harbour to the Merchant Navy Academy at Granger Bay.

At about 4.30 he will start on his symbolic homecoming along the shore line of Sea Point and Three Anchor Bay to Granger Bay. There he will be welcomed by more than 600 guests at a special welcome home party.

Plans for to-day's ceremony, page 3.