

First in its class

GRIMSBY yacht RJN MARINE was the first monohull and ninth boat overall to arrive in Vilamoura, Portugal, in the two-handed international yacht race organised by the Royal Western Yacht Club at Plymouth.

The yacht was built and designed by Lincolnshire farmer Robert Nickerson, who skippers it, with Grimsby engineer Steven Peers (22), of St. Olaf's Grove, Grimsby, as crew. They are one of 32 crews from five countries, and arrived at Vilamoura at 7.15 last night — a voyage of 8 days and 15 minutes.

Entries are divided into six classes depending on overall boat length with a sub-division within classes for mono and multihulls.

The race is sailed in an outward and home leg of approximately 900 miles each from Plymouth to Vilamoura.

After a compulsory four-day stopover the boats set sail for home with the winners being those with the best aggregate time for both legs.