

Rio ^{27. 1. 71} yachts cruise up to half-way

GUARDSHIP Tafelberg is back with the leading yachts today as they spinnaker across to Rio in weather more suited to lazy cruising — high day temperatures, tepid water and light winds.

Among the frontrunners is Graybeard, which we hope to sight today at about the halfway mark. Covering a little more than 100 sea miles a day at present she is believed to be just astern of Ocean Spirit with Argentina's Fortuna waiting to strike from the north.

French schooner Pen Duick III, mysterious as ever, is lurking in those waters too. She does not co-operate in reporting her position daily by radio — a fact which has angered several skippers, writes Neville Peat aboard S.A.S. Tafelberg.

Two yachts did notify Tafelberg of power troubles, however. Sprinter, Cape Town's all-women entry reported weakening batteries with no means of charging them. To conserve power she will be in touch every three days instead of daily.

British sloop Matchless, which only yesterday relayed an all's well message from Sprinter's skipper Molly Warr to husband Ken Warr, in Omuramba, now has generator trouble and will not be able to maintain weather reporting.

There was good news from Stormkaap last night. Skipper Dave Abromowitz, who telephoned his father in Cape Town via Tafelberg and Cape Town Radio, said his crew were comfortable and gave his damaged sloop's position as 500 sea miles south-east of port of refuge, Jamestown, St. Helena.

But plans to ship Stormkaap back to Cape Town aboard cargo mailship Good Hope Castle have been scrapped according to a signal from Cape Town last night.

Instead, shipment of a jury rudder-tiller is being considered so that Stormkaap can sail home. An alternative is for her to get back aboard a British naval supply vessel.

ARGIE



'No puff always did put yachtsmen in a huff ...'

Meanwhile, when the world's longest passenger liner S.S. France, sails from Cape Town for Rio at 7 p.m. today, she will have a special cargo on board — the trophies for the Cape-to-Rio race.

One hour before the liner's departure, the Mayor of Cape Town (Dr. Jan Dommissie) will board the France where he will hand over to her master (Cmdr. Christian Pettré) the city's trophy — the Cape of Good Hope Trophy for the first yacht across the finish line.

The France will sail to Rio by way of St. Helena and is due to arrive at the island at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

Her passengers and crew are certain to get a fine view of some of the yachts in the western half of the South Atlantic and it is hoped, too, that the France may provide weather information that could help the forecasters who prepare daily weather reports for the fleet.