

13.2.71

Tunny livened Bobby's Rio race

From Neil Lurssen,
Argus Staff Reporter

RIO DE JANEIRO,

Saturday.

A 14 kg TUNNY caught just outside Rio helped liven a rather dull transatlantic crossing for Bobby Bongers and his crew in the Cape Town sloop Outburst, which has arrived here.

Crewman Mick Whitehead caught the fish, his shipmate

Barry Barber cut it up and cook Mrs. Margaret Bongers pickled it with curry sauce. 'Delicious,' they all agreed.

Outburst, built by Bongers at Zeekoevlei, crossed the Cape-to-Rio line after 27 days 12hr. 19min. and 9sec. of sailing. Her corrected time of 22-18-05-02 was nearly 17 hours behind that of the Knysna sloop Albatros II which still leads overall on handicap and which will almost certainly be the winner.

Outburst was followed into Rio by the South West Africa sloop

Omuramba, skippered by Dr. Ken Warr, winner of last year's Burn Wood Trophy, which did the distance in 27-15-28 (corrected time 22-21-18-53).

Behind Omuramba was the German yawl Hamburg VII in 27-21-18-53 (corrected time 24-12-34-05) and the Italian sloop Guia in 27-17-39-04 (corrected time 23-11-28-25).

The skippers spoke of the agony of searching for wind puffs in the midst of the ocean and in searing heat.

'You would look for a cloud and

say "hello there is goin to be some rain there." And off you would go after that cloud — and usually miss it,' said Bongers.

Bongers, Warr and winning handicap skipper John Goodwin agreed over coffee that freak conditions had applied in the South Atlantic during their crossing.

Theoretically, they said, Albatros, far south of the others, should not have pulled ahead the way she did. But conditions were such that she could beat against headwinds faster than the more northerly yachts could run and reach with the light tailwinds.

From the archives of Richard Crockett &
Sailing Publications.

www.sailing.co.za - editor@sailing.co.za