

Panther's new record time for the Agulhas

By ROGER WILLIAMS

FRITZ PALTHE's maxi yacht Panther took overall line honours in the Anglo-Alpha Agulhas Dias Race at Simon's Town on Saturday morning in a new record time of 52 hr 45 min for the shortened, 447 nautical-mile course.

Skipped on the outward (Hout Bay-Mossel Bay) leg by Ernst van der Laan and on the return leg to Simon's Town by Geoff Meek, Panther crossed the line at 9.41am after a record homeward run of 23 hr 41 min, followed at 11.13am by Prestige/Krost with Bertie Reed at the helm and, in third place, Assegai (Dave Abromowitz) at 12.51pm.

The Durban maxi Hulett Aluminium, which was sailed to first-leg line honours last week by owner/skipper Lee McGregor, returned to Durban from Mossel Bay and did not take part in the return leg.

● On corrected time the two boats that fared best were Mike's Kitchen, provisional winner in the IOR class, and Windsift skippered by Derek Louwrens, chairman of the Agulhas Race, which topped the non-IOR section.

Louwrens and Abromowitz will collect the top trophies at the prize-giving in the Civic Centre tomorrow evening — the

Anglo-Alpha Trophy for non-IOR and the Cruising Association of SA Trophy for IOR.

The return leg of the race started from Mossel Bay on Friday morning in light south-westerly to south-easterly winds, but finished on Saturday night in a south-easterly gale in False Bay of 30/35 knots, with 7-metre swells, which caught the tail-enders.

Polysius, a Miura skippered by Jeremy Luckin of the Port Owen Yacht Club, broke her rudder below the waterline while approaching the finish-line and had to be towed to Simon's Town by a rescue craft from the NSRI's Station 10.

And the Defence Sailing Association's Centurion-class sloop Southern Floe, skippered by Mike Avery, which went to Polysius's aid, broke her boom and was towed to Gordon's Bay harbour by a craft from Station 9 of the NSRI.

All 32 yachts in the race were safely in harbour by early yesterday.

Detailed provisional results were

IOR, Class 1: 1. Mike's Kitchen (F Gottgens) 2. Penny Pinchers (R Nankin) 3. Assegai (D Abromowitz)

IOR, Class II: 1. Cape Smoke (D Smith) 2. Pulsation (P Barratt) 3. Triffid (R Petersen)

Non-IOR: 1. Windsift (D Louwrens) 2. Sinderella II (J Levin) 3. Ebb Tide (N Marshall)

Miura Class 1. Triffid (R Petersen) 2. Bank of Lisbon (Tony Abbott) 3. Matador (M Puttergill/G Webb)