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For the first time since 1994 I raced in the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, I gotta say racing is far more fun than committee work. Having said that I still feel that everyone that enjoys racing should give back to the sport by being involved on the committee side of things every so often. One of the main reasons that we had such a good time was in the most part

due to Eric Tulla racing with us, racing with someone that really knows how to make a boat go has got to be one of the greatest of pleasures. We had our old block of flats hitting speeds that we did not think we could do for any length of time.

Again I remind everyone to make sure you have someone from your MNA at the ISAF meeting in November in Ireland to vote for Eric to be the next ISAF president.

Well done to all the Caribbean boats in the Caribbean 600. Lets hope that next year the press releases will mention the CSA class.



It was a sad day when we heard the news about Shane Atwell, CSA sends condolences to his family and friends. Barbados lost a good man who will be missed by many.

Eight Bells Shane Atwell

By his friend—Renata Goodridge

Shane "Fly" Atwell was born May 18, 1970, and grew up sailing and racing with family and friends, and never looked back. He crewed on the original *Bruggadung* when she raced across the Atlantic in the ARC 1986, competed in the Olympics in Seoul, Korea 1988, and raced competitively all through the Caribbean at regional regattas. Shane was an excellent tactician, a great helmsman, wicked foredeck when needed, and a great skipper and friend. Shane did not slow down on land - the man moved lightly on his feet and a favorite with the ladies when he was ready to dance, and was usually the last man standing at the bar after everyone else had fallen down or crawled home for rest before the next day's racing. Shane was friends with such a wide range of people from all over the region, yet the sailing community likes to think of him as one of our special sons, and as such, he will



be sorely missed by all of us who had the privilege of sailing with him. He sailed over the horizon, into better seas, on February 8th, 2012.

**Review of the 32nd
St. Maarten Heineken Regatta**



**Sensational Sunday Surf Session Concludes
32nd St. Maarten Heineken Regatta In Stunning
Style**

Article by Herb McCormick

Simpson Bay, St. Maarten (March 4, 2012) – On the first day of the 32nd St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, the breeze was sharp and steady. On the second day of the annual Caribbean sailing festival, it blew harder still. But today, on the third and final day of competition, the wind gods truly unleashed their power. And the result was one of the more stirring, sensational days of racing in the grand and storied legacy of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

To put it another way, if you didn't like sailing today, on a racecourse lashed with staunch 25-knot winds and roiling, turquoise seas flecked with whitecaps, well, you'll never like sailing.

Nearly 200 boats in 16 separate classes set sail today on two race circles off Marigot, on the French side of St. Maarten. On the A circle, race officers designated a pair of courses that included a long weather leg to the northern end of the island before a downwind stretch before the steady easterly tradewinds to the distinctive landmark off the island of Anguilla called Blowing Rock.

Coincidentally, the race committee on the B circle also designated a course that would take most of its fleet across the Anguilla Channel to, yes, Blowing Rock. As it happened, at midday today the entire fleet—the B boats reaching up from the south, and the A divisions running downwind under spinnaker from the east—rendezvoused at the low-lying outcropping known as Blowing Rock. And, man, it was blowing at Blowing Rock



Budget Marine Match Racing Cup 2012

St. Maarten

Caribbean Skipper Colin Rathbun Rolls To Victory



For his victorious efforts, Rathbun and his crew—Kevin Wrigley and Nick Cunha—took home the winner's purse of \$5,000. Second-place finisher David Storrs, a U.S. sailor based on Long Island Sound whom Rathbun topped by a score of 2-0 in the best-of-three finals, earned \$2,000

for his efforts. In the petit final to round out the podium, Russian match racer Eugeny Nikiforov beat Holland's Bouwe Bekking—one of the world's top ocean racers and a veteran of multiple Volvo Ocean Races—in straight sets for the third-place prize of \$1,000.

GILL Commodore's Cup 2012

St. Maarten

Breezy, Eventful
Gill Commodores Cup
Kicks Off Action At 32nd
St. Maarten Heineken Regatta



As always, the Gill Commodores Cup showcased several of the top match-ups in the fleet and served as a preview of coming attractions in the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. In Class 1, Bill Alcott's 65-foot *Equation* and Marco Iglesias's Volvo 70, *Gran Jotiti*, look to be a pair of powerhouses in the regatta's figurative Heavyweight Division. In today's first round, however, the clear winner was *Equation*, with a pair of bullets. *Gran Jotiti* earned second, and John Wilson's powerful 78-foot sloop, *Idea*, was third. While all of these yachts are capable of podium finishes, today's winner was Torres's *Smile and Wave*, with a third and a first, followed by *Lazy Dog* and *El Ocaso*.

32nd St. Maarten Heineken Regatta Continued

The wild scene at the windswept rock, with spray flying and boats converging from divergent directions, was the signature moment of this latest edition of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. The top boats—including the Volvo 70, *Gran Jotiti*; the Class 40 entrant, *Icarus*; the Grand Soleil 46, *Antilope*; and the Melges 24, *Budget Marine/Gill*, all surfing to the mark before 4-6 foot seas and registering double-digit boat speeds, along with dozens of other competitors—handled the conditions with confident ease and skillful aplomb.

