



Five members of the seven-woman Pegasus crew drink a toast to their success in the Indian Ocean Beachcomber Crossing yacht race

By MICHAEL JOHNSON

A GROUP of women sailors have launched an all-out challenge in a tough Indian Ocean yacht race to be sailed later this year.

And skipper June Boxhall believes the seven-women team has a very good chance of winning.

"We're in with a fighting chance," said June, a 27-year-old Durban stationery company representative.

Competitive

A secretary, an architect, a personnel assistant, a matric student, a draughtswoman and a store controller make up the rest of the compliment, which will vie for first place in the Indian Ocean Beachcomber Crossing from Mauritius to Durban, starting on September 28.

The voyage is scheduled to

Bevy of beauties challenge salts

take about 18 days.

The team's yacht — "a very competitive one" — has brought the crew's sail-wish closer to the wind.

Pegasus, a Petersen 33 design yacht, arrived in Durban from Port Elizabeth this week.

"We plan to train during every spare moment that we have," said Carol Wyrill, 37, a Durban architect. Carol and her husband, Bill, are the co-owners of Pegasus.

But the women are still

looking for financial help to cover the costs of the race.

All the women have sailing experience, and June and two of her crew have their coastal skippers' licences.

"It will be a challenge," said Libby McDougal, a matric student, and the youngest aboard.

But why an all-girl crew?

"We want to prove to ourselves that we can compete in an ocean race. If we win, so much the better," smiled June.