

CAPE TIMES 16-1-93

Searose in Rio lead challenge

From DALE GRANGER aboard the Drakensberg

SEAROSE KWIK-FIT, the controversial Rothmans Cape-to-Rio catamaran, reeled in the race leaders yesterday and challenged Broomstick for the lead and line honours.

At 9am yesterday skipper Chris King reported the position of his superlight catamaran as just 56 miles adrift of Hanno Teuteberg's Broomstick, and was averaging 10.2 knots, with the line honours favourite only managing half her speed in light winds.

The seven-ton 13m catamaran — with a rig equivalent in size to the 27m Syfrets Voortrekker II — received a frosty welcome from the yachting establishment when she was entered.

Race committee member Eric Bongers claimed Searose Kwik-fit went against the "spirit of the race" as she had a stripped interior, and race rules only allowed cruising cats.

There was consternation in yachting circles yesterday when Searose's position was charted. Cruising Association of South Africa secretary Eric Wells said Searose Kwik-fit's position was "impossible" and speculated that King was "bluffing the fleet".

On board the guard ship SAS Drakensberg there was also disbelief, but late yesterday the position was confirmed by the escort vessel.

Meanwhile, the handicap leader Morning Glory was fighting off the challenge of the Wizard.

The 15m Morning Glory was first on handicap yesterday and fifth on position, with the 17m Wizard second on handicap and fourth on position.

Parker Pen's navigator Alan Dawson reported the maxi was sailing at seven to eight knots in 10- to 11-knot winds from the east.

Royal Cape Yacht Club commodore Dave Abromowitz said his IGI Sea Rescue began to show her mettle yesterday.

About 180 miles due west of Broomstick and running on the same westerly course, Abromowitz declared a 24-hour run of 181 miles.

Joining IGI Sea Rescue on Broomstick's westerly course was Wizard, skippered by Jan Reuvers, and Searose Kwik-fit, in light south-easterly winds.

To the north, north-west winds prevailed as Padda Kuttel's Namsea Challenger, Bruce Tedder's Parker Pen and Hasso Plattner's Morning Glory were sailing on a north-west reach.

High temperatures and light trade winds were reported by Brent Sender "going through tubes of sunscreen" on Clicks Ambre Solaire.

Frenchman Michel Berthot, on Lohengrin, achieved the double yesterday and was leading the cruiser monohull class on position and handicap.

Bison Charger was stampeding in handicap second place, with Intec lying third.

The most northerly positioned competitor in the armada was Bertie Reed's Harbour Island lying on the 22° 35 seconds latitude.

● Late yesterday, the Royal Cape Yacht Club confirmed Ian Martin had withdrawn from the race after his Spirit of Markham broke her rudder for the second time and was heading for Saldanha.

Blind sailors back in race

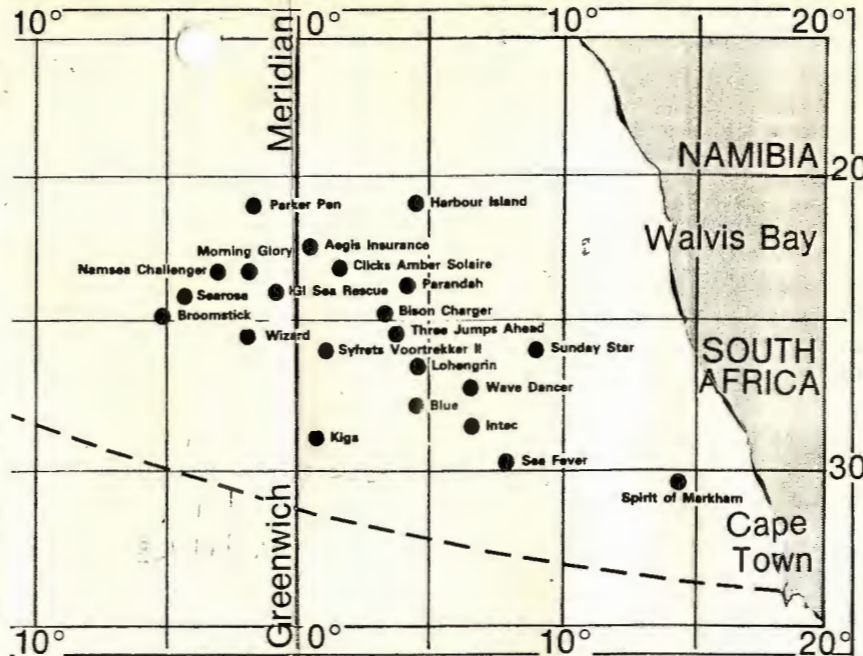
HALLS Vita C, which was to withdraw from the Rothmans Cape-to-Rio, shattering the dreams of the two blind sailors aboard, is back in the race.

The yacht sailed to Langebaan after the cylinder head gasket blew on the second day of the race.

A bearing has been flown from Germany and will be fitted on Wednesday, the sponsors said, and Halls Vita C should be back in the race by Wednesday at the latest.

