

# Already plenty of interest in '91 race

By Dave Beattie

The event is still 11 months away, but interest in the 1991 Crystic Beachcomber Crossing is already quickening at a fair rate of knots.

Early indications are that next year's 1600 nautical mile classic from Mauritius to Durban could be bigger and more competitive than any of the previous races.

At the launch of the event in Germiston last night, race committee chairman John Howard said he had received "more than 80 inquiries" from prospective competitors.

"Of course, how many of these go all the way is another story," he said, urging potential entrants to "work really hard at securing the sponsorships necessary for yacht racing"

Last year, the Crystic Beachcomber Crossing — the 1991 event will be the fourth — attracted more than 250 yachtsmen.

And now there is talk of international high-speed racers being imported from America to join the contest.

First of the local entrants are two of the country's most prominent yachtsmen, Derick

Warne and Craig Lanham-Love.

Warne will be sailing Swimplion, the 40-foter that Rick Nankin took to third spot on handicap in 1989, and Lanham-Love will be on an L34, Equinox.

Last year's winner on handicap was Ian Park-Ross on Close Again.

Another top sailor showing interest is Ian Martin who, with brother John, won this year's Transatlantic Doublehander in Allied Bank.

He hopes to sail a smaller version of Allied Bank which he is building for a client.

Although she has not yet been entered, it is almost certain that last year's line honours winner, Get More Fun, will be on the starting line at Grand Baie next September 21.

The same applies to The Boss, joint favourite last year, but forced to pull out with keel damage just a few hours after the start.

However, Get More Fun will have to be converted from twin to single rudder to conform with the handicapping rules now in force.

For further information on the race, telephone Richard Crockett in Durban at (031) 301-8122.