



English Harbour
Antigua, W.I.
Tel: (268) 562-8060
email: info@nationalsailingacademy.org
www.nationalsailingacademy.org



It's hard to believe that four years have passed since we started our free schools programme in September 2010. In that time, we have taught over 500 children to sail and have sponsored swimming lessons for more than 700 children.

All of this has been achieved, to date, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors. Our sincere Thanks go, in particular for the 2013 and 2014 years during which we have accomplished our move and have created the necessary infrastructure, to Sophie Racing, eSeaClear, Pete Townshend and the Peter Harrison Foundation.

We also Thank the Mill Reef Charity Fund and the Boltini Trust for their help with our overheads during this period.

Our major sponsors are listed on our website and on our sponsor board. There are many more who have donated, too numerous to mention here, and we are truly grateful for all the support that has been given.



It is a fact, however, that relying solely on charitable donations is not a sustainable future and it was for this reason that we relocated to the new headquarters of the Academy in Dockyard Dive English Harbour where we hope to create a viable enterprise which will, in turn, provide the revenue for us to continue the free schools programme. The good side of this plan is that we have the opportunity to create revenue streams from our activities both on and off the water. The not so good side is that in addition to the cost of the children's lessons (80% of which is comprised of instructor salaries) we also have to pay significant property rent and overheads.

Although our lease commenced in June 2013, it took almost nine months - being constrained by time and money - to create all the infrastructure needed to become operational, this finally occurred in February 2014. We have had only a little over six months, therefore, and only half a season, to assess how we are doing. Our aim, given time, is to become self-sufficient financially and 'stand on our own two feet.' At this point, we are certainly confident that, with the coming season, we will be at least 'standing on one of our own two feet'. We will still therefore, need to ask for some charitable support to make ends meet and to fund the acquisition of necessary equipment until we can get 'the other foot on the ground.'

Our major income stream at present is our accommodation, so if you or anybody you know, is going to be looking for affordable accommodation in English Harbour within easy reach of marinas, shops, bars, restaurants etc., please send them to our website at:

www.thelodgeantigua.com





Our watersports include dinghy sailing, keelboat sailing, kayaking and paddle boarding for adults and children. All are available for hire and a range of RYA (Royal Yachting Association) dinghy and keelboat courses are available. We underwent a week long inspection and training session with visiting RYA inspectors in July and are delighted



that the Academy is now an accredited training centre and all its instructors are RYA certified.

Antigua Sailing Week saw two of our three Cork 1720 keelboats racing - Digicel Valiant was 2nd in the racing class (by 15 seconds) and was also 2nd overall in the Yachting World Round the Island Race. She was chartered by Team Sojana, and skippered by Marc Fitzgerald. Lewis Fitzgerald (son of Marc) was skipper on Digicel Spirit with a teenage team from the Academy who had some good individual race results, including a 1st, and were placed 5th overall in class.



We plan to start a match racing series when the season starts and hope that teams from the superyachts will take part over the course of the season as well as our own Academy teams and some secondary school students we are teaching.

The 1720's are also available for charter for day sailing or regattas - they are fun boats to sail and can get to 20 kts under spinnaker.

We also intend to make use of our beautiful waterfront garden setting and will be holding various social events, including concerts, parties, games nights, open air cinema etc.etc. Ideas for such events are welcome and the venue is also available for private functions.



We have installed a 180ft dock and hope to extend it for the coming season. We offer long term dockage for boats up to 7ft draft, at very competitive rates. We also have a concrete slipway from the main road into the water (4ft deep) for the haul and launch of tenders, ribs and power boats.



During the school summer holidays we ran a very successful 'Fun Camp' for children from 6 years old which consisted largely of them having fun in the water using dinghies, kayaks, paddle boards, and (very popular) just jumping into the water from the dock a hundred times a day!. We also took them fishing, hiking, and to the beach for various games.



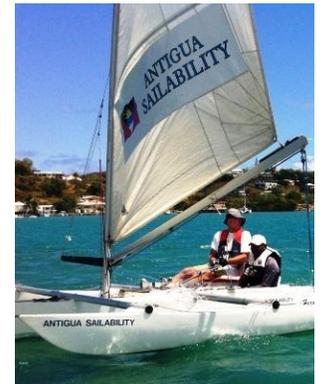
It was a great help having our new Boston Whaler for this camp and our Thanks go to Mike & Lynn Ransom and Paradise Boats for sponsoring the boat. We also ran Summer Sailing Camps in Jolly Harbour. Now we are into September, the serious sailing has started. In English Harbour, we will be having 11 schools a week sending up to 15 students each for sailing lessons. Our Jolly Harbour satellite branch will also soon recommence its free schools programme.



One of our major logistic problems over the years has been transporting students to/from their schools as all the school buses are in demand at the time we need one. This has often resulted in students being left at the school gates or, on occasion, not being delivered back to school after their lesson. These problems will soon be a thing of the past as the Peter Harrison Foundation have made a grant for us to acquire our own bus and we are applying to Government for support with the running costs.



We have also started an RYA Sailability programme with two purpose built trimarans donated - through the good offices of Mr. Bob Bailey, our Director of Sailability - by the people of Peterborough UK and transported free of charge by Geest Lines. Again, one of our challenges has been transporting people to/from the Academy. Our bus will be adapted so that in the mornings we can have wheelchair tracks in place of some seats and a loading ramp, and in the afternoons we can put the seats back for the schools.



We do still need some equipment for this programme - a powered winch for launch and recovery of the boats and a hoist to lift people in/out of their wheelchairs (they are installed into the boat prior to launch). If anybody can supply, or fund, these items it would be a great help.



The only major capital project on our horizon is the installation of an 'Endless Pool.' We do not have the ground space for a regular swimming pool and its infrastructure (let alone the cost of building it and the water to fill it). We could, however, find space for an

'Endless Pool' where you swim 'on the spot' against a current. It would take up only 18ft x 8ft and has a Jacuzzi at one end.



There are three compelling reasons why we should have this - despite the fact that, unlike almost all of our other projects - it will not necessarily bring in direct revenue:

- 1) There is still no safe, controlled environment (i.e. pool) on this side of the Island where we can offer regular swimming lessons. Swalings (Swimming School) have been consulted on the feasibility of this and they fully endorse it - indeed, they use one in the UK for swim teaching.
- 2) We could offer hydrotherapy sessions to disabled people - a fantastic opportunity not previously available to them.
- 3) It would be a 'WOW' factor as an added amenity to our accommodation - not only could guests swim off our dock in the sea, but they could also enjoy a swim in the garden pool - or a glass of wine in the Jacuzzi at sundown. A great marketing tool for 'The Lodge'

We have been offered a very generous deal by Caribbean Construction on this - they will ship and install it for free if they can use it for demonstration purposes so we need to raise a mere U\$25k and its done!

If you would like to support this project, or indeed, the Academy in general, you will find all details on our website for (secure) payment by Visa or Mastercard. There are also wire transfer instructions for USD and we can send then for Sterling or Euros. We also take cash - cheques - fine art - jewellery - body parts etc.etc.

AMERICAN TAXPAYERS PLEASE NOTE: We are approved by the IRS as a bone-fide charity and as such US taxpayers are entitled to relief, at their highest rate, on donations. If you wish to follow this route, the Charities Aid Foundation of America Gift Form, with the necessary information, is on our website.

We welcome visitors and are always delighted to show you around our facility.

Thank you all again for your past, and hopefully future, support,

Elizabeth Jordan.

President - National Sailing Academy.

Our Newsletter will be published approx: twice a year - please reply with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line if you do not wish to receive it.