

## ● SAILING

# Yachts slip up at first marker

GEOFF MEEK sailed brilliantly on Indigo for a PHRF handicap victory in the First Bowring Double Cape Yacht Race.

And Dave Abromowitz powered his mini-maxi, Bertie's Landing, to a convincing new line-honours record.

Besides Meek's PHRF handicap victory and Abromowitz's resounding new line-honours record of 16 hours and 14 minutes — two hours faster than the old yardstick — other results will only be revealed today as several yachts, including pre-race favourite Corum (Craig Middleton), committed a cardinal racing sin by failing to round the first mark off the breakwater and therefore did not sail the correct 130 mile course.

The sailing gods were smiling on Bertie's Landing, the Southwell 65-foot downwind flyer on her return from False Bay.

As she gybed around Cape Point for the second time at sunrise on Saturday the wind switched from north-west to strong south-east.

Minutes earlier she had blown her 0.75oz spinnaker in the approach to the point, but she still blasted up the final west coast leg to Royal Cape in four and a half hours after surfing at exhilarating speeds of 18 knots from Cape Point to Kommetjie.

Meek and Indigo, the Simonis 53, gave the 65 footer some anxious moments — especially in the first half of the race — in a tremendous cat and mouse battle for the lead and the mini-maxi crew were bewildered why Indigo's lead was not shrinking until Kommetjie where kelp on the keel was the discovered villain.

Bertie's Landing led once again past Scarborough on a spinnaker reach and accelerated away across False Bay in a steady beam reach of 15 knots.