

# We'll win for you, they told him 11.2.71

**N**OBODY is more enthusiastic about the success of the 18 m French ketch *Striana* than the Cape Town man who acted as host to the crew during their stay here.

Mr. Lawrence Miller — 'a shocking sailor,' was delegated by Sea Point Rotary Club to act as host to the crew. Their final words to him on the quay were: 'We will win the race for you.'

Mr. Miller, who lived in Paris for a year, met the 11 crew members on the Wednesday before the race. He and his wife Rolene struck up 'an amazingly close friendship' with the yachtsmen while they were here. 'It was quite sad when they left,' he said.

## FLAT OUT

*Striana* arrived late on Thursday afternoon on the Dutch ship, *Oost Friesland*, and from then the crew worked flat out to get the yacht ready in time.

While the yacht was still on board the ship, the men cleaned and polished her hull. They insisted that the hull should be as 'smooth as glass' to reduce drag.

On Friday Mr. Miller had to buy all the perishable provisions for the crew, including nearly 100 loaves of treated bread and a bottle of South African wine. 'I think they had already stocked up with French wine on board,' he said.

## ENTHUSIASTIC

In the early hours of Saturday morning, the crew went to Mr. Miller's Clifton bungalow. 'They were very enthusiastic. They were very taken with Cape Town. They thought it a fantastic place.'

Mr. Miller said the crew hired *Striana* only shortly before the race. They had crewed together before.

He added with a grin: 'I just knew she would win.'

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