Not every crew could say the same, and there were countless close calls as competitors closed on *Blowing Rock*, jibed, and set a new course for the finish line off Simpson Bay. Through a happy combination of luck and skill, however, everyone made it around cleanly. And when the racers crossed the finish for the third and final race of the 2012 running, a new roster of St. Maarten Heineken Regatta champions was crowned.

In CSA 1, on the strength of their second straight victory in today's racing, that honor belonged to skipper Ernesto Cortina, who assembled an all-star crew of Spanish America's Cup and Volvo Ocean Race veterans aboard *Gran Jotiti*, a Farr-designed Volvo 70 formerly known as *Telefonica Negro*. John Wilson's Reichel-Pugh 78-footer, *Idea*, took second place in class.



Volvo 70,
Gran Jotiti;

The Multihull 1 winner was Peter Aschenbrenner's graceful 63-foot trimaran, *Paradox*, a birdlike craft that indeed sometimes appeared to be flying atop the waves, rather than sailing through them. While *Paradox* won all three races in her class, Katherine Mullins' handsome Gunboat catamaran, *Coco de Mer*, added three second-places, to take the runner-up berth in Multihull 1.



Gunboat catamaran,
Coco de Mer,

RORC CARIBBEAN 600 20 February 2012



Photo's by Tim Wright



The fourth edition of the RORC Caribbean 600 hosted by the Antigua Yacht Club was a sensational success.

578 sailors from 35 different countries took part in a memorable race. This year, the race attracted a truly international fleet including a number of world-class Spanish sailors racing on Volvo 70, **Gran Jotiti**, and Swan 56, **Clem**. There were also a significant number of Russian sailors, no doubt enjoying getting away from the cold Russian winter. Oscar Konyukhov's 90ft Maxi, **Med Spirit**, crewed by amateur Russian and French sailors, put in a great performance against fully professional competition.

Anders Nordquist, owner of Swan 90, **Nefertiti**, was taking part in his first ever offshore race and loved every minute of it.

The sailing conditions were more complex than usual and there were epic battles between competing yachts throughout the fleet.



The glorious 214ft Baltic **Hetairos**, skippered by Vincent Fauquenoy, was destined to take line honours, crossing the finish line in Antigua in an elapsed time of 2 days 2 hours 39 minutes and 32 seconds.

The monumental ketch was well outside the record time set by **Rambler 100** last year, however the international team aboard **Hetairos** were all smiles as they were greeted by well-wishers and a cacophony of horns from mega-yachts in Falmouth Harbour.

Hetairos navigator, South African Marc Lagesse modestly admitted to being somewhat surprised to be the first yacht to finish: 'I have to say, I am genuinely surprised. I honestly thought that we wouldn't take line honours. From a navigators point of view, I got a few calls not quite right. However, we did have a few decisions work out for us by chance and I would always say it is better to be lucky than good! I really enjoyed this race, an illustrious fleet with great people and a big atmosphere.'

For more info:

<http://caribbean600.rorc.org>



32nd St. Maarten Heineken Regatta Continued

Today's winner in CSA 2 was Klaas van Duuren's X-612, De Wilgen Vastgoed, but in the overall standings, it was too little, too late, to overcome Bill and Carolyn Titus's magnificent Swan 100, Virago, which earned a second today—along with two firsts in the previous two contests—to record a comfortable win in the "Big Boat" division.



Virago

At the outset of the regatta it was clear that two Melges 24s—Andrea Scarabelli's Budget Marine/Gill, and Coors Light, co-skippered by Frits Bus and Peter Houtzager—would be vying for the title in CSA 3 right up until the final day. Indeed, both boats placed first or second in class for the entire series. But on the strength of their win on Sunday, Budget Marine/Gill broke the tiebreaker between the two boats to win the highly competitive 10-boat class.



*Melges 24,
Budget Marine/Gill,*

The 16-boat CSA 4 class was another stacked division, with many boats—including Willem Wester's Antilope, Sergio Sagramoso's Lazy Dog, Jaime Torres's Smile and Wave, and James Dobbs' Lost Horizon—all considered pre-regatta favorites. But when all was said and done, the best, most consistent effort belonged to the crew of Richard Wesslund's J/120, El Ocaso, which closed out the regatta in style today by winning the final race to top the leaderboard.



Antilope



23—26 February 2012

St George's, - The fourth edition of the South Grenada Regatta was always going to be new and exciting from the start due to the additional day of Match Racing. Match Racing of this kind is it not only a first for the South Grenada Regatta but also a first for Grenada.

The Moorings & Sunsail donated two of their 41.3ft Beneteau Charter Yachts, one marked with a blue flag and the other with a yellow flag. The 12 teams were drawn out of a hat at the Skippers Briefing the night before to determine who would be Match Racing against whom. Island Water World giving the crew a few useful goodies donated Skippers Packs for each team. Match Racing is where two identical boats race against each other sailing the same course with different teams. The 12 teams, with a maximum of 6 crew, were - Damaged on a Budget, Turb X Trem, Team Horizon, Team Palm Tree Marine, Rasmus, Super Butterflies, Clarkes Court Bay Marina Salty Dog, Team Savvy, Team ACT, Bloody Mary, Green Dragon and Die Hard.

