

● YACHTING

Strong Natal challenge

By DALE GRANGER

NINE NATAL yachts will be among the 87 strong fleet sailing in the Rothmans Cape to Rio race in January with the 75-foot maxi, Pilar the Pulveriser, posing their biggest challenge for line-honours.

Pilar the Pulverisor, currently under construction in Cape Town, has been commissioned by Pietermaritzburg based Neil Bailey and chartered by Italian yacht racing personality, CM Gritti, for the race.

She will however be crewed by top Cape Town yachtsmen including yachtsman of the year, Greg Davis, and Etienne van Cuyck, and will be skippered by South African Bruce Tedder who is now based in Antibes, France.

Five of the Natal entries will be competing in the IMS division in which the main accolade, the South Atlantic Trophy, will be awarded to the winner on handicap.

Jaap van den Berg will be sailing his sloop, Susanna Maria 4, and Philip Audoire of Durban and Jaap van den Berg of Queensborough have put together a strong campaign and will be sailing the Lavranos 41, Kiga.

Two other strong contenders in the class are the Farr 38, Di-Data Redline and the Gitana 43, Sunday Star, which are owned by Transvalers Frederick Phillips and Gerrie Boshoff respectively.

The other Natal entries will be sailing in the cruising class and are: Pasha (Roderick Langston), Akela (Erwin Lesicnik), Paradise Isle (David Telford) and Bison Charger (Bryan Harrington).

● Another Cape Town entry for the Cape to Rio race was launched in Cape Town this week and included in her crew is Aubrey Martin, the oldest brother of renowned Springbok yachtsmen, John and Ian.

Spar Mithril, a 36-foot Tosca designed by Angelo Lavranos, was launched at Royal Cape Yacht Club on Tuesday and will be co-skippered by Aubrey Martin and her owner, Ken Oakes.