

# Inspector Clouseau sails to glory

INSPECTOR Clouseau sailed to glory in the recent Malawi Yachting Marathon.

Skipped by the competent Randburg duo, Alex Schön and Thomas Reprich, their yacht took third place in the line honours, third place in the handicap system and fourth place in the points system.

Held earlier this month, this eight-day race proved to be "psychologically demanding" as they sailed for up to 12 hours a day and concentrating for such an interminable length of time was a difficult task.

Thomas suffered from slight heat exhaustion, but otherwise the physical conditions did not

By CHARLEEN CLARKE

take their toll on the pair.

Wind conditions varied from day-to-day, with two days of strong wind, one day of extremely light wind and the rest a moderate breeze.

Thomas and Alex unanimously agree that the Malawi Lake, venue for the event, "is so beautiful".

"The lake is so big — 23 000 square kilometres — that sometimes you don't even see land — it is like sailing on the ocean," Alex said.

Along with their huge pink Pink Panther mascot, they camped in

kraals and tents beside the lake and ate pawpaws and bananas.

"It was like living in the wilds," Alex said.

The only negative aspect mentioned was the "disgusting" prizes — for second and third places, that is.

The winner received a trip for two to London as his prize, whereas the runners-up only received certificates.

"They didn't even say that we came third on

the certificate, only that we competed," Alex said.

Despite this, they both agreed that they are "definitely going again".

Hopefully, next year, they will have some more sponsorship — this adventure "in the wilds" cost them each the tidy sum of R1 000 each.

Both Technikon students, experiences such as the Malawi Yachting Marathon, are few and far between without finance!