



Picture: RICHARD NEZAR

Top crew: setting course for the J22 Class World Sailing Championships in the US next year in the South African entry Baby-J, are top Transvaal crew (from left) Steven Kruger, Brett van Rooyen and Pretoria skipper David Rae.

Staff Reporter

A TOP Pretoria yachtsman has been selected to skipper the South African entry in the J22 Class World Sailing Championships in the United States next year.

David Rae (18), an apprentice sailmaker and current South African J22 champion, will skipper the top Transvaal yacht, Baby-J, at the event on Lake Michigan in June next year.

He has been sailing since the age of five and has vast experience on inland and offshore water as both a skipper and a crew member.

City yachtsman leads SA team for world sailing event

This year, he skippered Baby-J to a win in the J22 National Championships on the Vaal Dam in March, a win in its class during Keelboat Week in October and second place

in the Transvaal Championships the same month.

Two other senior Transvaal crew members, Steven Kruger (21) and Brett van Rooyen (29), have also been selected to crew the yacht.

Van Rooyen is the current Formula One Class national champion while Steven Kruger has crewed on the yacht for three years.

Depending on sponsorship, the team plans to take the yacht to Lake Michigan three weeks in advance to accustom themselves to the unfamiliar waters and racing conditions.