

# Suddenly, that Rio race fever hits Durban

SUDDENLY this week, the news of definite entries for the Rio race were made public, and by Wednesday there were no fewer than six Durban yachts scheduled to be in the race, four of which have already been confirmed by the S.A.O.R.T. in Cape Town.

Talking to the various skippers and owners revealed varied tactics and motives for this race. It's being regarded as a big event, not least by the Americans who are possibly entering the 1-million dollar, 73ft. Ondine. This yacht will have a crew of 20 professional yachtsmen.

Capt. Barry Cullen of Sandefjord fame, will be sailing the Royal Natal Yacht Club's van der Stadt 42. Barry will be selecting

his own crew. He said in Durban this week that it will be of tremendous importance to have very accurate navigational readings.

"I think full use of the prevailing light weather is going to be vital. Basically, my aim will be to sail the least possible distance while staying in the main force of the trade winds and allowing for possible wind changes due to the passage of weather fronts," he said.

Mr. Johan Louter, skipper of the R60,000 Sparkman Stevens 43 to be entered by a five-man Natal syndicate said: "I feel the main thing is to gather an ideal crew. They just as important as a well-designed yacht."

The remaining four entries are all from private yachtsmen. Mr. van der

Meer's Timtwaa is fast taking shape in his home workshop on the Bluff, and should be ready by June next year.

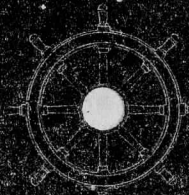
Mr. David Cox is also in the race. He will be sailing a Pable Ciebert designed yacht called Diana K, and will have a crew of three besides himself. Early in 1967, Dave started building this South American-styled fin keeler which weighs 3½ tons. An unusual feature of this yacht is the water tanks in the fabricated steel keel, reducing the tank sizes normally stored in valuable cabin space. This is a fast well quipped cruiser racer "I intend entering in the Rio Race more for pleasure than as a serious contender for prizes," he said.

He hopes to have Diana K

in the water early next year and has already spent more than 2,200 working hours on the yacht weekends only. Tub is also entering. Her owner, Mr. David Roberts, yesterday confirmed that this heavy displacement 21-tonner is "entering for the fun of it all." With a crew of six, Tub has recently returned from the Seychelles and is a regular entry from all off-shore events from Durban. Mr. Roberts also intends sailing back to Durban after the Rio race.

Ingwe, a 36ft. ketch, although regarded as a heavy vessel, is also considering going on the voyage, although her owner, Mr. M. Duff Richardson, has not finally confirmed this. There are now 19 yachts in the race from South Africa, which is over half the total

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number of entries. Surprisingly, there have only been three entries from England as yet, but it's early days yet.

Notice of the Simonstown-Mossel Bay-Cape Town race has been received — starting on December 26. The distance will be 460 nautical miles, open to all single hulled seaworthy yachts of 24ft. plus waterline. Entries close on December 15. The cost is R10 a yacht and R2 a crew excluding the skipper.

Discussions are also going on at the moment about the race from Durban to Cape Town on December 16, 1970 as a preliminary to the Rio race. It is felt however that many local yachtsmen will not be able to spare the additional time.