

# Race for everyone is world's toughest

**THE BT Global Challenge** has been called a race for everyone. Crews are from all walks of life. Staff Writer **MARJOLEIN VAN REST** asked the Ocean Rover crew why they were sailing around the world.

**T**HE BT Global Challenge — the toughest crewed round-the-world race — has brought dozens of British sailors to the city to recuperate and celebrate after covering 20 000 miles.

The race, brainchild of British adventurer Chay Blythe, a paratrooper who, with little sailing experience, became the first person to sail alone non-stop around the world against the prevailing winds and currents, brings people together who have never met or sailed before.

In three years they must learn to sail from scratch and then circumnavigate the globe "the wrong way round" from east to west.

For them, Cape Town is a significant port of call, as they have now rounded Cape Point — traditionally one of the world's great sailing landmarks — and have bade farewell to 14 000 miles of treacherous Southern Ocean, which began for them at Cape Horn.

Now they will head north into the warmer and kinder Atlantic, to a world where, however, frustration can be intense if they are becalmed in the doldrums.

They feel they have "turned the corner" and are on their way back to Southampton where, in the words of Courtaulds International's South African skipper Boris Webber, "they will never be the same again".

What follows is what they had to say about their experiences.

**HUMPHREY WALTERS, 55, Windsor, UK:** "This race is not about sailing, it is about endurance, resolve, strength of



**THIRST THINGS FIRST:** The skipper and crew of Ocean Rover (above) hoist a few beers to celebrate their arrival in Cape Town after finishing the longest and toughest leg of the BT Global Challenge from Sydney, Australia.

**FLYING THE FLAG:** BT Global Challenge yachts (right) moored at the Waterfront display the flags of an array of sponsors.

**PICTURE: ALL SPORT**  
**PICTURE: KARIN RETIEF**



character." The Nestor of the crew, he has his own reasons for sailing the race. Being the chief executive of MaST, a large management training organisation, he is very interested in leadership and is studying the workings of a team under extreme conditions.

"There is, apart from warfare, nothing as long and arduous as this race," he says.

**JON HIRSCH, 26, Ipswich, UK:** "This is one of those things you sign up for and only then think of the consequences. The weather continually battered us. And when the wind died we still had to change the sails for more speed."

Hirsch, a computer engineer who has been sailing all his life, said there were times when he wondered why he was doing it, but arriving in Cape Town and realising what he'd just achieved, made up for the hardships.

**JAMES CAPSTICK, 38, London, UK:** Capstick is a mounted policeman

back in London.

He entered a Times newspaper competition and is now on board writing about his experiences.

"This is one of those dreams you have, like going into space or climbing Mount Everest." He wonders why everybody makes such a big deal about the crew being mostly amateurs: "We have made more miles so far than most professional yachtsies in a lifetime."

**MO SIMMONS, 42, UK:** "What kept me going was thinking of Cape Town."

Simmons, a family doctor, had a friend in the last race and decided to apply. "Something like this stretches you in every dimension. It makes you more independent and self reliant and makes you realise the important things in life."

She has no regrets, but would never do it again.

**ROBERT BRUCE, 53, Bishops Stort-**

**ford, UK:** After 30 years of banking and leading a cushy life, Bruce found himself (four years ago) in a midlife crisis. After reading an article on the last race he applied.

"It takes a lot of mental and physical strength to do something like this. It helps put life in a better perspective. The nice thing is that you are forced to focus on the strengths rather than the weaknesses of people."

**HUGH FOGERTY, 41, Limerick, Ireland:** The hard thing for Fogerty, first mate and bank manager, was the smell of the boat. "Imagine 14 people in a 20-metre tin can for six weeks..." he says.

Fogerty found the race completely different from what he expected. Tolerance is a key word on journeys like this, he says. "You just have to get on, even though that can be very hard at times."

**TONY HOLLINGSWORTH, 38, Tasmania:** This sailor and electrical engineer's chief goal in life was to sail around the

world. "I did enjoy the last leg at times," he says. "I liked being at the helm, riding cowboy in a storm."

**RANDAL JACKSON, 33, Midlands, UK:** "There is nothing like a tough challenge to knit a group together," says Jackson, a project manager for Rover.

Although he only did one leg, from Sydney to Cape Town, he learnt a lot about teamwork. "I would do it again with this group of people any time of the week, I am bloody proud of what we did," he says.

**DAVE KENNEDY, 52, Stockport, UK:** Kennedy never wants to go to the South Indian Ocean again. As a manager of a company he wanted to take a break from everyday life.

"I've done the traditional things, school, university, work and then, when you turn 50, you still have a lot of living to do. I wanted to find out what it is I want to do with the rest of my life. Something like this helps you to put things into perspective."

## HIGH COURT ROLL

### THIRD DIVISION

**Court No 16**  
**Rule nisi**  
Greenhaven National Distributors CC v G Jacobs and one other — sequestration.  
H G Louw v R Pallister and one other — sequestration.  
C M Hathorn N O v Delinpro 2 (Pty) Ltd — liquidation.  
M-Tel (Pty) Ltd v CEW Cellular Phones CC — liquidation.  
Nine Coin Investments (Pty) Ltd v Conservation Investments (Pty) Ltd — liquidation.  
M Rowland v Ikamva Gallerie (Pty) Ltd — liquidation.  
Wheelman SA CC v K Momen — declaratory order.

**Applications**  
A J van Zyl v J H W Bachman — sequestration.  
H F C Putter v G J Louw and one other — liquidation.  
Scope Investment Trust (Pty) Ltd v Sound & Image (Cape) (Pty) Ltd — liquidation.  
B Beukes v M T Beukes — substituted service.  
G J Handel — curator bonis.  
M J Lane N O and one other v Vereins-Und Westbank AG and five others

D van der Feyst, M v F van der Linde, J D v R W van Heerden, S v L J Visser, J C v N T Williams, V v A J Witbooi, L v J E Wolfaardt.

### Rule 43

C v S Nebe.

### FOURTH DIVISION

#### Civil trials

Owen Wiggins (Langebaan) (Pty) Ltd v P Charley.  
Owen Wiggins Langebaan (Pty) Ltd v J Mabelane — exception.  
G Stuart and 35 others v The Emmanuel Mission Church — declaratory order.  
Deon Stevens v Hester L Stevens — amended custody.  
E B Wallace NO v Neulux Coaches (Edms) Bpk — agreement.  
J J Vlok v R P J Nel — money owing.  
Barclays Bank of Swaziland Ltd v S Noor and two others — money owing.  
P J P H McGeachie v Santam — damages.  
G A V M Troch v D J G R G Troch — divorce.  
H N v M Maserow — divorce.  
M J Dilks v Mutual & Federal Ins Co — damages.  
Shoprite Checkers (Edms) Bpk v Springbok Patrols (Edms) Bpk — agreement.

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