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# Yacht race fleet cut to 37 entries

CAPE TOWN. — Lack of sponsorship, gremlins and foul weather have whittled the original 51-strong South Atlantic race fleet down to 37 yachts.

This was confirmed at the weekend by the Cruising Association of South Africa, organising body for the race.

According to the race secretary, Commodore Ted Jubb, the smaller fleet will, however, not lack competitiveness and several racing/cruising yachts will be competing against each other in a mini-race within the event.

The first Cape-to-Rio race in 1971 had 61 entries, while only 39 entered for the second race in 1973. The third race saw a record entry of 128 yachts in 1976, while the first race to Punta del Este in Uruguay drew only 36 entries.

For the 1982 race, the fleet grew to 58 and it is, therefore, no surprise that true to the established pattern of up and down, there was a drop in entries for the sixth race.

One of the entries which dropped out because of lack of sponsorship is Spears, the former Three Spears, a two-tonner which was specially commissioned by her owner for the previous South Atlantic race. The yacht was to have been skippered by top dinghy sailor Judy Provoyeur, but the downturn in the economy left her stranded without sufficient sponsorship. Her skipper in the previous race, Dave Abromowitz,

will be on board the maxi 3CR12 this time, where he hopes to make a somewhat "more stable" passage.

A gremlin, or possibly an oversight, was responsible for the yacht. Fleur du Cap, a Compass 47, being on the entry list. She had already been sold to a new owner who did not intend to enter her.