

## Royal Palm leads the Beachcomber fleet from Mauritius

# Doctor from rival yacht treats crewman in mid-ocean drama

**Mercury Correspondent**  
AT SEA ON THE MEIRING NAUDÉ—An armada of more than 60 small craft, two helicopters and a low-swooping South African Airways Boeing formed part of the magnificent send-off for the 19 participants in the Beachcomber Indian Ocean Crossing on Saturday afternoon.

Led across the start by the only Mauritian entry, Jalc, the 19 yachts beat up to the first mark in a strengthening 18-knot easterly which increased to 25 knots.

First around the mark at Grand Baie, four miles from the start, was the line honour favourite, the Royal Cape Yacht Club two-tonner Royal Palm, skippered by Dave Abromowitz.

The two Farr 38 designs, Penny Pinchers from Algoa Bay Yacht

Club and Paul Maré's Royal Cape Yacht Club Majimoto, vied for second place, followed by Broadway Ford.

Yesterday morning at 6 40 a m S A time the first yacht round the marker vessel on Reunion Island, 120 miles south-southwest of Mauritius, was Royal Palm.

She had taken 17 hours and 40 minutes and was 43 minutes ahead of her main opposition, the scratch boat Majimoto which in turn was followed closely by the Compass 47 Broadway Ford.

They were followed by Spirit of CIW II, Penny Pinchers, Solitaire and Sealelectronics.

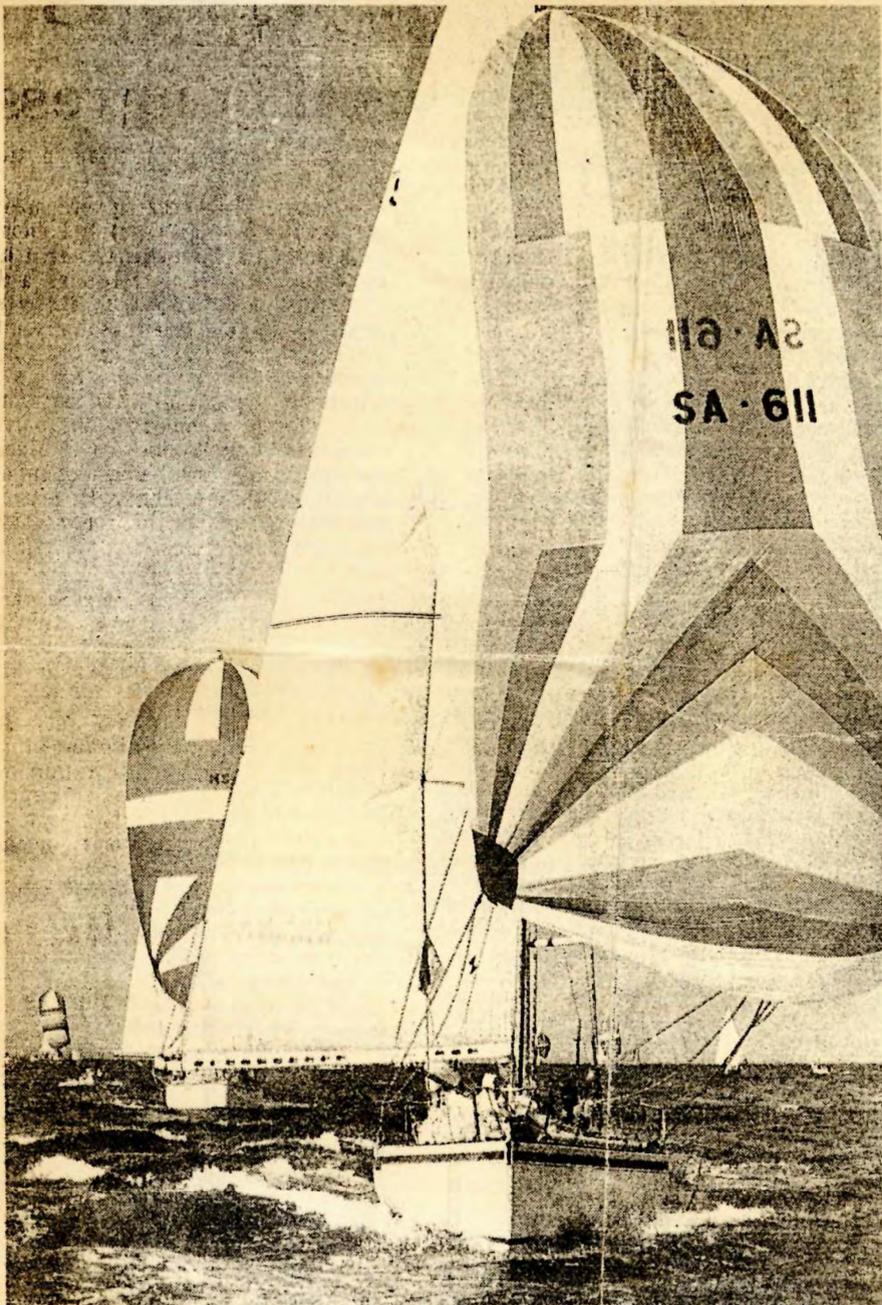
Then came Three Spears, Jalc, Solitaire, Shoestring, Southerner and Gwaap.

All the yachts indicated they had had an enjoyable sail down to Re-

union but at 10 a m S A time Broadway Ford called the guard vessel Meiring Naudé with the news that crewman Brian Tocknell was suffering from severe stomach cramps and that they would like some medical advice regarding the medicine they carried on board.

Shortly afterwards, her rival Solitaire, also a Compass 47, made contact with her and put their doctor aboard.

He later radioed that Brian was suffering from acute gastritis and had been given an injection and medication. Both yachts then continued.



Royal Palm from Cape Town, skippered by Dave Abromowitz, was first round the buoy after the start of the Beachcomber Indian Ocean Crossing off Mauritius on Saturday.

Picture by ALAN COXON