Ger's new racing yacht finally arrives in estuary

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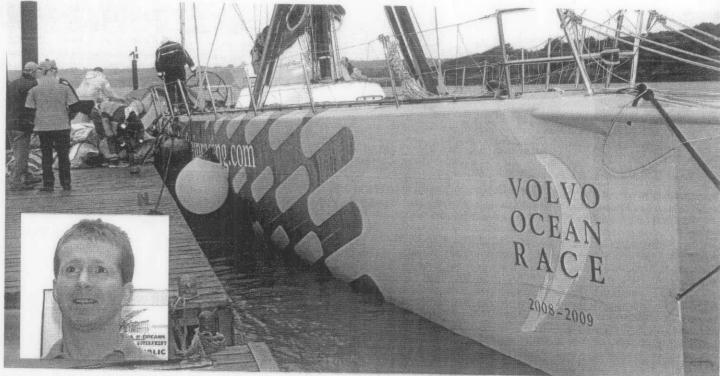
Gerard Fitzgibbon

LIMERICK skipper Ger O'Rourke has set his sights on October's roundthe-world Volvo Ocean Race having received delivery of his new 70ft racing yacht in Foynes.

The managing director of Chieftain Construction. who became the first ever Irish winner of the Rolex Fastnet Yacht Race in 2007. had been looking to invest in a bigger, faster boat since deciding to sell his 50ft Chieftain vacht late last year.

His new boat, which he bought six weeks ago. arrived in Foynes last Friday and Mr O'Rourke told the Limerick Leader that he was hopeful it will bring him and his crew as much success as their old one.

"We bought it in Lanzarote six weeks ago, and the next month. All things being equal, we hope to the new boat set him back called Chieftain. The pre-fied design and is capable city and county councils. have it in the water by the Mr O'Rourke, a former vious Chieftain raced over of speeds of up to 40 knots first or second week in Limerick Sports Star of 20,000 nautical miles in in open water. August. Hopefully we'll do the well with her. Our main remarked: "If I tell you, I'll designed by world famous the Rolex Fastnet last and has also received objective is the Volvo have to kill you." Round-the-World Ocean



we plan to have a refit Ger O'Rourke, inset, and his new racing yacht, Chieftain, which sailed into the Shannon Estuary before docking in Foynes last Friday

When asked how much new boat, it will also be boat has a slightly modi- by receptions at Limerick Year,

simply three years, and was designer Bruce Farr and year, which he completed numerous personal acco-He said that until he built at Cookson Boatyard in record time, Mr lades, including Cork Dry

Race in October," he said. found a sponsor for the in New Zealand. The new O'Rourke was honoured Gin Sailor of the Year.

He had previously notched up a victory in Following his success in the Sydney to Hobart race,

The 2008/2009 Volvo Ocean Race will see competitors race between some of the most exotic port cities in the world. including Singapore, Rio de Janeiro, and Capetown. The race begins in Alicante, Spain, in October.

Council exp Traveller ho

LIMERICK County Council that ach expects to meet its own 92 by th target of providing accom- involve modation to 92 Traveller families in the county by the time its four-year-pro- the cou gramme runs out at the end of this year, writes Norma Prendiville.

Up to the end of June, waiting councillors were told last Friday, 85 families had a new been provided with permanent accommodation since

The figures are in the target of Draft Traveller Accommo- 13 family dation Programme 2009- lifetime 2013, which councillors gramme agreed to put on public display and on which the public can make submissions.

But the draft pro- ments in gramme report concedes capital 1

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