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SAILING

# AULD MUG FOR GB?

The America's Cup occupies a somewhat strange place in the British psyche. We have all heard of the event and we know it's kind of a big deal, but we frequently fail to get excited about it because of a lack of British interest. Well, perhaps that outlook may change – because the British are getting serious about capturing the 'Auld Mug'.

Team principal Sir Keith Mills and director Mike Sanderson last week unveiled double Olympic gold medallist Ben Ainslie as the skipper of Team Origin – the British challenger for the 2009 cup.

With Sydney Olympic gold medallist Iain Percy as the team tactician and iShares Cup winner Rob Greenhalgh as the strategist, this looks to be the most serious America's Cup bid to leave these shores for years.

Team Origin must first triumph in the Louis Vuitton Cup to win the right to face the defending champions, the Swiss boat Alinghi, in Valencia in 2009. Win that and sailing will become cool, for a few weeks at least – oh, and they'll probably bag the team award at that Sports Personality of the Year do, too.



Will Britain taste America's Cup success at last?