

Yacht to carry trade emblem

"Mercury" Reporter

THE Durban ocean racing yacht, Three Bears, will definitely carry a trade emblem on her sail in the Cape to Rio race, unless the race committee reverses its recent decision.

Mr. Bill Allen of Beares, a large Natal company, confirmed in Durban yesterday that he had received permission from the organising committee of the Rio race to use his company's Three Bears motif on the yacht's spinnaker during the race.

He had telephoned Mr. Tom Unite, executive secretary of the Cruising Association of South Africa, during a committee meeting, and had been told to go ahead with his plans.

Beares is sponsoring the yacht, formerly Skyliner, owned by Mr. Des Dinnegan, of Mandini, Zululand, to the tune of several thousands of rand.

Mr. Allen discounted reports from Cape Town yesterday that his firm had been given permission to use the Three Bears emblem on crockery, but not on the hull or sails.

"Until we hear anything officially to the contrary, we will press ahead with our plans to have the Three Bears on the yacht's spinnaker," he said. He had already started making inquiries about a special, waterproof paint that would soak into the synthetic material of the sail.

Any kind of trade advertising is normally forbidden in races held under the rules of the International Yacht Racing Union (IYRU), the body which controls and administers world yachting events, and Natal yachtsmen have expressed surprise at the Rio race committees' decision, specially as it came after the official closing date for entries.

If the position had been made clear from the start, many other yachts would have been able to take advantage of trade sponsorship.

South Africa's representative on the IYRU, Springbok helmsman John Sully, of Durban, described the decision as "most odd."

There are indications, however, that the Rio race committee might be having second thoughts about its decision in view of the controversy it has aroused among amateur yachtsmen who have turned down sponsorship because, under the IYRU rules, they could offer no advertising in return.

Mr. Unite declined to comment further yesterday, but he said the matter would be discussed again at a committee meeting in Cape Town tonight.