

# Exciting race ahead

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LONDON, Wednesday.

AT LEAST five South Africans can look forward to one of the most exciting and most arduous yacht races in history — the Cape Town to Rio event early next year — in *Ocean Spirit* — launched on the Medway at Hoo near Rochester, Kent on Monday.

This sleek, stately craft, the largest glass fibre sailing yacht in the world, slid down her slipway under the proud and admiring eyes of her owners, Robin Knox-Johnson and Lieut. Leslie Williams, before television and news cameras.

Some of her crew have already been chosen. Negotiations are in progress with prospective candidates.

What sort of men was he looking for? Knox-Johnson said: "Men who are strong physically and mentally, men who know something about sailing, but, above all, men who will work all the hours God sends until we reach Rio."

As Robin Knox-Johnson conducted many interviews his sister Diane, who has helped him administratively for many anxious months, told me of the men who will be among the yacht's crew of 14. They have all been carefully selected.

One will be Chris Henwood, of Brakpan North, Transvaal, company secretary of an advertising agency and a Stormvogel crew-member in 1964. He is 33 and has two young sons.

Another is Anthony E. Mawer, aged 27, of Germiston, Transvaal, who studied accountancy at Witwatersrand University and who now runs an estate agency. He has owned a cabin cruiser on Vaaldam but never sailed at sea.

There will be Manuel Augustus Godinho, aged 42, of Lourenco Marques; Archie Snyman, of Durban. Adolphe Adank, son of the assistant Port Captain at Durban and, probably, Robin Knox-Johnson's brother Michael, aged 23, who is on the management staff of the Edward Hotel in Durban.

Robin Knox-Johnson (31) was the first to sail single-handed and non-stop round the world, and Royal Navy Lieutenant Leslie Williams (37) was fourth in the 1968 transatlantic single-handed race.