



All eyes on the glamour maxi racers

WHEN the fleet of 37 yachts race across the line in Grand Baie, Mauritius, for the start of the Crystic Beachcomber Crossing at 08h00 (SA time) tomorrow, the focus will be on the performance of the maxi racers.

The Boss, Get More Fun, Tuna Marine Voortrekker and Hulett Aluminium

are the glamour yachts of the event.

They are the main contenders for line honours and will be racing for the glory of finishing first off Durban.

But the real winner is considered to be the yacht which finishes first on corrected time — based on its handicap.

This yacht will be the winner of the 1989 Crystic Beachcomber Crossing.

And several yachting experts have already picked the newly-built 41-foot Swimlion, commissioned specially for the race by Durban owner John Puttergill as the favourite.

The skipper is crack Cape Town Springbok Rick Nankin.

He acknowledges his slim chances of overall line honours against the bigger yachts from 50 to 68 feet, but his aim is to be among the first five across the line off Durban. If he is he could well capture handicap honours.

With an International Measurement System provisional handicap index of 460,5 for the complicated seconds/miles rating, Swimlion has the advantage. Bigger yachts have stiffer ratings — Get More Fun (369,3), The Boss (372,3), Tuna Marine Voortrekker II (373,3), Hulett Aluminium (408,3) and the smaller yachts such as the L34s, though with better handicaps, have not got the speed.

Impressive

To get into the first five means beating at least two of the 50-footers, says 39-year-old Nankin, referring to bigger rivals such as Beluga (rating 411,8), Thunderchild (423,1), Ilse Bell (423,7) and Spilhaus (451,9).

His impressive record includes representing South Africa five times here and overseas and having many wins — including the recent Lipton Cup off Cape Town.

And Nankin is an old hand at the Mauritius race. He was third across the line as skipper of Swimlion's predecessor in the storm-hit 1987 race.

Crewing with him this time is Puttergill (45), Neil Tocknell (24) of Durban, Malcolm Bradford (31) of Port Elizabeth, and three Capetonians in Hennie Fagan (38) Alex Voyer and 32-year-old Steve Meek, youngest of the talented yachting brothers.

□ Cape Concrete, formerly known as Corum, the Philippe Briand-designed French boat that performed well in the 1987 Admiral's Cup at Cowes, could be the dark horse in the race.

Skipped by seasoned Cape yachtsman, Dania Baikoff, the 43-footer has among her eight-member, all-Cape crew a woman navigator, Lynath Beckley. Together with the all-women crew of the L34, Braby's, and Shirley McGregor aboard Hulett Aluminium, she is one of eight women known among the 300-odd yachts in the race.

Cape Concrete owner and crew member Andrew Louw, 52, says: "We have what it takes to win handicap and class honours."



Swimlion is all set

SHE won the first race she was entered in and is the first thoroughbred racing boat to be built in South Africa in more than five years. She is the 41ft Carl Schumacher designed Swimlion which was launched at the Royal Cape Yacht Club recently.

The racing sloop, purpose built for the Mauritius to Durban Crystic Beachcomber Crossing this month, was designed as a cross between a fast racer and yacht that is capable of outperforming its class on handicap.

Owner John Puttergill, chairman of the Swimline pool equipment and chemical group, commissioned

and her crew relatively inexperienced, Cart-Ad is expected to give a good account of herself.

Derek Payne, skipper of the SADF's third entry, Duna Engineering, on of the 12 L34s entered, is completing his national service in Durban after reading law at Natal University. Although he has not done a previous crossing, he has his Natal colours for yachting.

His crew of five includes both the owner and sponsor of the yacht. The three SADF members have sailing colours, two for Natal and the other for Western Province.

Payne is confident that they can do well in this highly competitive class within the fleet.

certain if he will sail.

Although Tuna Marine Voortrekker II has 10 years of sailing to her credit, she is in excellent shape for the race having had extensive modifications. From a specialised single-handed craft, she has been changed back to her original concept, that of an all-round racing yacht. She has also been given a new mast and keel.

Martin is overall manager of the three yachts, though it is un-

yachts hard to make it across the finishing line in the best possible time.

Lieutenant-Commander Hano Teutenberg is the skipper of Voortrekker, the SADF's largest entry. He is an experienced and skilled yachtsman

Defence; and Duna Engineering, from Durban Defence.

All three will be skippered by accomplished yachtsmen who are highly respected in the fraternity. They will be ably assisted by young, enthusiastic crew members who will sail their

Defence set sail in full force

FOR the first time, the South African Defence Force Sailing Club has entered more than one yacht in the race. This time they will be represented by: Tuna Marine Voortrekker II, a Western Province Defence Sailing Club entry; Cart-Ad, from Boland

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