

Grassy Park teenager joins world yacht race



■ All aboard ... Marvin Sampson and Cape Town Clipper skipper Captain Roger Steven-Jennings.

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Marvin Sampson, a 19-year-old student from Grassy Park has left for Mauritius where he joins the fleet of Clipper Round the World Yachts to race the 5th Leg from Mauritius to Cape Town and then onto Salvador, Brazil, a distance of 5 800 miles.

Marvin will be racing on Cape Town Clipper, one of the eight international cities competing in this challenging global contest which started from Liverpool, UK, on the 28 October 2002.

The race ends in September after some 35 000 miles and 11 months, of intense competition on the high seas. The fleet are set to arrive in Cape Town on June 21.

On the eve of his departure, Marvin said: "I am very excited to at last realise my dream of taking part in a round the world yacht race and at the same time very proud to have been selected to represent Cape Town."

Marvin has been sailing for the past seven years and has taken part in numerous sailing competitions.

Partnered by his sailing enthusiast younger brother, Ashton, in the four-day regatta, Marvin took third place. The event was won by Malcolm Hall, a South African Olympic sailing campaigner, with another Olympic champion Ian Ainslie taking second spot.

Cape Town City Council are using the race as an opportunity to promote sailing as a sport within the community and have undertaken to sponsor one crew member for one of the race legs. Marvin Sampson, was selected from many outstanding, enthusiastic young sailors.

On his return from the Clipper Race, he will continue with his studies, Electrical Engineering at Cape Technikon.