

Abromowitz boosts SA's challenge

By Dave Beattie

Ace Cape Town yachtsman Dave Abromowitz will boost the South African challenge in the Portnet Bartolomeu Dias race from Cape Town to Lisbon this month.

Abromowitz will join "old salts" Bertie Reed, Ted Kuttel and Bobby Bongers, and younger, talented skippers such as Hanno Teuteberg in a 22-entry field that includes yachts from Britain, the United States and the Netherlands.

Abromowitz will skipper "Walon" — a high-tech, 50-foot racer once sailed by Prince Philip.

Commenting on the 6000-mile trek to Lisbon, he said: "I haven't missed any

of the South African international races in the last 10 years, and I couldn't resist competing in this one. It is a true test of skill and stamina."

Vice Commodore of the Royal Cape Yacht Club, Abromowitz has an outstanding record, with fine efforts in the events such as Rothman's Week, the Crystic Beachcomber from Mauritius to Durban, the Agulhas races, the Admiralty Cup and the Cape to Rio.

Success did not come easily, for Abromowitz started his sea training at the age of 12 as a "cabin boy" — a sort of yachting apprenticeship that entailed scrubbing decks and making minor repairs before the skipper arrived.