

All aboard... Aye Aye Captain

ADRIAN VELAERS

JML Rotary Scout is the official yacht of Scouts South Africa and has a crew of scouts on board competing in the Cape 2 Rio 2014 yacht race.

Experienced yachtsman, Peter Bosch is the skipper and the crew is made up of young scouts who have come through the Sea Scout programme in various parts of South Africa.

The race started in beautiful conditions on Saturday January 4. Table Bay was buzzing with spectator boats to view the spectacle as 36 racing yachts took the start of this great race.

The tranquil conditions of Saturday afternoon were unfortunately shortlived as the fleet was hit by a heavy storm on Saturday night, the first night of the race. Reports from crews spoke of winds up to 60 knots and swells of six metres.

The conditions have tested the endurance of all crews and boats, wreaking havoc across the fleet as many boats are limping home with damages. Sadly one crew member aboard the boat Bille died when their mast came down in the heavy storm.

It is with much relief that the crew of JML Rotary Scout contacted home to report that all is well on board despite the very trying conditions.

Navigator Grant Chapman's decision to avoid the worst of the storm by sailing west along the rhumb line has paid off. The

yacht has come through the storm well so far.

Skipper Peter Bosch said the steering cables slipped off the quadrant for a while. But after using the emergency steering tiller briefly they managed to get the cables back in place.

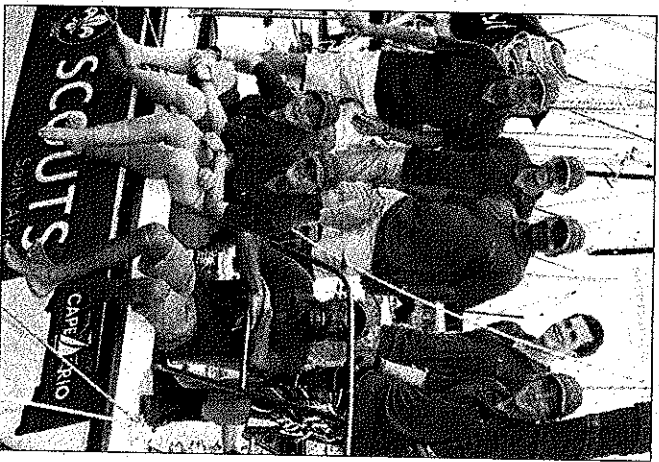
"The yacht is currently in about 30 knots of wind and the swells are about four metres. The main sail is completely down and we are sailing with a little corner of the genoa unfurled, making about seven or eight knots in the stormy conditions, surfing waves every now and then."

As of Monday January 6 JML Rotary Scout was leading Class 2 on the official timing screens which is a phenomenal achievement for this young crew in these extreme conditions as ocean racing can be dangerous and extremely challenging.

JML Rotary Scout expects to take 25 days to reach Rio and is stocked with ample supplies for the crew to survive over this time. They have 360 litres of drinking water in the main tank with a further 190 litres in the forward tanks. Furthermore they are carrying 200 litres of emergency drinking water in jerry cans.

They have about 350 litres of diesel on board which would enable them to motor for about 700 nautical miles should they need to in an emergency.

They also have enough rations on board to eat three meals a day for 40 days. To communicate with those on land, they are using an HF radio, a satellite tele-



PICTURE: GAVIN WITHERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Members of the JML Rotary Scout team who are braving the rough seas to Rio.

phone and fleet broadband, which means they are able to send and receive emails. After all, the Scout motto is "Be Prepared". Scouts South Africa wishes this well-prepared crew a safe and memorable journey.

NOTICES

4.30pm at the Santos Academy, situated on Lansdowne Road. For more information call the Santos office on 021 696 8193 or email info@santosc.co.za

Let us know
Any sports news? Call Karl Bergemann on 021 488 4766.

Soccer trials
Santos Football Club will host trials for under-7 and under-9 teams on Friday, January 17. Players must bring their own kit, including boots, shin-guards and training gear. Goalkeepers must bring their own gloves. All players to bring a certified copy of their ID or birth certificate. Trials will start at

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while our thoughts and prayers are with the friends and family of the crew member of yacht Bille who lost his life. The progress of the race can be tracked live on the official website: www.cape2rio2014.com For more information on JML Rotary Scout visit: www.rotaryscout.co.za

● Velaers is a member of the JML Rotary Scout team.



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