

24/6/68

Yacht puzzle continues

Cape Times Correspondent
LONDON. — With the rescued yachtsman, Joan de Kat, and the leading survivors in the transatlantic yacht race nearing land, the spotlight has switched back to the race itself and the continuing puzzle — who is leading?
 The big rumour in Newport, Rhode Island, is that the little twin-hulled proa Cheers, sailed by American Tom Follett, is just round the headland.
 Others contend that the leader is Sir Thomas Lipton, sailed by Geoffrey Williams, and is likely to arrive to-day.
 And still others say that the dark horse is Voortrekker, with silent South African Bruce Dalling in command.

There is also a school of conjecture which ignores leaders altogether and contends merely that the winner will not be in for another six or seven days.
 Study of all known positions is little help because of the great variations in times of last fixes, and the uncertainty of some of these.
 The most likely bet on the basis of fixes is still the Sir Thomas Lipton. Geoffrey Williams radioed on Saturday morning that his position was 45° 10' N, 59° 30' W, which would put him some 90 miles behind Tabarly's position at the equivalent stage in 1964.
 To confuse things more there is a report of a sighting of "a yacht" off Sable Island (44° N,

60° W).
 This came from an aircraft on Thursday, and if the yacht is a competitor it would be ahead of the Sir Thomas Lipton, although earlier reports suggested that it was the Lipton that the aircraft sighted.
ODD BOAT
 "Blondie" Hasler, the originator of the race, thinks that no one would describe the odd little Cheers as "a yacht", and reckons that it is therefore most likely to have been Voortrekker.
 On Friday evening a Newport patrol boat with a very powerful radio sailed out and tried to get in touch with Dalling, but without success.

Alain Glikzman, in the French yacht Raph, who had to put in to St. John's, Newfoundland, on Friday with a broken trimtab on its rudder, told newspapers that he was sure only the Sir Thomas Lipton was ahead of him at the time.
 The most cheering news of the week is that the only woman competitor in the race, attractive Miss Edith Baumann, of West Germany, is safe and well. She was sighted in her trimaran Koala III on Thursday.
 The aircraft which made the sighting gave her position then, just before midday, as 43° 51' N, 25° 25' W, which means that she was roughly
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300 miles due north of the Azores and taking what is known as the intermediate route.
 The only person who got through by radio on Saturday, apart from Geoffrey Williams, was Captain Martin Minter-Kemp, in Gancia Girl, who reported that he was sailing through thick fog in winds of up to force seven. He added: "My self-steering gear has bust."
 Reports from Newport say that the yachting community there is showing fanatical interest in the finish of the race and is preparing a welcome fit for Christopher Columbus.

CROWNED KING
 The *Observer* correspondent says that the first man to cross the line is likely to be made King of Newport, and the impending jazz festival will have to play second bass for a week or two.

- The situation as far as is known in the race to date is as follows (all times GMT):
 Sir Thomas Lipton, 45° 10' N, 59° 30' W (8 a.m., June 22);
 Myth of Malha, 46° N, 51° W (8 a.m., June 17);
 Opus, 47° 30' N, 47° 30' W (7.40 a.m., June 21);
 Gancia Girl, 48° 20' N, 45° 20' W (6 a.m., June 22);
 Golden Cockerel, 43° 55' N, 42° 50' W (2.30 p.m., June 18).
 Yachts whose positions have been reported by ships or aircraft are:
 Unidentified, 46° 55' N, 51° 43' W (5 p.m., June 20).
 Spirit of Cutty Sark, 44° 24' N., 47° 48' W. (4 p.m., June 20);
 Amistad, 45° 06' N., 45° 20' W. (10 a.m., June 21);
 Maxine, 43° 50' N., 42° 08' W. (1 p.m., June 20);
 Rob Roy, 37° 20' N., 35° 40' W. (June 17);
 Maguelonne, 48° 07' N., 32° 50' W. (11 a.m., June 14);
 Coila, 47° 40' N., 32° 13' W. (5.30 p.m., June 14);
 Mex, 49° 36' N., 31° 29' W. (10 p.m., June 12).
 Koala III, 43° 51' N., 25° 25' W. (11.29 a.m., June 20);
 a Delirante, 48° 23' N., 24° 50' W (4 p.m., June 16);
 Voortrekker, 47° 40' N., 24° 20' W. (6 p.m., June 7);
 Startled Faun, 47° 16' N., 16° 28' W. (6 p.m., June 6);
 Sylvia II, 51° 21' N., 14° 52' W. (8 p.m., June 16);
 Goodwin, 51° N, 07° 50' W. (midday, June 4);
 San Giorgo, 48° 50' N., 07° 25' W. 8 p.m., June 2).