

CARIAD HAS AVERAGED 7.5 KNOTS

From DOUG TARBET on board
21-1-71 CARIAD I

THREE days of sailing under full canvas came to an abrupt end for Cariad I shortly before dawn today when we were hit by a sudden rain squall.

We had been running nicely with the Genoa boomed out when the squall roared out of the darkness. A violent wind, which had switched to the east, slammed into us. It took us completely by surprise.

Cariad I hove to for an hour before the crew, working by the light of hand torches, sorted out the confusion.

The squall passed as quickly as it came, leaving us again with light airs. We are now coasting along at a modest five knots.

Our position at 10 a.m. local time was 880 miles north-west of Cape Town.

In spite of the light weather we seem to be well up among the leaders. We have averaged 7.5 knots since the start of the race.