

# It's a race against time for Bertie

CAPE TOWN — Springbok yachtsman Jean Jaques Provoyeur, is facing a mammoth task with utmost enthusiasm — that of building a super boat for Bertie Reed, and programming a state-of-the-art yacht for the tough 120-day Globe Challenge race starting on November 26 in Des Sables D'Odonne.

Reed is determined to tackle the world's finest yachtsmen in the toughest single-handed yachting event and win in one of the world's finest ocean racing yachts being built in Cape Town's Victoria and Alfred Waterfront in the harbour. It's a race against time, as the scheduled launch of the yacht, named Grinaker, is a little over four months ahead when the ultra modern 60-foot ocean racer will begin sea trials for the world's longest and toughest single-handed yachting event.

Provoyeur regards the building of Reed's yacht as one of his greatest challenges.

"Every member of my 14-strong team is highly motivated and confident of meeting the deadline. It's more than just a job and has already captured the imagination of everyone because we believe Bertie will win the Globe Challenge."

Provoyeur is well known as a competitor in local and international yachting and in 1979 he set up an ocean yachting business specialising in keel boat repairs.

"We were bold with different repairs on keel boats and probably the highlight was our repair work on Drum which came into Cape Town in November 1985 during the Whitbread around-the-world race."

The crew were so impressed with his work on Drum that they "high-jacked" him on the second leg of the race to Auckland.

Referring to the building of the super yacht Grinaker, he said: "This is my biggest and most challenging project to date."

Provoyeur and his team are working from computer designed drawings of the exact size of the yacht on myular sheeting. This sheeting is very stable, eliminating any human error factor which may arise on similar drawings to scale size.

Grinaker will be 60 foot long with a beam of 15 foot and twin rudders. Reed will carry a spare rudder on board.

Grinaker will be water ballasted aft to assist with the trim of the yacht. Overall she will be light — less than 13 tons.

Asked to comment on the long, narrow concept of the craft, Provoyeur said: "We feel it will go fast in all-round sailing conditions, and will sail more easily in a straight line. This is important for a single-handed sailor because he can't maintain the craft and steer all the time." — Sapa.