

STAR

23-2-90

Yachting

Sea lures inland crew

By Dave Beattie

More inland yachtsmen are taking to the sea, many of them trying their hand at ocean racing.

And organisers of the 1990 Mondi Richards Bay-Europa Island international race are hoping to keep the trend going in the September Indian Ocean event.

In fact, the first entrant is Pretoria yachtsman Roy Dyason, who has entered Misty Pearl, a locally-built 12 m Tosca designed by Cape Town's Angelo Lavranos.

Yachts are required to be a minimum of 9 m in length and a maximum of 27 m with a minimum displacement of 2 700 kg.

It will tax navigational skills to the utmost, for the island, 160 nautical miles off the south-western coast of Madagascar, but under control of the French authorities at nearby Reunion, is just 2 km long and 18 m high.

"It can only be seen from about 10km away," said Howard Butler, commodore of the Zululand Yacht club, organisers of the race.

"But we are hoping the French will again help by placing a radio beacon on the island to assist navigation."