



SA yachts hold on to sixth place in Cup

From an Argus Staff Reporter

COWES (Isle of Wight), Thursday.

THE South African yachting squad is holding sixth position in the Admiral's Cup 53km inshore race off the Isle of Wight.

BRUCE DALLING, skipper of *Jakaranda*.

There was a disqualification scare about Mercury, which would have lost the team 29 points, cast gloom among the crews — particularly as *Jakaranda* had crossed the line first (16th on handicap) and *Omuramba* 27th (26th).

Apparently Mercury was alleged to have gone inside a mark instead of outside — a fate which hit the American leader of the race, *Yankee Girl*, and led to her immediate disqualification.

However, last night I was informed that no objection had been raised and Mercury's position would stand unless some further evidence to the contrary was put before the committee today.

Britain still leads the contest after another fine performance by Mr Heath's team of *Morning Cloud*, *Cervantes* and *Prospect of Whitby*, which finished in the first 10 on handicap. Australia is second, America third, Argentina fourth and Italy fifth.

JAKARANDA SPLITS SAIL

Jakaranda sailed particularly well after a bad start in which, 15 seconds before the gun, she split a sail. She recovered brilliantly and, as Bruce Dalling, her skipper, said afterwards:

'Her crew were once again magnificent.'

However, it proved to be an expensive race for the South African yawl: she tore two other sails, including a spinnaker, at an estimated total cost of R1 200. But it was that sort of day, with squalls and sudden wind changes which troubled most of the yachts.

Dalling said: 'All things considered we didn't do too badly after that bad start. I reckon the trouble with the sails lost us some six minutes in all, but we pulled up all the time to cross first, although I wish it had been faster and our handicap time better.'

HIT SQUALL

Dr Ken Warr, skipper of *Omuramba*, was a little disappointed with his sloop's performance. 'It was a real mixture out there,' he told me. 'At one stage we hit a squall and maybe we should have reefed in earlier, which meant we lost time.'

Mr Gordon Neill, skipper of Mercury, preferred to keep mum about the disqualification incident, but apparently it was a close thing. Otherwise his boat had a good race, notching 29 points to *Jakaranda*'s 32 and *Omuramba*'s 22.

The South African boats were taken out of the water today for another bottom scrub and polish in readiness for the biggest test of all in this hard series — the 965km Fastnet race, starting on Saturday.

ROUND-WORLD RACE

South Africa may take part in a round-the-world yacht race in 1973, after the next Admiral's Cup series.

The idea has been outlined by a group of British enthusiasts and Bruce Dalling is having lunch with them today to discuss the possibilities. He told me yesterday: 'It certainly seems a great idea. A race for class-one yachts with full crews should produce a bigger entry and more interest than the slower single-handed races. I would love to skipper *Jakaranda* in it, depending on my sponsors of course.'

According to the outline plans, the race would be for fully crewed ocean racers, with a maximum 21,3km, starting at Plymouth and with stops at Cape Town, Sydney and Rio de Janeiro.

A minimum of a dozen entries seems likely from feelers that have been put out at Cowes among the Admiral's Cup teams.

Calls at Cape Town, Sydney and Rio will be compulsory and the yachts will stay at these ports for two weeks for revictualling and re-equipping. There will be prizes for each of the 'legs.' At each port the race will be continued with a mass start.