

Davis predicts a Classic race

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SAILING

Sports Reporter

THE handicap challenge for overall honours in this year's **Crytic Beachcomber** Crossing from Mauritius to Durban is hotting up fast.

Springbok Greg Davis has submitted the latest entry with his brand new boat AMC Classic Challenger.

Designed and built in Cape Town, this boat convincingly won its first regatta on its first outing.

Davis is confident of being able to pull off victory in this event and said "I have an excellent crew with whom I have sailed for years. They are top yachtsmen who understand my demands as skipper. I doubt whether any other boat will have as experienced a crew as AMC Classic Challenger".

Davis has raced a yacht around the world in the Whitbread race under skipper Padda Kuttel, who will be sailing the line honours contender Bossanova in the race. He has also completed two races across the South Atlantic to Uruguay, plus numerous delivery trips. All his crew have previously crossed an ocean in racing conditions.

"The boat is exceptionally fast downwind

and has an excellent handicap. By the time the race starts it will have been totally optimised, tried and tested. We're going all out to win, and welcome all challengers," he said. Davis has been a top contender in this country for years, but it was only in the Rothmans Week regatta in December last year when he toppled fellow Springbok Geoff Meek for the overall honours, that he really showed his true colours. Until then he had been bridesmaid in three consecutive Lipton Cup Challenges, and a host of other events.

Since his Rothmans victory he has won the Olympic Finn dinghy class national championships and the Hout Bay Admiral's Cup regatta.

Other contenders for overall handicap honours in this classic ocean race are the yet to be launched, superfast 43 footer being built and skippered by Springbok Ian Martin, the newly-launched 35-footer Animula built by Ian Martin, and the L34 design yacht Equinox being jointly skippered by Craig Lanham-Love and Mark Dain.

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