

DALLING^{3/17} SETS HOT PACE IN YACHT RACE

From a Staff Reporter

COWES (Isle of Wight), Saturday.

AFTER a slow start with light winds, the yachts in the Southsea-Le Havre Channel race — including three South African boats — are now racing for the finishing line helped by a strengthening westerly wind.

There is a chance of very fast times for the bigger yachts, among which, according to sightings at dawn, the Americans are prominent.

South Africa's biggest entry, *Jakaranda*, skippered by Bruce Dalling, was reported to be among the leaders, but little firm information was forthcoming this morning.

GOOD START

Jakaranda was away to a smart start yesterday when the 40 or so yachts in the Admiral's Cup series jockeyed at the line at Southsea, but the wind was unfavourable for her and the other South Africans, Gordon Neill's *Mercury* and *Omuramba*, owned by Hans Berker.

However, after a midnight storm in the Channel, the weather changed dramatically. The wind swung westerly to about Force 6, and the really big ocean racers were in their element.

The first yachts home were expected at between three and four o'clock this afternoon. But it will be some time before the actual placings are known, for the computerised operation working out the handicapping has to be done first.

Among the competitors is Britain's Prime Minister, Mr Edward Heath, sailing *Morning Cloud*, which was at the head of the British contingent

Before the start Dalling said: 'If we come halfway down the field we shall have achieved our objective.'