



Making full use of heavy swell conditions, Witchdoctor was Port Elizabeth's first yacht home in the Cape-to-Rio race.

Magic finish as PE's Witchdoctor arrives

By SAMANTHA BARNARD

WITCHDOCTOR had a magic finish in the Cape-to-Rio race as the first Port Elizabeth yacht home at midnight Rio time on Wednesday.

A jubilant Phil Gutsche, SA Bottling managing director and Witchdoctor's owner and skipper, telephoned his daughter Viv in Port Elizabeth at 6am (South African time) yesterday to tell her he had completed his first Cape-to-Rio race an hour earlier.

After racing neck and neck all the way, Witchdoctor's identical twin Baltic Wind sneaked in three seconds ahead of Mr Gutsche and his crew, 25 days after they left Cape Town.

But there were no hard feelings as Witchdoctor's crew, who beat Baltic Wind on handicap, invited their rivals over to share their last few beers.

Miss Gutsche said a fierce storm 25 miles from the finish turned what should have been a two-hour trip into a hectic five-hours spent "surfing" the huge swells and covering just less than 300 nautical miles, more than they travelled in four windless days last week.

She estimated that Blue would be the next local yacht home, followed by Jacana, Martinique and Fortis, in that order.