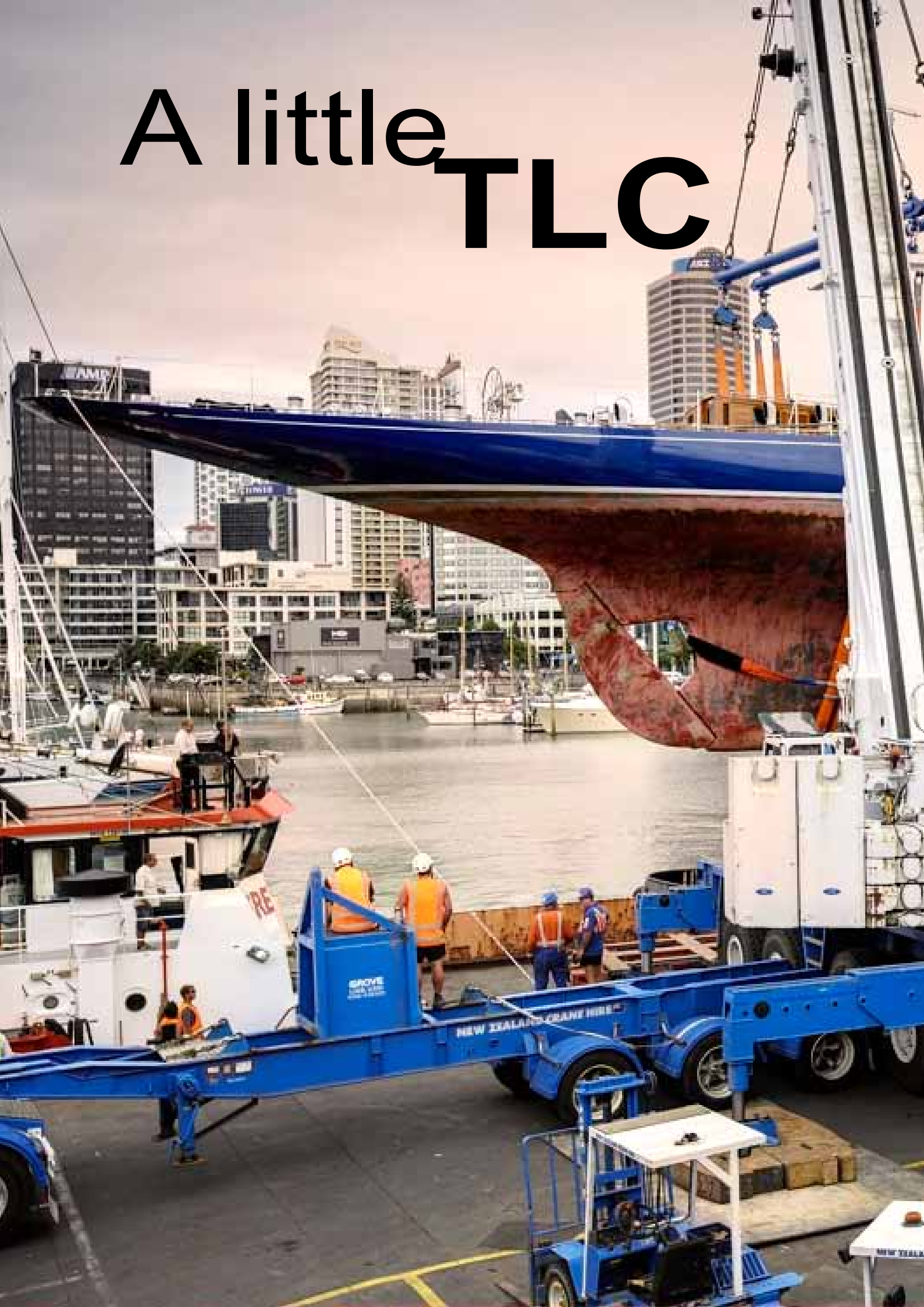


A little TLC





An iconic 75-year-old America's Cup racing boat has been lifted from Auckland's Viaduct Harbour to undergo an intensive 16-month refit. On 18 February 2010, cranes and ropes aplenty hauled the 130-foot J-Class sloop *Endeavour* aboard a barge to transport it to the yard of Auckland boatbuilders Yachting Developments, who will carry out the facelift.

The refit will include new decks, main engine, generators, carbon fibre mast, sails, deck gear, sailing-handling equipment and onboard systems upgrade, as well as a much-needed repaint. Crew accommodation will also be reconfigured.

Endeavour has a long history in international racing. Originally commissioned by Sir T.O.M. Sopwith as an English challenge to the 1934 America's Cup, the vessel was built by Camper & Nicholson in Gosport, England. Sopwith had previously challenged in 1933 with the J-Class *Shamrock V* (also built by Nicholson) and commissioned *Endeavour* as an advancement in racing design and yachting principles. Experienced in aircraft design, Sopwith applied aviation design principles to the *Endeavour's* rig and winches. He pioneered the development of the Quadrilateral genoa, a two clewed headsail offering immense sail area and power, still used on J-

