

CARIAD IS DOWN TO 3 KNOTS

From Doug Tarbet aboard Cariad

AT SEA, Tuesday.

AFTER 24 HOURS of light winds Cariad was 474 miles north-west of Cape Town by 10 a.m. today and we are now making only three knots under almost every bit of sail we carry — and that is a mammoth 500 sq. m.

What little wind there is is behind us and for the fourth time we have experimentally boomed out our huge Genoa in a goose-wing pattern.

It is drawing as well as it can, but only one other sail is drawing — the mizzen staysail.

And it is not surprising. The wind is hardly strong enough to give a reading on our windspeed indicator.

SAILS FLOPPING

The rest of our sails are flopping idly and we are keeping them up only to take advantage of every breath of air that comes our way.

We are praying for strong winds, for it needs a good blow to send Cariad's 74 tons along at a good speed.

The only excitement we have had in the last 34 hours was a duel with the red spinnakered yacht we sighted north of us yesterday.

We later identified her as Golden City and for eight hours we ran neck and neck with her eight miles away. But as the wind dropped she slowly pulled ahead and disappeared over the horizon at sundown.

The main enemy of the crew at the moment is boredom and the two watches are having a competition to see which can drive the boat hardest in each watch.

DELICACY

The prize — one night's free drinking in Rio. Skipper Krasni Sutic is also organising bridge and chess leagues on board.

One of the delicacies we are enjoying at the moment is biltong. Two kilos of biltong were delivered by Mr. Dick Richards of Pretoria who sailed with Cariad in the 1950s.

We have been free of sickness so far except for Robin Fabig's cold, but it is responding to treatment.

According to the latest computerised positional reports, the yachts in the first 10 places are (with their handicap positions in brackets): 1, Ocean Spirit (16); 2, Graybeard (22); 3, Stormy (7); 4, Voortrekker (5); 5, Jan Pott (4); 6, Baleia (1); 7, Serendib IV (9); 8, Howard Davis (18); 9, Outburst (2); and Omuramba (3).