

# Lex Smit shipshape and killing time

By Dave Beattie

The 1989 Beachcomber Crossing, the gruelling 2 800 km yacht race from Mauritius to Durban, is still four months away but the first South African boat is already at the Indian Ocean island preparing for the biennial classic.

It is the Cape Town Farr 38-footer "Penny Pinchers", currently lying in Port Louis under the watchful eye of Johannesburg-

## Yachting

born Lex Smit.

Smit will act as caretaker and help in the boat's preparation before he joins it as a crew member for the race starting on September 16.

Meanwhile, another Farr 38, re-joining in the name "Madame Pizzazz", is the latest entry for the race, bringing to 18 the number of

yachts ready to line up. Organisers are expecting an entry of more than 50 yachts by the entry deadline on July 1.

Owner and co-skipper Pieter Coetzee, who has no idea how "Madame" got her name, believes he has a good chance for handicap honours in the Beachcomber, but he has a more immediate worry — a sponsorship of about R25000 to help meet race expenses.



Lex Smit at home aboard "Penny Pinchers", waiting for the big day on September 16.