The six-man crew includes two blind sailors Neels Troskie and Hein Wagner, who could become the first blind sailors to have completed a major ocean crossing.

Meanwhile, Syfrets' Voortrekker II has reported steering gear problems. — Staff Reporter, Sapa



BARE ALL ... Searose owner Colin Kenny (far right) discusses race tactics with his crew in the yacht's stripped-down interior. Plastic garden furniture was installed after yachtsmen accused Searose of transgressing the spirit of the race in entering a stripped catamaran, — usually luxurious and heavy — were allowed.

YACHT POSITIONS

These are the positions, arranged in descending order of actual position, of all the yachts in the Rio race as of 9.00am yesterday. The map reference is for the souvenir map published by the Cape Times at the start of the race.

Pos	Name	map ref	HCap	map ref	HCap
41	Southern Floe	C03L	26		
42	M&JT South Isles	C06M	30		
43	Wave Dancer	C04M	42		
44	Julie III	C05M	37		
45	Sunday Star	C02Q	45		
45	Sadie	C06Q	46		
47	Blue Route Mall	A12H	47		
48	Spirit of Markham	A13K	48		
I.S.M. FLEET					
1	Broomstick	D20K	5		
2	Namsea Challenger	D18P	14		
3	Parker Pen Ltd	D14Q	32		
4	Wizard	D20R	2	1	Lohengrin C02G 1
5	Morning Glory	D18R	1	2	Parandah B19H 7
6	IGI Sea Rescue	D18S	24	3	Diel B20H 11
7	MBS Flyer II	C05A	4	4	Harbour Island B13I 24
8	Antwerp Express	C038	3	5	Blue C05I 13
9	Cavelier	C02B	7	6	Bison Charge C02J 2
10	Aegis Insurance	B18C	40	7	Second Wind C02J 3
11	Thunderchild	C01C	15	8	Windswift C01J 4
12	Syfrets V/Trekker	C01C	12	9	Meander III B19K 19
13	Bekuga	B18C	25	10	Miss Rose B18K 21
14	Clicks A/Solaire	B18D	22	11	Raity I B18K 20
15	Canon	B19D	23	12	Pasha C03L 6
16	Touche	C06D	6	13	Don Juan C06L 23
17	Argonaut	C01E	17	14	Intec C06M 5
18	Lady Loma II	C01F	8	15	Chanteclair C02M 10
19	Kynsne T&B Homes	C04F	9	15	Ukelele Lady B19M 16
20	Carducci Bishops	C06F	18	17	Arethusa C03M 8
21	Ballyhoo	C02G	10	18	Zippo C05M 9
22	Racy One	C01G	16	19	City Of Bloem C05N 15
23	Baltic Wind	C01G	19	20	Martinique C05N 14
24	Bon/Carrefour	C01G	20	21	Force Five C05N 12
25	Three Jumps Ahead	B20G	34	22	Mithral Spar C06N 18
26	Tygerbodies	C02G	11	23	Sea Fever C07O 17
27	Mac's Stortebeker	B19H	31	24	Misky C04Q 22
28	Kiga	C07G	21	25	Fortis C06R 25
29	Johnson Tiles	C02H	13	26	Claude Neon C07R 26
30	Highgate Ostrich	C01I	29	27	Doffyn A02A 27
31	Enigma	B18I	44	28	Acid Rain A17Q 28
32	Susan II	C04I	27		
33	Zest	B20I	43		
34	Baltic Sun	C02J	38		
35	Witchdoctor	B20J	35	1	Searose D19M 1
36	Viking II	B20J	36	2	Obelix C01D 2
37	Buchanan Boyes	C04J	28	3	St Francis C01H 3
38	Southern Maid	C05J	12	4	Ti Bay B19H 4
39	Di-Data Redline	C03K	41	5	Jacana C04K 5
40	Easy Rider	C02L	39	6	Alicat C07L 6
MULTIHULL					

Schoolboy wants to win

Staff Reporter

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD Grassy Park schoolboy Seraj Jacobs, the youngest sailor in the fleet, had a message for his school mates and parents yesterday from Parker Pen.

"It's been very exciting and we're definitely going to win," he said.

Jacobs, a runner-up in last year's SA Optimist championships, said he had only been seasick once.

"I do miss home now and again," he said.

Navy heads turn as Vicki showers first

Staff Reporter

COMMANDER Tony Higham and his Royal Navy crew went scampering for their soap in expectation of a fresh water shower when they saw a rain squall coming their way this week.

But male crew members on Three Jumps Ahead were ordered to look the other way while the only female crew member, Chief Petty Officer Vicki Bonnet, had her shower first on the foredeck.

In the sweltering conditions on board yachts in this race — which should get worse as they move up closer to the equator — a rainwater shower is a sought-after prize.

Racing yachts carry only enough water for cooking and drinking, and crew generally have to be satisfied with a salt water dousing every evening.