

LIGHTER ^{Argus} YACHTS CHASING LEADERS

The Argus Shipping
Correspondent

IN S.A.S. TAFELBERG,
Tuesday.

AS the weather moderates — the trade wind is becoming weaker and the sea calmer — it is possible that some of the light-displacement yachts of medium lengths will close the gap on big front-runners such as Graybeard, the Canadian ketch.

Tafelberg came abeam of Graybeard this morning as we headed southward through the fleet after standing out ahead of it overnight to avoid meeting an unlit yacht in darkness.

Graybeard, apparently as far north as any of the yachts, was 600 miles north-west by west from Cape Town carrying main and mizzen spinnakers, a jib, mainsail and mizzen. He speed was about six knots.

Graybeard's big spinnakers were not constantly filled, however, and it is possible smaller craft, for instance Outburst, might do better today. In similar weather yesterday we found Outburst sailing magnificently 400 miles from Cape Town.

JAN POTT

Fifteen miles south-west of her was the German sloop Jan Pott, flying spinnaker, mainsail and jib and as Tafelberg rounded her the air force Shackleton from Cape Town arrived on the scene, buzzing us again and again.

An even greater thrill for Tafelberg's crew though, was coming close to Voortrekker, her orange-white-blue spinnaker and mainsail (No. S.A. 1) grabbing as much of the light south-east breeze as possible.

Voortrekker, about 400 miles from Cape Town, dipped her ensign and Tafelberg reciprocated. During this reporting to Tafelberg the yachts are displaying comradeship and positions of yachts with low-power radios are being relayed through boats with more powerful sets.

Engine trouble has limited Serendib IV's transmissions and the ketch Stormy has reported that Applemist has lost the use of her radio.

Concrete yacht damaged

Cape Town's second home-built ferro-concrete yacht was damaged yesterday when she tipped forward in her cradle at the home of her owner in Rondebosch.

Terpaul, a 12 m (40ft.) ketch, was not seriously damaged. A hole six inches wide was punched through her hull, but Paul Smith, son of the owner, Mr. F. R. Smith, said today all that was needed was to splash some cement on the damaged part.

The incident happened when the 11-ton Terpaul was being lifted from her cradle to be moved to the Royal Cape Yacht Club.

She is now being repaired on the slipway at the club.

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