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# Skippers and crews praise Rio race organizers

SKIPPERS and crews of the parting vessels had nothing but praise for the men and women who organized the Cape to Rio race.

Skipper Bobby Nuttall, of Natal's official entry, Mercury, described arrangements for the race as "absolutely first class".

"In 36 years of sailing this is one of the first regattas I've been to where I've had no complaints."

Mr. Nuttall paid special tribute to Dave McCormack, one of the official measurers.

Pierre Chassin, 28, navigator of the French sloop Ariel, said: "Everyone has been very kind. The organization has been wonderful and we are very pleased."

Basil Weale, skipper of the Port Elizabeth sloop Flame, said: "Everything that could have possibly been done to assist us was done."

Other tributes came from:

● Neil Maytham, 29, skipper of Eshowe: "I have nothing but praise for the organizers."

● A crew member of Striana: "No complaints."

● Robin Knox-Johnston, co-skipper of Ocean Spirit: "Very good indeed."

● Niels Helleberg, crew member of the German entry Jan Pott: "This is the best organized race I have ever taken part in. We had nothing but prompt action on all our requests. The men and women behind the scenes have been very helpful."

Niels Erhardt, navigator of the Danish entry Serendib IV: "We have had V.I.P. treatment all the way. It is the best organization that I have ever seen and it compares very well with the Royal Danish Yacht Club. In fact, it is even better."