

Rum Floes as Bowman's crew celebrate

RUM was Floe-ing at the Point Yacht Club last night with the announcement that Southern Floe was the overall handicap winner of the Mauritius Crossing Race from Grand Baie to Durban.

The 31-foot sloop, the oldest and smallest in the race, crossed the finish line at 4.48pm yesterday to knock previous handicap leader Yes Yes NBYes off its perch.

Elated skipper Robbie Bowman of the SA Navy said last

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Norman Sheriff

night: "This has been an enjoyable but frustrating race for us. With such variable winds, some days we made 230 miles and on others we were cut down to about 40 miles.

"What was most frustrating were the last eight miles which took us five hours, making only

200 yards on each tack.

"But we never gave up until we crossed the finish line. I've never seen a crew work like this, they spent the last two days sitting on the weather rail and I think we had more sail changes in the final two days than we did in the entire race."

Second on handicap is Yes Yes NBYes with Golden Sovereign third. Two yachts, Rosa Viento and Golden Fleece are still at sea but an upset at this stage is highly unlikely.