

SAILING

French yachts surge into lead

DON HOLLIDAY

THE Reunion Island yacht which dropped out of touch with the **Crystic Beachcomber** Crossing race headquarters has bounced back into the lead, making it a first and second for the French boats as the fleet closes in on Durban.

UFA failed to make the daily report on Friday because of an electrical failure, but by 18h00 yesterday the problem had been sorted out and she had surged into the handicap lead.

The yacht's skipper has to satisfy the race committee that there was sufficient reason for not contacting race headquarters or face a penalty of up to five percent of the elapsed time of the yacht's crossing.

Cruising Association of South Africa chairman Richard Crockett said he was unaware of any protest having been lodged against the ratings of the French yachts.

In second place is the other Reunion Island yacht, 12 du BTP.

A classy distance of 205 miles in 24 hours has pushed Rob Meek's Suburban Hardware Dulux into third position.

Ian Martin's Shandrani managed 199 miles on Friday, while Moonpath pipped her with 200 miles.

The runaway line honours winner, Coldcor, was expected in Durban at 17h00 yesterday.

Coldcor's owner and co-helmsman, Dave Abromowitz, is reported to have said there had been major problems aboard but he would not elaborate.

He told race headquarters that the strong south-westerly winds raging in Durban had not yet reached his yacht.