

SAFE RETURN

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Angus

2nd yacht crippled by heavy storms



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A SECOND yacht returning from the Heineken Cape to Rio race ran into trouble and had to be assisted in making it home.

The yacht Nemesis, with four crew on board, ran into a heavy storm two weeks ago in which swells of over 7m and 60 knot winds pummelled the vessel, making the rudder fail.

This hampered the boat's sailing ability and it was forced to rely heavily on the motor to make headway.

Last week the yacht that won the race, Spirit of Cape Town, was found slowly sinking in mid-ocean, close to Tristan de Cunha, after being dismantled in a storm. The four young crew were rescued and are on board a ship heading for Cape Town.

According to National Sea Rescue Institute spokesman Craig Lambinon, the crew of Nemesis, realising they did not have enough fuel on board to make the distance back home, asked fellow yachtsmen and ships that were in their vicinity to drop fuel to help her along.

"According to the skipper of Nemesis, the passing ships on two occasions dropped fuel jerry cans into the sea (near to Nemesis) allowing them to continue on their journey.

"The yacht, Ciao Bella, that had heard of the plight of Nemesis, made a special detour to rendezvous with the 'casualty' yacht to assist with additional water and fuel, but, ultimately, this was not required as Nemesis was making good progress towards South Africa," said Lambinon.

"With the assistance of the Royal Cape Yacht Club, the owners were able to arrange for additional provisions and

'A charter boat caught up with Nemesis in deep ocean'

fuel to be sent from Cape Town, on a South African-built charter boat, who caught up with Nemesis in deep ocean to hand over much-welcomed supplies.

"A yacht that left South Africa, bound for the Mediterranean Sea, was asked to deliver a rudder (purpose-built for Nemesis) and were expected to rendezvous with Nemesis on the high seas (in the Atlantic Ocean) but for about a 12-hour period prior to the expected rendezvous, communications with the yacht (carrying the spare rudder) could not be established," Lambinon said.

"This, together with concern about the approaching low pressure system, led to the decision to abort the rendezvous forcing Nemesis to press on without the rudder and continuing to motor-sail. In total Nemesis made the 1 620 nautical mile journey entirely under her own power, much of it on borrowed fuel."

The yacht was brought into Saldanha harbour on Saturday by an NSRI vessel.

"The crew of Nemesis were found to be in good spirits. They are skipper Gareth Baxter, 20, Weltevreden Park, Johannesburg; and his crew of Charles Ineson, 64, Senderwood, Johannesburg; Tim Gibbons, 20, Morningside, Johannesburg; and Alida Goosen, 26, Green Point, Cape Town," Lambinon said.