

# Three Bears is 'feeling more alive'

11.2.71

From Neville Peat on board S.A.S. Tafelberg

**F**OR THE 15 m Durban ketch Three Bears, low in fresh water reserves and battery power, S.A.S. Tafelberg represented a port of refuge yesterday. By the time Three Bears set off for Rio, 730 miles to the west, she had been given a new lease of life.

As Irish-born skipper Des Dinnigan said while sipping coffee in Tafelberg's wardroom: 'We feel more alive.'

He and four of Three Bears' six-strong crew had just showered and breakfasted in Tafelberg. Three hours earlier they had been aboard a yacht with only 36 litres of fresh water left and not enough power in batteries to start her main engine to recharge them.

Dinnigan said he had been rationing his crew half a litre of water a day. They were used to two litres.

## PENALTY

'We have two tanks holding 410 and 227 litres. We used the small one to begin with and only a few days ago noticed the big tank was empty.'

He had no hesitation about accepting Tafelberg's offer of replenishment, in spite of the race penalty points he will receive in Rio as a result.

It amounted to 227 litres of fresh water, 22 litres of petrol for the auxilliary motor, 15 litres of paraffin for cooking, quantities of beer, steak and bread and the

loan of batteries to start the main engine.

For good measure the north-easter freshened after provisions had been transferred by Tafelberg's two dinghies and Three Bears set a spinnaker, headsail, mainsail and mizzen to get away at an encouraging four knots. In the past few days she has averaged around 70 miles a day.

Towards dusk Tafelberg encountered the second yacht of the day, Jakaranda. A stirring sight under blue and white striped spinaker, headsail, main-sail, mizzen staysail and mizzen, Jakaranda was 760 miles from Rio.

There were extra special cheers for this beautiful yawl which, like Three Bears, is making her first ocean passage. Jakaranda was also doing about four knots, a satisfactory speed considering the zephyr she was sailing in.

From the archives of  
Richard Crockett &  
Sailing Publications.  
[www.sailing.co.za](http://www.sailing.co.za) -  
editor@sailing.co.za