

Crack yacht changes colours

One of South Africa's crack racing yachts, Assegai, is to sail under Mauritian colours in next month's 3 000 km Mauritius-to-Durban race.

Assegai, renamed Royal Palm by its Mauritian sponsors, is one of 17 confirmed entries received for the Beachcomber Indian Ocean Crossing which starts off Mauritius on September 28 and is expected to end at Durban around October 7.

It will again be skippered by crack Cape Town yachtsman Dave Abrmowitz.

The Cape Town-built 12,5 m balsa and fibreglass craft was specially constructed for a downwind race like the Mauritius-to-Durban event and must therefore start favourite.

It proved itself in the 1982 Cape-to-Uruguay race when it led for most of the crossing, only to run out of wind towards the end and finish second.