

SPORT

Old timer will be close to America's Cup again

Three Clevedon residents will have an entry in an America's Cup regatta but the boats are unlikely to reach the speeds of Black Magic.

Last August, Llewlyn Smyth, Stuart Hansen and a silent partner bought The Karin III, a boat built in 1898 for Sir Thomas Lipton, a long-time challenger for the Auld Mug.

The Karin III was used as a spectator vessel for the America's Cup in 1898 and returns to action in August.

The Karin III, a 46ft (about 12 metres) gaff-rigged cutter, was designed by renowned yacht designer Colin Archer. There are only about 25 Colin Archer boats left in the world and the Clevedon group is one of two private owners. The organisers of the America's Cup jubilee regatta, commemorating the 150th anniversary of yachting's most prestigious event, invited The Karin III to compete because of her previous relationship to the America's Cup and Sir Thomas Lipton.

Most of the other 30 boats competing in the regatta have previously raced for the America's Cup.

The five-day event is at Cowes, near the Isle of Wight in England. British and Norwegian royalty are expected to attend, as well as new United States president George W Bush.

However, before the



RESTORING A RIG: Aaron Jackson, one of the people helping to refurbish The Karin III in Clevedon, works on the mast. PHOTO: FORN GOODALL

Clevedon trio put their boat on the international stage, a lot of work must be done on her, Smyth says.

He doesn't think The Karin III has had any major repairs in her 102 years. She was even sunk in the Whangarei Harbour after she split a seam a few years ago.

The boat was moved to Clevedon from Whitianga shortly before Christmas, Smyth says. The move, which was caused by a need for the hardstand space

in Whitianga, was a big blow for the refurbishment, co-owner Stuart Hansen says.

"The people there were excellent," he says. "We had so much good advice and we had a carpenter doing some work for us on a voluntary basis."

Three people are now working on the boat.

The group of owners have already put more than \$100,000 into the renovation of the boat that cost them \$15,000, but even in its unfinished state, they have been offered more than \$500,000 for The Karin III.

With the hire of the

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