

Police catch stolen yacht after 12 km chase

A STOLEN Brazilian yacht, which slipped into Durban Harbour undetected on Friday night, has been impounded and three Portuguese men have been arrested by the Water Police after a 12 km sea chase.

The three men were found to be in possession of radio and navigational equipment valued at more than R14 000 — and police connected them to two thefts at the Point Yacht Club at the weekend.

Two yachts, Sweetwaters and Beluga, were broken into while moored at the club's walk-on quay.

Sweetwaters's owner, Harry Labuschagne, who spoke to the three men, said: 'When I told them there was about to be a series of searches to find

By Greg Knowler
Shipping Reporter

the stolen goods, they looked very nervous.'

The stolen yacht attempted to escape the harbour among the **Crystic Week** racers, but police were notified by the harbour authorities that no sailing plan had been filed.

The new Water Police T-boat, Pintado, gave chase.

About 12 km out to sea, the police launch radioed the yacht Goblet and asked if they knew what boat was in front of them. The yacht said they could not see any sail markings and did not know.

The police boarded the yacht and arrested the men. The stolen goods were recovered. The men are expected to appear in court soon.

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