

DALLING BELIEVES HE IS LEADING

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LONDON. — South Africa's Bruce Dalling in a radio-telephone call from Voortrekker at 8 o'clock (SA time) yesterday evening said he believed he may be 60 miles in the lead in the single-handed transatlantic yacht race.

Dalling based this on positions of other competitors which had been 'phoned through to him.

He has been cagey about revealing his own position throughout. Sounding cheerful and relaxed, Dalling said he was confident that even if he were not in the lead he "must be somewhere up with the leaders".

He was "not in a position to say" if he was confident of winning. "There are still 2,000 miles to go, don't forget. But though Voortrekker's boom is still damaged — she's still jury-rigged — and I've now got three winches out of action instead of two, I don't see why she shouldn't maintain the steady progress we've made so far."

Dalling said that personally he was feeling "very well".

"I'm quite used to living and sailing on my own so I'm quite enjoying myself.

A report by Geoffrey Williams in the Sir Thomas Lipton yesterday morning that he was leading the French yawl Raph was later found to be based on a navigational error.

The latest position appears to be that Raph is leading the Sir Thomas Lipton by about one nautical mile, with Dalling either way out in front or close at hand, and the Australian Bill Howell in the catamaran Golden Cockerell and the sloop Spirit of Cutty Sark, sailed by Britain's Lieutenant Les Williams, running neck-and-neck about 35 miles behind.