

YACHTING: Former world champs to appear in prestige Durban event

Strong international J22 entry expected

A STRONG international entry of at least 15 boats is expected for the NCS J22 international championships to be sailed off Durban in July.

Although these entries have not yet been received, the Johannesburg builder of the J22 class yacht, Manuel Mendes, recently returned from an overseas trip with assurances from many of the top international names in the class pledging their support for the event.

There are expected to be at least six entries from the United States, with Steve Ulian and Charlie Ogletree, both former

By Greg Knowler

J22 world champions, being definite starters along with Chip Carpenter, the international chairman of the class.

Another strong team will be fielded by the Netherlands with four entries, while Germany will be sending two teams and Jamaica, Portugal and Greece sending one team each.

A logic-defying ruling by the International Yacht Racing Union prevents this event being termed a world championship, although the world's best will be competing.

Four local entries have been received, three in the form of Transvaalers Brent Haddock, Chris Schmidt and David Rae, and one Natal entry from Derick Warne.

There is immense interest in the championship and at least 10 boats are out practising off Durban every weekend. Olympic sailor Ian Ainslie has a professional campaign going and has been preparing all year.

The strong local contingent will be put through their paces during the class national championships off Durban from May 20 to 23.

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