

● YACHTING

New yachts launched

By DALE GRANGER

NEW yachts worth an estimated R15-million which have been designed specifically to sail in the Rothmans Cape to Rio yacht race in January will be launched in Cape next month.

The first new yacht expected to hit the water is the Simonis designed 57-foot Wizard, an ultra-light entry to be skippered by Jannie Reuvers which has been optimised for speed by being built with foam sandwich and an aluminium frame to hold the mast, rig and keel tension.

The 46.5 foot catamaran which Springbok yachtsman Chris King boldly predicts will take him and his crew to Rio in a new record time less than the 17 days crossing achieved in 1976 will also be launched in November as will the biggest yacht in the race, the multi-million rand maxi, Pilar the Pulverisor.

Pilar's main rival for line-honours, the 70-foot Broomstick, which will be sailed by a naval crew and skippered by Hanno Teuteberg, will be launched in December.

Renowned yachtsman Padda Kuttel has opted to modify his 65-foot Bossanova and when she comes off the hard she will boast a new 2m longer mast 2m and twin rudders.