

# Shock to hopes of Albatros

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**S**OUTH AFRICA'S hopes of an overall win in the Cape-to-Rio race slipped away today when the French ketch Striana declared her position for the first time in four days to show that she is leading on handicap — 5hr. 50min. ahead of the Knysna sloop Albatros II.

When Striana's skipper Alain Maupas last reported to the guard-

ship on Friday he was fourth on handicap and more than 20hr. behind on schedule.

Albatros II had held the lead in the race for overall honours for the past 14 days, but today was 5hr. 50min. and 325 miles behind Striana.

The British ketch Ocean Spirit has stolen the initial thunder by being first across the line.

While Ocean Spirit's 16-man crew were being feted in Rio de

Janeiro today, the battle for second-across-the-line honours and the main overall winner's prize was being fought out close off the Brazilian coast.

With only 140 miles to go at her last positional report last night, the Argentinian Navy's masthead yawl Fortuna should finish early this afternoon, about an hour ahead of the giant Canadian masthead ketch Graybeard.

According to the computerised

placings, Fortuna is fourth on handicap while Graybeard is 41st.

Striana's break in radio silence after four days came as a surprise to race officials when they found she was leading in the race for overall honours.

Albatros II is second followed by the Dutch ketch Stormy, Fortuna, Raph and the False Bay Yacht Club entry Breezand.

Golden City is lying 10th on actual position and eighth on handicap.

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**[www.sailing.co.za](http://www.sailing.co.za) - [editor@sailing.co.za](mailto:editor@sailing.co.za)**