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# Tafelberg moves up to the leaders

From **ROGER WILLIAMS**  
in the guardship Tafelberg

**A**FTER moving about among the tailenders in the Cape-to-Rio race, Tafelberg headed west by north-west at 17 knots to one side of the main stream of competing yachts to intercept the leaders late last night somewhere in the vicinity of Greenwich meridian.

Latest information on board the guardship is that elapsed time leaders Graybeard (skipper L. Killam) and Ocean Spirit (R. Knox-Johnston and L. Williams) are swinging towards the west only a few miles from one another.

We hope to see them at dawn—and to get some idea just how close the yachts are leading the group at this stage of the race, and to see whether any of the yachts which have not yet reported their positions are among them—the French ketch Raph (A. Gliksman), for instance.

On Wednesday night, before turning back towards the leaders, we passed the smallest yacht in the race, the 9-m (30-ft.) British sloop Barbette, skippered by Adam Clackson. She was making good headway through choppy sea, with her blue and yellow spinnaker drawing the south-easterly wind which has favoured all the competing yachts in varying degrees so far.

## SPINNAKER SIGHTED

At dawn yesterday we came upon Danish entry Serendib IV (J. P. Christiansen), and we have just sighted a red, white and blue spinnaker—probably that of Stormy on the horizon ahead of us.

In a radio-telephone call to the Durban entry Mercury, at lunch-time yesterday, skipper Bob Nuttall told me his boat was going as well as planned, and he added:

“We’re among the leaders in the position we expected to be in at this stage. We’re very satisfied with the performance of the boat and everyone on board is fit. We’ve had another few halliards breaking and one or two other minor problems, but on the whole everything is going extremely well.”

Late on Wednesday night the Zeekoevlei yacht Applemist (D. Jackson) sent out an urgent message to Tafelberg warning us that she was only a mile or so from us with defective navigation lights. This turned out to be a case of mistaken identity as we were then some 32 km (20 miles) from Applemist.

The ship bearing down on the little sloop later identified herself as the African Comet, which had picked up the Applemist on radar and was aware of her exact position. African Comet had earlier reported sighting the French schooner Pen Duick III (E. Tabarly) and radioed her position to us.

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[www.sailing.co.za](http://www.sailing.co.za) -  
[editor@sailing.co.za](mailto:editor@sailing.co.za)