

DALLING: 'MY R1 000 BLUNDER'

From BOB HITCHCOCK

PLYMOUTH.—The true measure of Bruce Dalling—as man and racing yacht skipper—emerged yesterday as his Durban yacht *Jakaranda* completed the Admiral's Cup series here.

They speculated she would make her best time on the homeward stretch—from Fastnet Rock to Plymouth Sound.

In fact, she excelled going to windward.

JAKARANDA SIXTH IN FASTNET RACE

—but Britain wins
Admiral's Cup

From DAVID THORPE

PLYMOUTH. — South Africa's *Jakaranda* completed a successful season of ocean racing in the UK yesterday by finishing a provisional sixth in the Fastnet race, the principal European offshore fixture.

Overall winner on initially corrected times was Australia's *Ragamuffin* (Syd Fischer). Britain's Admiral's Cup team boat, *Cervantes IV* (Bob Watson), mid-race leader, fell to third place behind the UK's reserve boat, *Quailo III* (Donald Parr), during a calm spell on Tuesday evening.

The race leaders stormed home under spinnakers with a fresh north-west breeze behind them, and reached the Plymouth finish before the wind dropped.

GEAR FAILURE

Further back, Prime Minister Edward Heath's *Morning Cloud* was one that suffered gear failure in the smoky going. The fitting holding her spinnaker pole to the mast broke and she spent an hour fitting a jury rig.

Morning Cloud nevertheless finished ahead of Britain's third-team boat, *Prospect of Whitby*, and the UK won the Admiral's Cup by 43 points from the United States.

South Africa's *Mercury* and *Omuramba* were not expected to finish until late last night or to-day, and South Africa's Admiral's Cup team position is not yet known.

Australia took third place in the Admiral's Cup team race, losing points due to a retirement of their *Koomooloo*, which broke her rudder probably near and about the same time as *Morning Cloud* lost her spinnaker.

A few hours after arriving at the finish of the 605-mile Fastnet race he confessed: "I made what I now believe to be a wrong decision at one stage of the race. It cost us time . . . crucial time."

After four days with practically no sleep that confession took courage. Dalling's *Jakaranda* — the first of South Africa's three-boat team to cross the line yesterday in Plymouth Sound — performed creditably.

Of 42 Admirals Cup series contenders she arrived ninth on corrected time. And this in



DALLING . . . I should have risked it.

the face of the world's stiffest competition.

Dalling's mistake?

He told me: "Just after rounding Fastnet rock I gave the order to put up a spinnaker. It was immediately blown up. It disintegrated in the wind.

"A spinnaker costs R1 000. This was the second to be blown out on *Jakaranda* in this series. Imagine: R2 000 gone on disintegrated spinnakers!"

"This was my thought off that rock. Dare I put up another? Might the damage then amount to R3 000?"

"I decided not to risk it. In retrospect, I should have risked it. I should have said, to hell with the expense. . . . So, because I didn't take the risk, we lost time on the way back.

"The second spinnaker might have held. It held for *Ragamuffin* which eventually overtook us. But it's too late now. The race is over for us. I made the mistake and that's that."

When *Jakaranda*'s spinnaker blew out, a norwester was blowing 22 knots. Twice during the race Bruce Dalling and his crew called on every ounce of their skill to miss impending foul tides.

Fastnet contenders faced stiff winds, rain and even fog, at different stages of the race. *Jakaranda* baffled the experts.

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