

JAKARANDA OFF

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TO-DAY ON

BIG CHASE

Cape Times Reporter

WITH NONE of the grandeur and excitement of last Saturday's Cape-to-Rio send-off, skipper Bruce Dalling and his nine-man crew will watch their yacht *Jakaranda* lowered into the water at 8 a.m. to-day, and with only a few well-wishers present, will set sail for Rio once more.

"Let's hope it will be second time lucky, Bruce," a spectator said as the skipper watched *Jakaranda* receive a few last-minute touches on its cradle near the Sturrock Dry Dock entrance.

Dalling assured the small handful present that with the high quality work done by a group of Cape Town engineers, he was sure *Jakaranda* would be ship-shape to start its long chase behind the other Rio racers.

One of the crew, Cliff Leigh, said they had hoped at first to have the yacht back in the water by 7 last night. "But this was just wishful thinking as, although all work may have been completed by that time, the fibre glass needed that much more time to cure and harden."

So late yesterday afternoon, after consultation with Mr. Theunis Bester, *Jakaranda's* owner, it was decided that the yacht would hit the water at 8 a.m.

South-easter

"This is, of course, providing that the wind isn't too strong. In the case of a howling south-easter, those lifting *Jakaranda* by crane have said the masts would have to be taken down to keep her from blowing over," Leigh said.

"But as this is a full day's work, we would just have to wait for the wind to subside. Actually, what we're really hoping for is a convenient lull at 8 a.m. because we'll need a good wind to get us on our way."

Jakaranda's actual sailing time will be about 9 a.m. as, with her in the water a few minutes after eight, sails and riggings would still have to be set, estimated to take close on an hour.

"But we're all itching to be back in the race again. Even though we're six days behind, all of us are eager to be off again," Cliff said.

Work praised

The skipper, crew and others involved had nothing but praise for the engineers working on *Jakaranda*, yesterday. "When we arrived back in Cape Town, we were all down in the mouth because we thought it would be at least four or five days to have her fixed again. But the workers have been fantastic and it's unbelievable what has been done in so short a time," Dalling said.

A progress report was made over long-distance telephone, when Dalling and Mr. Bester placed a call to the yacht's builders in Holland. The call was made in the early afternoon and the repairs were explained to the builders and their advice asked.



Working feverishly to smooth down all the rough edges before *Jakaranda* is on her way again, Mr. Peter Jurtus of the engineering firm working on the yacht sands down part of the skeg late yesterday.

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