

Cudmore's shore leave



WEDDING PLANS: Harold and Lauren

HAVING succeeded in sinking the King of Norway's yacht, Jameson I, the king of ocean racing, Harold Cudmore's crown is somewhat askew at the moment. The yachtless skipper is putting his enforced becalming to good use, however.

In three months, the captain of Britain's last America's Cup Challenge, will sail up the aisle with Dublin-based marketing girl, Lauren Dagge, 33, who has a very Irish job of decorating building society windows.

Cudmore, 48, whose efforts with the King of Norway's Irish whiskey-sponsored Admiral's Cup team boat earned the remark "Yacht on the Rocks" tells me: "I'll not have much time to spend socialising."

To which Lauren riposted: "I hope he does not sink before our wedding day."

ANOTHER SINKING

JUNE THIRLBY'S parties have always been a high point of Cowes week. One year beached Australian beer baron and America's Cup winner Alan Bond ended up fully clothed in her harbour-front swimming pool alongside failed challenger Peter de Savary. On another occasion I spied a celebrated judge dressed only in a grass skirt and shell bra. Then there was the time when, for reasons best known to himself, June's husband, property developer Dickie, started taking pot-shots at the pet gerbels.

Alas, there will be no party repeats this year. We were looking forward to celebrating the 21st birthday of the Thirlbys' daughter Sophie. Mother, however, has taken umbrage at daughter's new short haircut and cancelled the bash. If this new serious attitude takes hold Cowes, I fear, is in danger of becoming just a sporting event.

With William Hickey team: JOHN ROBERTS, MARTIN TREW. Pictures: CHRIS WOOD.

Talking Heads

by BRUTUS



"Honestly Brian, Daddy didn't mind you calling out 'Left hand down a bit' at all."