



Anyone with information on this stamp from 1983, please contact the editor.



## AMERICA'S CUP XXX AND XXXI, by Bob Tessier

Having captured the America's Cup in a dramatic and impressive fashion in 1995, Team New Zealand syndicate and the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron found themselves in the enviable position of defending the Cup in 2000 and again in 2003. Here are their amazing stories:

### America's Cup XXX, February 19-March 2, 2000

As the defender, the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron had the privilege of establishing the race protocol for the event. In concert with the New York Yacht Club, the challenger of record, it was agreed that each team would be limited to building or acquiring two new boats, and would not be able to share designers. In addition, eligible yacht clubs must have been in existence for five years and have a regular membership of at least 200 members. Residency requirements for foreign nationals involved with designing or crewing the yachts were extended to three years.

As in recent years, the challenging yacht club was determined through a series of races for the Louis Vuitton Cup. The protocol for this year's event saw a series of three round robins, quarterfinals, semifinals, and the final. A total of 11 yacht clubs entered the competition, representing seven countries. At the end of the Oct. 18, 1999 to Feb. 6, 2000, competition, the Prada Challenge 2000 syndicate yacht **LUNA ROSSA (ITA-45)**, representing the Yacht Club Punta Ala of Italy, was victorious. This was the first time in Cup history that an American yacht was not in the America's Cup final. For Italy, this was her second final, having challenged and lost in 1992.

*Site:* Auckland, New Zealand

*Course Length:* 18.55 nautical miles

*Challenging Yacht Club:* Yacht Club Punta Ala

*Challenger:* **LUNA ROSSA (ITA-45)**

*Skipper:* Francesco de Angelis

*Defender:* **NEW ZEALAND (NZL-60)**

*Skipper:* Russell Coutts/Dean Barker (5<sup>th</sup> race only)

*Terms:* Best of nine races

*Winner:* **NEW ZEALAND, 5-0**



**NEW ZEALAND** retained the Cup in a 5-0 rout of the Italian challenger. By winning, the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron became the first yacht club to successfully defend the Cup outside of the United States.

Commemorating this successful defense, New Zealand Post issued three stamps on Oct. 2, depicting the fifth and final race between **LUNA ROSSA** and **NEW ZEALAND** on March 2, 2000, won by **NEW ZEALAND** (skipper Dean Barker) by 48 seconds.

**LUNA ROSSA (International America's Cup Class yacht)**

**c1999 - Prada Challenge 2000 syndicate, representing the Yacht Club Punta Ala. Designed by Doug Peterson and German Frers. L. May 5, 1999. White hull. Sail number ITA-45. Skipper: Francesco de Angelis.**

**NEW ZEALAND, aka BLACK MAGIC (International America's Cup Class yacht)**

**1999 - Team New Zealand syndicate, representing the Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron. Cookson Boats, Auckland, New Zealand. Designed by Clay Oliver.** (AMERICA'S CUP, continued on page 72)