

## Americas Cup

I know almost nothing about sailing.

But I do know a bit about success breeding success, and about how – collectively and individually – we make our own good fortune.

I've written columns on this theme for more than twenty years – actually, pretty much the same column – and I haven't changed my mind.

But agonising through the second half of the Americas Cup, along with three quarters of New Zealand, I began to have doubts. We were the better sailors, with the better boat ... and then suddenly, half way through, we weren't.

So what happened? Larry Ellison (Mr Oracle) threw a lot of money at his boat, including a whole team of boat builders flown up from Auckland, and a British Olympian or two. His crew learned fast. He bought the race. And the Kiwis ran out of money – and luck.

Does that disprove my theory – that we're the masters of our own fate, and that the harder we work the luckier we get? No. On a level playing field, Emirates Team New Zealand would have won the cup. It is possible to buy sporting outcomes. But for you and me, the rule still applies – we make our own good fortune.

200 words

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