

Crews face daunting 1,750-mile race to St Helena

Junior Bester

A FLEET of 19 yachts will take part in the bi-annual Governors Cup Race, which will begin at the False Bay Yacht Club on December 22, sailing to Jamestown, St Helena.

To mark the final preparations for this year's event the governor of St Helena, Mark Capes, visited the False Bay Club in Simon's Town to receive

the Governor's Cup which he will take with him back to St Helena where it will be awarded to the winning team.

Capes said: "The race will cover 1,750 miles of open sea, which would normally take about 10 days for an average yacht to cover. So we will be expecting the first team to arrive early January."

The event forms part of South Africa's international yacht racing

season and it is seen as a major event for the Saints, people of St Helena.

"The Governor's Cup is more than just a race for the Saints. It underlines the historic aspects of our relationship with Cape Town. So many people staying on the island have deep roots here and this race is a way for us to nurture this connection and hopefully see it grow stronger."

James McCabe, who will be com-

peting in the race for the first time, says that he and his team have set themselves a target of 10 days to compete the race.

The 18-year-old sailor from Cornwall, England said: "We were told that the race will be mostly downwind, so hopefully we can use that to our advantage and make a great effort to get to Jamestown in our target time, or even sooner."

The race would also mark the first time that he would be returning to St Helena since spending three years on the island, from 1998 to 2001.

"When I was staying there I heard of the Governor's Cup and it was always something that I wanted to be part of.

"I have been sailing quite a bit since I was 10 years old and now I am excited to have this opportunity."