

Jolly Harbour Yacht Club Newsletter # 5 of 2015 05/04

Valentine's Regatta Organisation. The main event since the last newsletter has been the exciting and successful **Valentine's Regatta**. Such an event requires enormous efforts from numerous dedicated volunteers (yes, your Executive Committee is unpaid too!) and many hours are spent in planning, organizing and executing the numerous tasks which together produced the seamless presentation you all enjoyed. The Regatta Committee of **Rear-Commodore Gordon Cossar, John King, and Randy Proust**, assisted by ExecCom where required, did a great job of coordinating everything.

Some people need especial thanks. **Sally Davies**, our new Club Social Secretary, and her team (**Commodoreable Liz, Alice, & others**) produced an endless stream of canapés on the opening evening. (*I understand one lady made over 1000 canapes. Should we ask for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records?*). Thanks too to the ladies of the Registration Desk, led by Club Membership Secretary **Barbara Thomson. Carol** & her visiting friend **Beatrice, Lucy, Sue, Eve, and B2 (Barbara Wharton)** spent a miserable afternoon in a dark and mosquito infested corridor ensuring Skippers got their goodie-bags & crews got their Tee-shirts, (new arrangements next year, girls, in the sunlight!). And of course especial thanks to **Mount Gay Rum** for their **Red Hat Party** and **Banks Beer of Barbados**, the Beer of the Regatta and their distributors **Island Provisions Ltd (IPL)**. It is interesting to see how many converts there have been to Banks Beer at the Bar since the Regatta! And Mount Gay Rum has become the favourite for winners of Saturday Sailing.

While Skippers were Registering on Friday afternoon, their crews had fun with the **Crew Relay Challenge** in aid of **Sailability**, *the charity providing sailing for the disabled of Antigua & Barbuda*. Teams of three from **Zarafa, Southern Child, Valhalla, Liquid, Full Monty, Volare** and **Yesss** took part in a knockout relay race, in Laser Picos supplied by the **NSA**, Paddleboards generously loaned by **Salty Dog Rentals**, and borrowed Kayaks.

In a Wimbledon-type draw, **Yesss** (Budgie) was first off against **Volare** (Terry Allen), both somewhat larger gentlemen in tiny tippy boats designed for children. The large spectator crowd were kept convulsed as Budgie fell

in, both boats met head-on at the windward mark, (Terry rounding to Port instead of Stbd), Budgie lost his boom & tiller in the consequent confusion, etc etc. (Budgie has promised to fall in again next year!)

Some brave paddleboard paddling by Pamala Baldwin of **Liquid** and spectacular kayaking by **Southern Child's** crew failed to overcome the strong, young, fit (and, they tell me, good-looking) team from **Valhalla** who after several rounds won the case of Banks Beer of Bermuda (Beer of the Regatta)!

This fun event raised EC\$600 in entry fees and donations, this was matched at the prizegiving by veteran sailor Geoffrey Pidduck; tee-shirt sales on behalf of Sailability raised a further EC\$1,000, promptly matched by IPL, distributors of Banks Beer, the total of EC\$ 3,200 going towards a hoist to assist wheelchair bound disabled to be safely installed in the trimarans used by Sailability (one of which was on show at the West Point Marina Bar, Home of the JHYC.)

The Valentine's Regatta 2015

Racing over the next two days took part in gusty & shifting winds from 10 to 25 knots, most unusually mainly from the SouthEast, veering South at times, giving Race Officer Paul Miller of regattaguru.com (who donated their services as sponsorship of the Regatta) a very difficult task in setting lines and courses appropriate for the mix of classes and yachts, from giant **Swan 55 Valhalla** to tiny Jeanneau 20 **Miss Happy** (Trish Webster). Seven races were sailed, six to count. Full results are on www.regattaguru.com .

Zarafa (HOD 35) brought over from Lymington, UK & sailed by Peter Schofield and a mainly British Army crew held off **Southern Child** (Lucy Reynolds) in a close fought CSA Class 1, winning by 2 points. Bernie Wong's **Taz** (Reichel Pugh 37) was a close third.

Evergreen Geoffrey Pidduck (claiming to be the oldest sailor on the water) won CSA 2 in his much modified 6 metre **Biwi Magic** from **Tango Mike** (Dehler 34 Tony Maidment) who was only half a point ahead of **Blue Peter** (J30 Tanner Jones).

Cricket (Beneteau First 35 Sandy Mair) made a clean sweep of CSA 3 with six firsts from **Volare** (Grand Soleil 343 Terry Allan) and **Ocean Harmony** (Sweden 43 John Wills).

A **Laser Pico Regatta** organized in conjunction with the Valentine's Regatta suffered from a poor turnout due to a lack of advance publicity, however seven entries had enormous fun sailing in the calm but still windy waters of Jolly Harbour itself. A proud **Jayden Hector** (8) got the first place medal ahead of his sister **Naeomi** , presented by His Excellency the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda **Sir Rodney Williams GCMG** who graciously awarded the Regatta prize trophies and the "goodies" generously donated by local businesses and restaurants.

Social

During the Regatta, Saturday night dancing in the JH Commercial Centre Square to **Rico and the 4-Play**, donated by sponsors **West Point Marina Bar** kept competitors and spectators on the move, and the group playing at the Sunday night prizegiving were voted the best yet. We hope to have them again next year.

Saturday Sailing

After the excitement and close competition of the Regatta, Saturday Sailing, our Club signature activity, where we attempt to sail/race every week of the year, was a bit short, as the Commodore elected to sail to Guadeloupe and strong winds put several others off. In Winter Series 5 **Volare** in Div 2 gave **Yesss** a wave goodbye, a man overboard caused chaos in Div 1 with **Blue Peter** the eventual winner.

Montserrat Cruise

Commodore Grahame Williams is organizing a cruise to Montserrat for the famous St Patrick's Day Carnival there. Plans are to leave on 15 March spend 3 days there including the St Patricks Day Parade on the 17th, and return on 18/19/20 maybe via Deshaies in Guadeloupe. More info on the Club website www.JHYCantigua.com .

Social activities

Social Secretary **Sally Davies** goes from strength to strength. Her latest event, a Pudding Club attended by 75 in aid of **Sailability** raised over ten thousand EC dollars despite having no ovens at the venue (The Underdog) Emergency heating up of the puddings was supervised by **Budgie and Ken McVay** in their home ovens, most of the participants didn't know there had even been a problem!!!

A Treasure Hunt/Car Rally/Beach BBQ is organised for Sunday 8 March, sign up at West Point Bar, a draw for start times will take place at 6pm on Friday, late entries will start after these have been allocated, EC\$30 per person to enter (EC\$15 child under 12). See the bits of Jolly you didn't know existed! Cars and buggies. All JHYC, JHHA and visitors welcome. **Bring your own BBQ meats & salads & drinks.** BBQ will be lit at 1.00, will be hot all afternoon. Beach beds & umbrellas for rent at USD 5.00 for 1x umbrella and 2 x beds. Prizes! **All proceeds to Club Charities.**

Budgie's burlblings.

I had hoped, with my retirement as Commodore, and with the Club now going forward apace, with around 150 Members, four successful Regattas completed, and sponsorship ensuring financial security for the next few years, that I might be absolved from writing the Newsletter.

No such luck!

However, I have had much encouragement from off-island Members and friends of the Jolly Harbour Yacht Club who have been kind enough to say how much they enjoy reading of the activities of the Club and how much it makes them feel part of our great Jolly Harbour community. So I'll soldier on, on an intermittent basisbut if there is a budding author/journalist/writer out there.....? (You know where to find me!)

Fair winds!

Budgie