

YACHTING □ THE AMERICA'S CUP

Pact to stop the fiasco

PRESENT and past trustees of the America's Cup have agreed to try to re-open the races to all comers and prevent a repetition of the court battle being waged between the United States defenders and their New Zealand challengers.

"Despite this pact, we will still go to the New York Supreme Court if necessary to maintain our position that the running of a catamaran, the Stars and Stripes, is unfair," Michael Fay, multi-millionaire boss of the New Zealand syndicate, said.

The pact was announced less than 24 hours before Stars and Stripes defends the Cup in the second and possibly final race of the current best-of-three series against the New Zealand this morning.

After 15 minutes of tacking duels, the 60-foot catamaran, with its rigid aircraft-wing sail, pulled away in the first race on Wednesday and left the huge yacht New Zealand in its wake for the rest of the 40-mile course.

The New Zealand crew has made clear it expects the same thing to happen today over a triangular course.

Under the agreement the San Diego Yacht Club, the Cup holders, and the two former trustees, the New York Yacht Club and the Royal Perth Yacht Club, agreed after three days of meetings that, in the final stage, a trustees' committee will decide on unresolved issues between the defender and challenger.

The committee, composed of representatives of each of the three clubs, will also appoint a so-called Challenger of Record to race against the defender if other challengers are unable to agree on their candidate.

"Should San Diego Yacht Club successfully defend the America's Cup in America's Cup XXVII (the present event) the club will accept all bona fide challenges from qualified foreign yacht clubs delivered with 60 days of the conclusion of the present race series," the agreement stated.

"San Diego Yacht Club believes that a mechanism for the resolution of disagreements between the defending yacht club and the challenging yacht clubs without resort to litigation is highly desirable." — Sapa