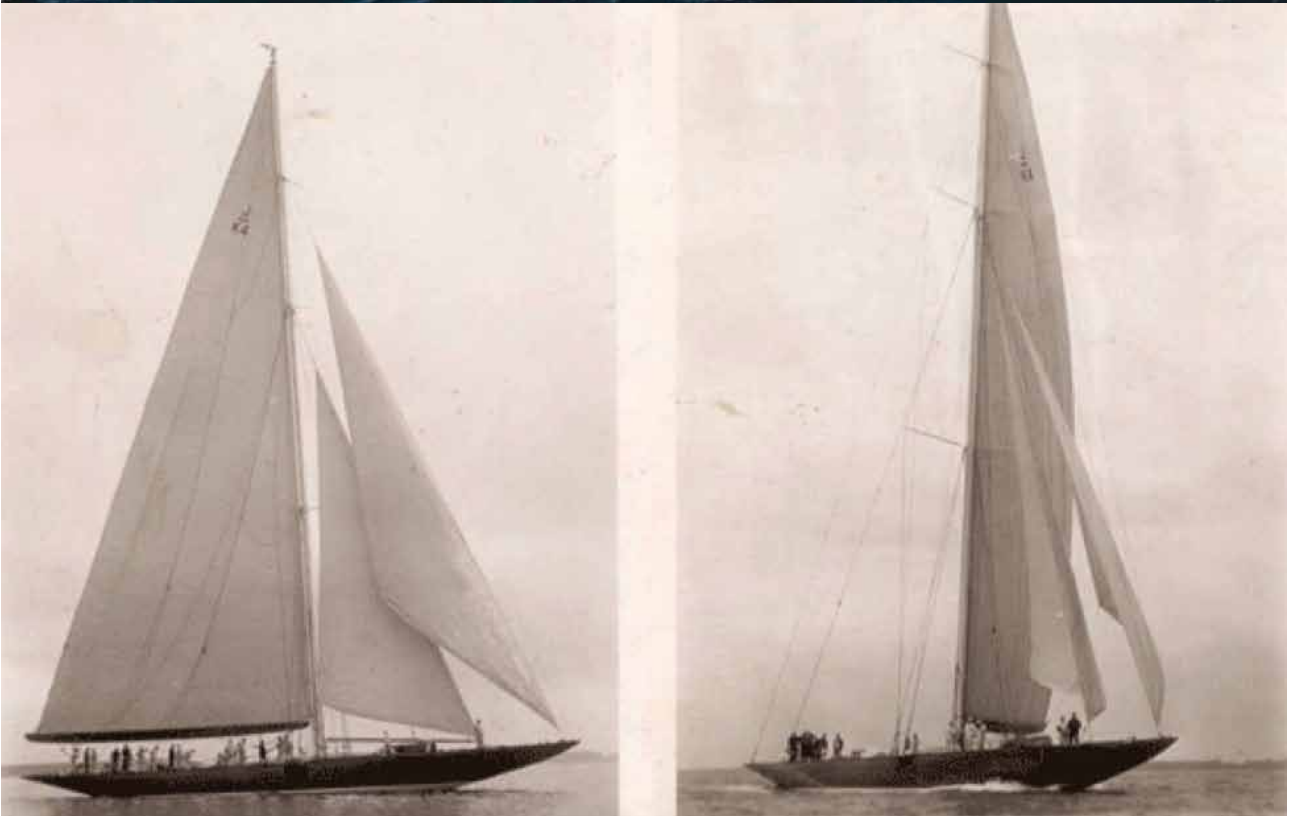
Class yachts racing today. *Endeavour* also had a larger and better designed spinnaker than its predecessors.

Endeavour cleaned up her first racing season prior to the 1934 Cup, and quickly became renowned throughout Britain as an impressive vessel. However, just prior to the vessel's departure for the USA for the Cup, Sopwith's crew demanded a pay-rise or they would refuse to sail. He did not oblige, and instead rallied together an enthusiastic but amateur crew. They came close but did not manage to win the Cup, in a contentious battle that saw the saying first coined: "Britannia rules the waves, but America waives the rules". Returning to England, *Endeavour* dominated the British racing scene until 1938 when she was laid up prior to the war.

For the next half-century *Endeavour* passed through many hands – sold to a scrap merchant in 1947, she was only saved by a buyer just hours before her demolition was to begin. In the 1970s, she sank in the Medina River in Cowes, only to be resuced at the eleventh hour, bought for ten pounds sterling by two carpenters who patched the holes in her hull with plastic bags and got her afloat again. In the early eighties, *Endeavour* sat in an abandoned seaplane base in southern England. She was a complete wreck, a rusting and forlorn hulk with no keel, rudder, ballast or interior.



Endeavour in action.
Previous images - *Endeavour's* makeover
begins with a ride to the Yachting Devel-
opments shipyard.
Below: *Endeavour* in earlier days.



In 1984 *Endeavour's* frail form was purchased by American yachtswoman Elizabeth Meyer then undertook a five-year rebuild (Meyer also refitted *Shamrock V*). Too fragile to be moved, Meyer had a building constructed over the boat and hired welders to restore the hull. The missing keel, ballast and rudder were rebuilt, steel frames and hull plating repaired and replaced where necessary. The hull was launched and towed to Dutch shipyard Royal Huisman where the mast, boom and rigging were designed and built; the engine, generator and mechanics installed and joinery completed. *Endeavour* sailed again on 22 June 1989, for the first time in 52 years. For the next decade *Endeavour* was raced extensively, to the delight of J Class enthusiasts around the world, and appeared against its antique J class competitors *Shamrock V* and *Velsheda* in the 1999 Antigua Classics Regatta. *Endeavour* was also welcomed to the marina in Qingdao, China, during the 2008 Olympic Games. The vessel is currently owned by wealthy Hawaiian Cassio Antunes, after a five-year stint in the care of now-imprisoned business tycoon Dennis Koslowski.

After a long life spent in harbours and shipyards around the globe, a little pampering is just what this old girl needs. ■



160 tonnes of boat is lifted out of Auckland's Viduauct Harbour.

