

Youngest yachtie keen to go to Rio

HAVING the guts to take part in the gruelling MTN Cape-to-Rio 2000 yacht race is special – to tackle the race when you are only 12 years old is astonishing.

Garreth Arnott from Melkbosstrand, the youngest crew-member in the race, is counting the days to the start of the epic 3 700 nautical miles to Rio with his dad, David, on their yacht “Madonna”.

He will be the cockpit manager during the race – an important position on the yacht as he will be responsible for handling the ropes and pulleys controlling the sails.

Garreth started sailing with his dad at the age of four and his biggest love is the small dinghies which he takes out at least three times a week at the Cape Royal Yacht Club. His dad started sailing at the age of eight.

Garreth sees the upcoming race, starting on January 8, as a big challenge: “The longest I have been on the water was 27 hours. Now it will take almost three weeks to reach land again in a 38-foot boat. I can’t wait for the race to begin and hope to learn a lot about long distance sailing,” he says.

Garreth also wants to attempt a solo yacht race around the world one day. – (A Bakkes)



Garreth Arnott (12), with dad David, busy with preparations for the yacht race to Rio.

BURGER 15/12/1999