

Durban's Moonpath in titanic struggle

By Greg Knowler

DURBAN yacht Moonpath and Cape Town's Shandrani are locked in a titanic battle for handicap honours as the Crystic Beachcomber Crossing enters its seventh day.

Even though the 54 foot Moonpath has 11 feet on Shandrani, she is battling to close the gap and gained only three miles in the past 24 hours.

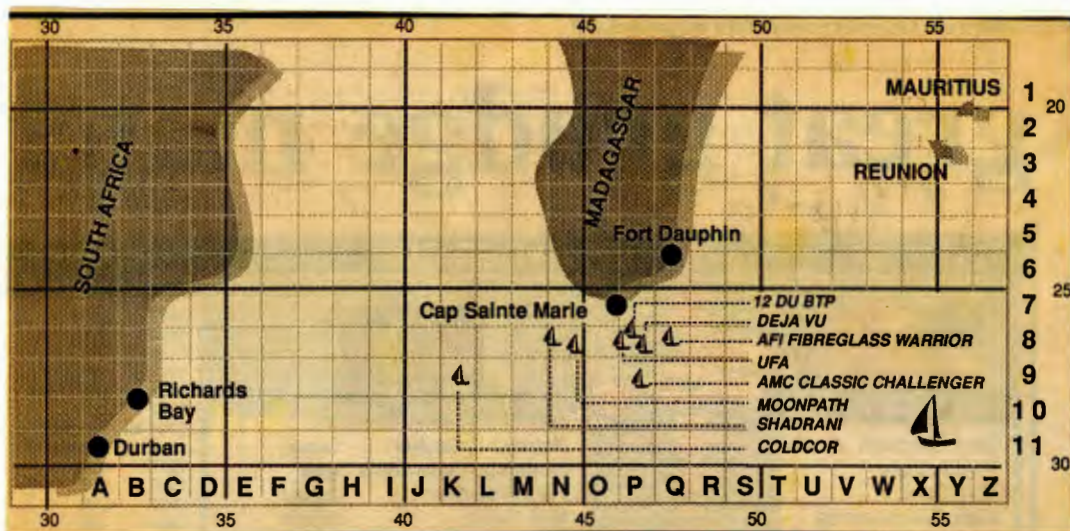
The race favourite Coldcor has moved into second place on handicap and is almost 200 miles ahead of the fleet. Although it is almost certain she will take line honours, she now seems to be in line for a handicap win, something unheard of since the race's inception in 1985.

AMC Classic Challenger holds her position at fourth but Durban's MSC Donna Mia has dropped from fifth place to 11 th. This was unexpected but her latest day run of only 123 miles could be because of damaged gear and might put paid to her chances.

Ernie Shaw's AFI Fibreglass Warrior has gained one position to sixth, swopping places with Deja Vu.

Winds are still fairly light and no spectacular distances have been covered in the past 24 hours. There is an 18 knot southerly breeze with six to eight metre swells making life uncomfortable for everyone.

Handicap positions of yachts so far:
 1 12 Du BTP (Alain Lallier); 2 Coldcor (Geoff Meek/Dave Abbomowitz); 3 UFA (Christian Pernes); 4 AMC Classic Challenger (Greg Davis); 5 Shandrani (Ian Martin); 6 AFI Fibreglass Warriors (Ernie Shaw); 7 Deja Vu (Peter Dolamore); 8 Moonpath (Iain Park-Ross); 9 Lazy L (Reinhold Antweiler); 10 Suburban Hardware Dulux (Rob Meek); 11 MSC Donna Mia (Harry Ellens); 12 Paradise Isle (Dave Elcock/Dave Telford); 13 Ocean Sailing 1 (Colin Schwegman); 14 Kiga (Dennis Joubert); 15 Techrent (Rob Martin); 16 Blue Diamond (E Crookson); 17 Majuli III (Alex Smal); 18 Susanna Maria 4 (Jacob van den Berg).



Map positions of the leading yachts. Graphic by SHELAGH SYMNS.