

Paris: Pay attention in maths class

BY DON BURGESS

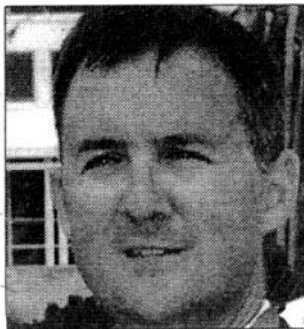
ALAN Paris is warning all of Bermuda's students to pay better attention in maths classes. Paris is sailing in the second leg of the Around Alone race and said his lack of mathematical skills has really cost him.

He is in last place in Class 2 as they head to Cape Town, South Africa.

Paris said in an E-mail: "I have never been very good at Mathematics, but how does this happen?"

He said that he was travelling with a wind speed of four to six knots and a boat speed of four to seven knots and trailing the next two boats by six (Spirit of Yukoh) and 82 (Bayer Acensia) nautical miles respectively. Paris was sailing at an angle between due south and slightly east of south.

"We are all sailing in similar conditions. I am thinking as the 2200 hours position report comes in that, these are BTC Velocity's conditions because we sail



fast in the light air."

Was he in for a shock! Spirit of Yokuh was 340 nautical miles ahead and Bayer Acensia is 249 nautical miles ahead at the position report.

What happened? "The answer, basic trigonometry - those schools following my progress in Bermuda should work this one out as a Math problem," Paris said. "As explained in the web update yesterday the course from Brixham to Cape Town is by no means a straight line. It encompasses an educated guess of what the normal course is and computes our relative distances to the finish line, and therefore each

other, based on the this course."

He added: "so what happens when a tight pack of three boats turn a corner on this imaginary line and the distances measured go from an equally imaginary point in the ocean to the actual finish line in Cape Town? The boat furthest to the west all of a sudden loses some major comparative mileage. Who was furthest to the West? Me?"

"The moral of the story is listen in class to your maths teacher."

Four of the Class 1 boats have arrived in Cape Town while all six Class 2 boats are still out on the water. Tommy Hilfiger Freedom America is the closest to arriving of the Class 2 and is still a good 1523 nautical miles away. Based on its current speed it should arrive before the end of November.

Paris is 2,516 nautical miles away and completed 130 miles in the last 24 hours. Based on that speed it will take him until December 9 to arrive.