



The historic Karin III, now undergoing restoration work in the Ness Valley.

## Whitford RD

Whitford Riding for the Disabled (RDA) will be operating from its new facilities at Totara Park in February.

For the past 23 years Whitford RDA has been providing riding therapy and fun for children and adults with disabilities at the Whitford Pony Club.

But in 1999 the group decided it needed to find new premises so it could expand its operation and reach more people.

An opportunity then arose to join with Totara Park Pony Club to form the Totara Park Equestrian Centre in Redoubt Rd.

The two organisations have formed a charitable trust to

# Boat from first Cup regatta being restored in Clevedon

A piece of maritime history is undergoing urgent major repairs in Clevedon to be ready in time for the America's Cup Jubilee Regatta in Cowes, England.

The regatta in August this year is to mark the 150th anniversary of the America's Cup.

The Karin III is a famous Colin Archer boat, built in Norway in 1898 for Sir Thomas Lipton and used as a personal spectator vessel for the 1898 Americas Cup.

She is one of only 20 vessels invited to race in this historic event which will be viewed by the British Royal Family and many international dignitaries.

"Unlike the current Americas Cup, it's virtually impossible to find sponsorship for an event like this," says owner Stewart Hanson.

"Because it's an historic race - and a old vessel - nobody really wants to be associated with it.

"Anything old is out. The group has even had one reply from a well known airline stating that it didn't want to sponsor anything old, as it may sink, blow up, burn

down, crash and/or fall apart.

"I guess it shows how little respect New Zealand businesses have for anything of historic value. They sure didn't seem to hold much hope for us."

The Karin III is a 40 foot gaff-rigged cutter, made of sturdy teak, and pine planked vessel of the same type as the first ship to reach the Arctic and Antarctic.

Around 1910 the vessel was sold to Lieutenant Commander Gerald Payne was later used for his famous Trans-Atlantic Voyage, described in a book, *Out of Poole, a voyage across the*

Buchanan, one of the worlds most famous naval architects, who lived aboard her with his wife, Pat, when he first stated his business in 1944.

Since then he has gone on to design 2400 vessels over a period of nearly 50 years.

"She is definitely one of the most famous boats in the world," says Stewart Hanson's assistant, Llewelyn Smith.

To date the vessel has featured in many books, magazine and newspaper articles.

Alan Buchanan sold the Karin III to a French

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