



EDITORIAL
BY REBECCA HAYTER

Kiwis overseas

One hundred years ago, Charlie Barr of America's Cup fame crossed the Atlantic, west to east in the 185-foot, three-masted schooner, *Atlantic*, owned by Wilson Marshall. They raced for the Kaiser's Cup, organised by the New York Yacht Club. Their time was 12 days, four hours, one minute and 19 seconds.



Maximus training before the start of the Rolex Trans Atlantic Challenge. Pic: Daniel Forster/Rolex

I bet they never dreamed back in 1905 that, a century later, some of the world's fastest yachts, built of materials never imagined and with keels capable of extreme antics, would be desperate to break their record.

On 22 May 2005, 20 yachts ranging from 21.3m-76m (70-250 feet), crossed the line. By the time you read this, the oldest race record in sailing may have fallen. Part of me hopes not.

In the 21st century, Kaisers are obsolete and the Rolex Trans-Atlantic Challenge is named for electronic watches but it remains 2,925 nautical miles, from New York eastward across the North Atlantic to the south coast of England.

Some Kiwis are there, most notably on the 30.5m (100ft) *Maximus*, designed by Greg Elliott and owned by Charles St Clair Brown and Bill Buckley, built by Cookson Boats and launched in February this year. She has a wing mast and a canting, lifting keel; her crew includes Kiwi America's Cup and Volvo Ocean Race veterans such as Mike Quilter, Jeff Scott and Erle Williams.

Another Kiwi connection is *Tiara*, 54.3m, designed by Ed Dubois and built by Alloy Yachts.

Just as the 1905 race was delayed a day due to

dense fog in the start area, 100 years later a forecast of gale-force headwinds also delayed the start.

Maximus led the fleet down the Hudson River, past the skyscrapers of Manhattan and Ground Zero to the Statue of Liberty, and under the Verrazano Narrows

Bridge. The race started in sunshine and a fluky breeze of 3-5 knots shifting between east and southeast with *Maximus* and Robert Miller's giant schooner, *Mari Cha IV*, hunting each other down the start line.

By late afternoon, *Mari-Cha IV* led overall. Her navigator Jef d'Etiveaud said the first line-up with *Maximus* had the two boats performing very similarly with a small speed advantage for *Mari-Cha IV*. "This is a good feeling for us, as this weather could have given an advantage to the smaller boat," he said. "Everyone is concentrating on the boat - there is not a sound. It is a horrendous weather pattern for breaking a record, though."

Back at home base, let's hope for some great winter boating, whether it's to the order of a start gun, cruising out for some overnights or pottering about on maintenance duties.

Happy boating,

Rebecca Hayter
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