



THE round-Britain course. The race was won by Leslie Williams and Robin Knox-Johnston, in Ocean Spirit.

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DALLING'S  
SERIOUS  
OPONENTS**



Daily News Correspondent  
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DESPITE strong but unsubstantiated rumours that Mr. Edward Heath and Sir Francis Chichester are entering Morning Cloud in the Cape Town-Rio de Janeiro yacht race, Bruce Dalling's most serious opponents will undoubtedly be the round-Britain race winners, Leslie Williams and Robin Knox-Johnston in Ocean Spirit.

Their 18-hour victory in a race which Leslie Williams described as "tougher than sailing single-handed across the Atlantic," has confirmed the general opinion here that, everything else being equal, length will be the decisive factor in the 3 000-mile (4 800km) Cape to Rio Race.

As Ocean Spirit at 71ft. (21m) waterline length 56ft. (16m) has a 6ft. (1.8m) advantage over Dalling's custom-built yawl, the feeling here is that he will need a particularly strong crew to reduce this inherent advantage, even on handicap.

Jakaranda, which has cost its owner

R140 000 is 56ft. 10in. long and was designed by Owen Stevens.

Directly after they had finished the round-Britain race, I asked Williams and Knox-Johnston about their chances in the Cape to Rio race. Williams replied: "Very good. It's a downwind race and the boat's a flyer downwind."

He and Knox-Johnston plan to sail to Malta for the middle sea race in November and then go on to Cape Town.

"The reason why we are entering these races," he told me, "is because Ocean Spirit is a British-built boat fitted from top to bottom with British gear, and we feel that this is the best possible way we can persuade people to use this equipment which we consider to be as good as any other."

Mr. Frank King, managing director of Southern Ocean Shipyard Ltd., co-builders of Ocean Spirit, agreed with the view that the competing boats' relative lengths would be crucial, but added: "In the final analysis it will depend on the skipper, and I consider Bruce Dalling easily to be Williams's equal."