

NEWS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1979

FASTNET FLEET SETS OFF ON RACING EPIC



EDWARD HEATH

Renowned as the world's greatest offshore yacht racing epic, the Fastnet race was setting off from Cowes today with a record fleet of 330 yachts.

First away were the smallest ocean-goers, with the progressively larger yachts chasing them at ten-minute intervals — until the Admiral's Cup fleet was second to last away (writes PETER SMITH).

Frantic activity in the Groves and Guttridge boat yard and marina early today meant Midnight Sun, of Sweden; Campsa, of Spain; Police Car, of Australia, and Evergreen, of Canada,

all won their desperate races against time to have major repairs carried out.

Only Bugis of Singapore was left missing from the race with hull problems.

British Admiral's Cup team tactics for today's crucial Fastnet Race were to keep out of trouble and make sure that all three finished the race, which counts treble points.

Edward Heath, team skipper in Morning Cloud, Jeremy Rogers, in Eclipse, and Ernest Juer, in Blizzard, were determined to climb higher up the points table than the sad seventh position they held before the race started.