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# *Albatros: 1st SA yacht home to-day?*

From ROGER WILLIAMS  
in the guardship Tafelberg

**I**N THE BEST WINDS experienced so far the 13-metre (42-ft.) Knysna sloop Albatros II is racing into Rio under more than 3 000 sq. ft. (279 sq m) of sail and will almost certainly to-day be the first South African yacht to cross the finish line in the Cape-to-Rio race.

Brian Lello, in a radio chat yesterday, said Albatros, which is skippered by John Goodwin, of Hout Bay, was 80 miles off Cape Rio, with 140 miles to go.

"We expect to be in Rio de Janeiro between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. to-morrow," he said.

Rio time is five hours behind South African time.

Mr. Lello added that during the night Albatros had possibly had the best sail of the entire race and all her sails were still drawing beautifully in a following wind.

All on board the sloop were still somewhat in the dark about her handicap position and they wanted to know from Tafelberg the order in which the elapsed time leaders had crossed the line.

Mr. Lello will report for the

South African morning group of newspapers from Rio when he arrives there.

The outstanding performance of Albatros in spite of an initial setback, and also Ocean Spirit's achievement in taking line honours, reflect not only exceptional sailing skills and tactics on the part of their skippers and crews, but also great credit to the designer of both boats, Ricus van der Stadt, of Holland, who also designed Stormy, which was the fifth boat across the line at Rio.

While the front runners on handicap put in a final spurt for Rio, Tafelberg continues to move about among the fleet about 700 miles eastward, and we have just had a striking study in contrasts between old and new by coming close up first to Jakaranda, skippered by Bruce Dalling, and then to Cariad, the biggest and oldest yacht in the race.

## SETTING SUN

We first saw the Jakaranda at dusk on Wednesday, when she made a magnificent picture with her blue and white striped spinnaker merging with pink tinted clouds in the setting sun.

We met her again early on Thursday in a position to the south of the island of Trindade. In a radio chat Dalling said the Pretoria yacht was making slow progress in light airs, averaging some 120 miles a day. He expected to be in Rio by Monday, and everyone on board is looking forward to the famous Mardi Gras festival in that city starting on February 20.

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