



'Best wishes' messages from rivals

JAKARANDA IS OFF TO RIO

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By a Staff Reporter

WHILE ships in Table Bay docks sounded their hooters in farewell, Springbok yachtsman Bruce Dalling and his crew set sail for Rio today in Jakaranda — determined to overtake at least half the fleet which sailed six days before.

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MRS. ROSALIND LEIH, wife of crewman Cliff Leih, waves farewell as Bruce Dalling's yacht, Jakaranda, sails for Rio today — the yacht's second start from Table Bay. Jakaranda had returned from the South Atlantic for emergency repairs to her rudder.

Hundreds of people cheered and applauded as the 17 m yawl moved gracefully from moorings in the yacht basin, her damaged rudder-stock in good order again after round-the-clock work by Cape Town engineers.

And to cheer the Jakaranda along even more, were two messages from race rivals. One was from Robin Knox-Johnston, co-skipper of the British ketch Ocean Spirit, who sent 'the very best of luck' to Dalling, and the other was a telegram from Dave Abromowitz and his crew in the Cape Town sloop Stormkaap.

It said: 'Our thoughts are with you. We know what it feels like. Good luck — Stormkaap boys.'

Stormkaap had lost two days at Port Nolloth where Abromowitz had to make emergency repairs to his yacht's rudder.

The harbour crane lifted Jakaranda from her quayside cradle shortly before 8 a.m. Minutes later she was in the water. Crewman Cliff Leih took her to moorings in the yacht basin and his shipmates gave her deck a last-minute scrub as they waited for Dalling to complete shore formalities.

CHEER WENT UP

At 9.30 a.m. she slipped her moorings and a cheer went up from the crowd on the quayside as she moved away with her mainsail and mizzen sail up. Jakaranda caught a gentle breeze in the middle of Duncan Dock and then hoisted a large jib.

Jakaranda tacked her way to the harbour mouth and her crew

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plans to do this but it is possible he may keep a little further south than he had originally planned to 'cut corners.'

But this would be a gamble as the winds are more favourable the further north the yacht curve.

Meanwhile, Ocean Spirit, with gourmet Clement Freud keeping the crew happy with his expert cooking, was still leading the fleet at the last report. Lol Killam's Canadian ketch Graybeard was chasing hard a few miles behind.

TABARLY BEHIND

The computer puts the French yacht Striana ahead of fellow Frenchman Eric Tabarly's schooner Pen Duick III, both of actual position and handicap. But these are early days and Tabarly may yet produce a surprise for everyone in the fleet.

Albatros II was the best-placed South African yacht on the computer list — seventh on actual position and second on handicap. One place behind (actual) but 17th on handicap was Voortrekker under Micky Thomas.

The Durban late-starter Wafar was not placed on the computer list, but one report last night put her less than 50 miles behind the leaders.

Since the start, the all-women Cape Town yacht, Sprinter, has reported its position only once (on Tuesday). That report put her in third place on correct time.

Sprinter's manager, Mr. Eric Wale, said in Cape Town today that her communications problems were a puzzle as her transmitter was working well at departure.