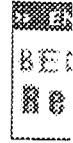


as well as new United States president George W Bush.

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



Mr 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, Mr 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 Mr 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, Mr Smyth says, and while they are on schedule to leave in June for England, they will quickly fall behind if they can't find the necessary funds.

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 lure of the America's Cup Jubilee on the horizon, though, the group is not interested in selling this piece of maritime history at the moment, Mr Smyth says.

The Karin III, designed by Colin Archer, was built in Norway in 1898 for Sir Thomas Lipton. It was used as a spectator boat in the America's Cup racing that year.

Around 1910 the boat was sold to Lieutenant-Commander Gerald Payne. The Karin III won three trans-Atlantic races while owned by Mr Payne.

In the 1940s Alan Buchanan, a leading naval architect, bought the boat and lived aboard her for a number of years while he designed hundreds of other vessels.

Mr Buchanan sold The Karin III to a French businessman, who then sold it to another French businessman for a cost of what would today equate to \$1.5 million.

At some stage the boat came into the hands of a Chinese owner who brought her to New Zealand. The man left The Karin III abandoned on its moorings in the Whangarei Harbour, where she later sank.

The Northland Harbour t
the cost of mooring fees

Folder : _____

The Clevedon owners sa
last August.

Document No: 103 _____