

Coverage

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SAILING

Team Origin unveil plans

By Brendan Gallagher

TEAM ORIGIN, who through no fault of their own have been thwarted in their attempts to challenge for the America's Cup, effectively staged a relaunch yesterday when they unveiled a racing programme that will include nearly 200 days on the water in 2010.

The ultimate aim remains to become the first British team to win the cup and they believe September 2011 will be the first opportunity they will be granted to make sporting history.

The team, skippered and helmed by Olympic gold medalist Ben Ainslie, will remuster with almost immediate effect to compete in the Louis Vuitton Challenge against other top America's Cup teams in Nice this November, the first of four or five such regattas around the world over the next year.

Team Origin will also be entitled to stage one of those regattas, probably in Cowes, a showpiece occasion that can be used to publicise and promote the future Louis Vuitton series - and other big boat sailing competitions - which will keep all aspiring crews gainfully employed while the fate of the 33rd America's Cup is decided next spring.