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# At The Helm

Norman  
Sheriff



## Gritti in search of record

The first nine overseas entries for the 1993 Rothmans Cape To Rio Race have been received by the organisers at Royal Cape Yacht Club.

Swiss-based Italian businessman Carlo Gritti, who hopes to establish a new record in the race, has chartered the crack 75-foot Pilar the Pulveriser which is currently under construction in Cape Town especially for the race.

Pilar the Pulveriser will be skippered by 33-year-old Bruce Tedder who has been racing big boats in the major regattas in Europe and the United States during the last six years.

Natal's Neil Bailey, who has been co-ordinating the campaign, will also be on board.

Meanwhile Hasso Plattner of Altenbach, Germany, has entered his fast, custom-built 50-footer which has been especially designed and built in Australia for the race.

Another German entry has come from a Dr Bernd Kostrum of Hamburg who will be skippering his Grand Soleil 45, Racy One, in the IMS class.

The only British yacht entered so far is Zest, a 45-footer of Ed Dubois design based in Guernsey.

The boat, which is being optimised for a handicap win, will be skippered by South African Tim Jordaan who is based in Monaco.

From Toulon in France comes Michel Berthier and his crew who will be racing a 39-foot Swan design named Lohengrin in the cruising class.

The first Brazilian yacht to be entered is the Farr 44 Touche, which will be skippered by Ernesto Breda and Mauricio Verdier of Sao Paulo.

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## Historic

Another first comes from Auckland, New Zealand, with an all-girl crew on the 37-foot Fugitive, to be skippered by Corrin Miller.

Also entered in the Rothmans Cape To Rio is the flagship yacht of one of Germany's most historic sail-training clubs which took part in the first Cape-to-Rio race in 1971.

The 51-foot sloop, the Stortebeker, of Hamburg's Hamburgischer Verain Seefahrt, will be skippered by Felix Scheder-Bieschin.

A Panamanian yacht, Parandah, owned by Maaco Shipping is also entered in the cruising class. The skipper is still to be announced.

Meanwhile Cape Town yachtsman Sammy Naidu is desperately seeking sponsorship to enter his home-built ketch Aquarius I for the race.

"I want to give black sailors a chance to gain experience and participate in this spectacular race," the 50-year-old joiner and shipwright said.

A previous competitor in the 1982 Cape to Uruguay race, he is very keen to enter next year's revived Cape to Rio race, but needs about R75 000 for equipment, general repairs and half his six-man crew's return airfares from Brazil.

Naidu, who sails regularly along the Cape West coast, built Aquarius in his backyard about 10 years ago.

Naidu admits that Aquarius has little chance of competing against the swift ocean-racers which battle for line honours in the Cape to Rio, but is determined to enter for the experience. He has welcomed enquiries from young people who wish to crew on his coastal trips and can be contacted at (021) 794-7612.