

# Big race blues sideline Padda

WITH less than a month before the start of the fourth **Crystic Beach-comber Crossing** from Mauritius to Durban, one of the top yachts has withdrawn.

The duel between line honours champion **Get More Fun** and **Bossanova** has been called off as **Bossanova** has withdrawn. Disappointed owner, **Padda Kuttel**, cited the lack of sponsorship and an important business commitment as the reasons for his withdrawal.

It's now anyone's guess when the long awaited duel between the two will take place, as **Bossanova** withdrew two years ago within hours of the start with structural problems. This year was going to be the showdown, but once again **Get More Fun** has virtually been handed the race on a platter.

The economy has been blamed for the low entry. "It is just not possible to get sponsorship at present, which is a pity as the race is a classic," said one disappointed hopeful competitor.

"It's the best race on the calendar as it's tough, challenging and requires lots of guts to push the yacht really hard in really difficult conditions," said another.

One yacht is already having a good look at the

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conditions by sailing to Mauritius, while most of the others are being shipped.

In a radio-telephone interview, **Iain Park-Ross**, skipper of **Moonpath**, reported his position to be just 275 nautical miles from Mauritius. "We must be close to breaking the record for the passage as we will be in early on Wednesday morning," an excited **Park-Ross** said. "It's been a really fantastic and luxurious trip with a variety of weather. The boat has handled magnificently and is really fast. I think we have a very good chance overall on handicap," he said.

While not all the boats in the fleet are as big and luxurious as **Moonpath**, her crew have all the home comforts including TV, hot and cold water, microwave ovens and piped music.

**Get More Fun**, which is being sailed to Mauritius by **Bobby Bongers**, left Cape Town yesterday. Another five Cape Town boats are being shipped out tomorrow, while the bulk of the Durban fleet has either left by ship or are sailing under their own steam.