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Lipton's Race To The Race

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In 1898 Sir Thomas Lipton built an amazing spectator boat for the America's Cup. Now more than one hundred years later, the same vessel is in a race of a different kind. Lipton, the world famous tea brand founded by Sir Thomas has come to the boat's rescue, restoring her to her former glory and racing to get her to Cowes for the 150th America's Cup Jubilee next month.

The Lipton Karin III is in a half state of repair, just days away from being shipped to Southampton. A team of New Zealand craftsmen is working against the clock, 24 hours a day in two shifts to get her ready in time. There are just four days left before the Lipton Karin III will be lifted in her boat cradle aboard the P & O Berlin Express bound for Southampton. She must depart on time if she is to make official race registration in Cowes on August 18th.

Whilst the Lipton Karin III is one of seven boats from New Zealand to participate in the America's Cup Jubilee Regatta, she is by far the oldest boat from this country to receive an invitation from the Royal Yacht Squadron and the only one racing in the Classic class. The race will be held around the Isle of Wight – the original course of the America's Cup 150 years ago.

The Lipton Karin III currently resides in a paddock in Clevedon. On Friday, workmen will transform her cradle into a giant sled in order to slide her down a muddy hill towards the roadside. From there she will have a team of people working to replace the old cradle with a new one and will then be transported to Clevedon township for final fittings.

As a vessel previously owned by one of the major challengers of the America's Cup, the Lipton Karin III's official invitation to race in the 150th America's Cup Jubilee Regatta was based on her strong association with the event. She was built by Colin Archer for Sir Thomas Lipton, one of the most famous and persistent challengers of the America's Cup across 31 years.

"Like Lipton tea, this boat was created to quality and style. She is the product of living history we can now share with all

Lipton tea is delighted to be responsible

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