

RNYC YACHT FOR RACE TO RIO

D News
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Yachting Correspondent

THE ROYAL NATAL Yacht Club announced last night that it will sponsor and construct a "Van de Stadt 42" designed light displacement yacht for the Cape Town to Rio transatlantic yacht race in 1971.

A name has not yet been chosen for the boat, but the skipper will be Mr. Barry Cullen, of Sandefjord fame.

The committee chairman in charge of the project, Mr. Gordon Neill, said last night that about 20 per cent of the necessary R50,000 needed to build the yacht had already been raised from private sources within the Royal Natal Yacht Club.

The yacht will be built in South Africa, using local materials. "Just where the yacht will be built depends on which yard submits the best tender," said Mr. Neill.

APRIL TARGET

The committee plan to have the boat in the water by April 30, 1970, to allow as much time as possible for the "shake-down" and crew training. The Van de Stadt will probably be entered in the Lourenco Marques race in July next year, and make a month-long offshore practice cruise before the start of the Rio race.

It was felt that the choice of a European designer was necessary to take advantage of the latest developments in the new handicapping rules for ocean racing.

Mr. Neill added that he hoped that the yacht would be Natal's official entry, and would now broaden the support from within the province.

In addition to the building and equipping costs, a sum of R20,000 is needed, as the committee hope to maintain the yacht for a further five years, to be able to enter a team in the future Admiral Cup series or as a South African entry in various international races.

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*Partly cloudy,
fresh winds-P.3*