



Dream team ... The Durban yachtsmen involved in the Shosholoza dream. They are, back, left to right: Henri Hiddes, shore manager; David Jonson, structural engineer; Captain Salvatore Sarno, managing director of the SA Americas Cup Challenge 2007; Cameron Wills, grinder. Front: Shaun Pammenter, grinder and Ian Ainslie, match racing helmsman and tactician

PICTURE: FRANCES PARK-ROSS

26/4/2005 DAILY NEWS

# Shosholoza team unveils new yacht

## **BARBARA COLE**

AFTER six months of tight security to prevent information leaking out, the famous Shosholoza yachting team now has a new generation boat.

The hull of the new boat, which was trucked from a boat yard in Somerset West near Cape Town to the city's Royal Cape Yacht Club, was unveiled last Friday.

It is an ultra hi-tech boat with structural features that have

evolved from leading edge designs incorporating aerospace technology and research similar to that used in both aircraft and Formula One cars.

And it is the first Americas Cup class yacht to be designed and built in South Africa.

It is also the first in the world to be purpose designed and fully constructed to meet the new Version 5.0 rule of the 2007 Americas Cup, which the South African entry, the Shosholoza, will compete in.

Durban's Captain Salvatore Sarno, the brains behind the Shosholoza dream, said the new yacht is the product of 15 000 hours of research and is designed by a highly skilled and mainly local team, led by leading British naval architect, Jason Ker.

The hull was loaded on to first new container ship (the Alexa) that Sarno's shipping company bought, and Sarno sees this as a good omen.

It is now on its way to

Valencia, Spain, where it will be fitted with a keel and mast and launched in Mediterranean waters on May 19.

The Shosholoza team fly out to join their new yacht soon.

They will stay in Europe for several months, competing in pre-Americas Cup regattas. The new Shosholoza is due back in December.

And the old Shosholoza which is still in Cape Town? It will be used for publicity and training purposes.