The 12 teams soon narrowed down to 6 as the winner of the first round of 6 races goes through to the next round. Team Horizon, Team Palm Tree Marine, Green Dragon, Team Savvy, Super Butterflies and Rasmus got through. Spirits were high and the whole atmosphere was electric. The teams were shuttled over to their

designated yachts by the shuttle boat drivers, all part of the volunteers team who helped throughout the Regatta. It was obvious to the watching crowd that the blue flagged boat seemed faster than the other so when the Green Dragon team won their second round on the yellow flagged boat the spectators went crazy.

So the final race was between Green Dragon and Team Horizon. A draw took place as to which team was going to use the blue and yellow flagged boat. Team Horizon draws the blue boat. The crowd hoped the Green Dragon team could pull it the bag again to beat the blue flagged boat. The atmosphere was tight and everyone wished both the teams well as they left the floating island bar to be taken to their awaiting yachts. The Green Dragon team put up a good fight but Team Horizon crossed the finish line first.

The prize giving and party after the Match Racing were great with the winning team winning a waterproof cell phone each from LIME. The evening was full of stories of the racing that had taken place earlier on that day and the crews partied on into the night. Everyone said how much they had enjoyed the racing, including the spectators. A must for next year's South Grenada Regatta.

www.southgrenadaregatta.com



32nd St. Maarten Heineken Regatta Continued

CSA 5 was another back-and-forth affair, which came down to two boats: St. Maarten's own Bobby Velasquez and his Beneteau 45F5, L'Esperance, and Jack Desmond's Swan 48 CR, Affinity.

Today's windy weather, and a fair bit of local knowledge, favored L'Esperance, which wrapped up the division title today with a victory in the deciding race.

Beneteau 45F5, L'Esperance



In CSA 6, Magras Raphael's X-34, Maelia, proved to be a force to be reckoned with, winning two races, on Friday and today. However, Maelia's fate was sealed on Saturday, when she lost a protest and was disqualified, earning maximum points for the day. That left the door open for Ian Hope-Ross's Beneteau First 36.7, Kick 'em Jenny, another St. Maarten boat that shines at the Heineken Regatta. Ross's crew did not win a race, but their solid scores—a third, a second, and today's third—earned them the CSA 6 victory.

In one of the closest battles in this year's event, Matt Brooks' classic beauty, Dorade—which won Race 1, and followed that with a third and today's second—nipped today's race winner, Valerio Bardi's Swan 46 MK2, Milanto, by a single point to win CSA 7 in her St. Maarten Heineken Regatta debut.

Dorade



In Multihull 2, today's winner, Dave Nelson's Catana 471, Pas de Deux, also earned the division's overall title. In the Lottery Class, Maine boatbuilder Leonard Beckwith won Sunday's race aboard yet another classic wood yawl, Saudade. But it was solid scores throughout the event that gave the class title to Jim Brooks aboard the Hunter 44DS, Harmony.

In the Bareboat classes, the winners were Frederick Walters' Team Kincsem (Bareboat 1), Martijn Baartmans' Harten Heer (Bareboat 2), Marieke Poulie's all-women-crew Something Hot (Bareboat 3); Arnie Feyling's Sangria (Bareboat 4); Tim Goebel's and Neil Harvey's Chillin' The Most (Bareboat 5), and Jeoffrey Scheffer's Team Argos (Bareboat 7).

With the 2012 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta in the books, race officer David Campbell-James, in his first year on the race committee, was asked his impressions. "I enjoyed it," he said. "It was seriously fun."

Serious. Fun. Indeed it was.

ANTIGUA VALENTINE'S SAILING FESTIVAL



DIGICEL KIDS CLEAN UP IN JOLLY HARBOUR YACHT CLUB'S VALENTINE'S REGATTA

Eleven boats turned out in perfect conditions for the two day Jolly Harbour Yacht Club Valentine's Regatta held over the weekend of the 11th and 12th of February. There was flat water, a good stiff breeze and six races. Digicel, crewed by the Antigua Yacht Club youth team and National Sailing Academy trainees, set off from Falmouth Harbour early Saturday morning, arriving well in time for the first start at mid-day.

Three different courses had been well chosen so whether the boat was white-sails, a down-wind

spinnaker or asymmetrical spinnaker, at least one of the courses favoured every boat. Some of the racing was very close indeed – therefore the first place finishes were shared in the racing class by all boats. In fact only three boats in the regatta did not gain a first place finish.

Jolly Harbour boat 'Seal' in Cruising Class sailed very well with five straight firsts. Just before the final race the owner, Vince, was handed a beer – resulting in a disastrous last race! 'Elethea' won the Cruiser/Racer class while 'Digicel Challenger' not only won the Racing Class but was the overall winner of the regatta.

Antigua Yacht Club and the National Sailing Academy are very proud of the boys crewing 'Digicel Challenger'.

They were excellent diplomats for the Academy and were proud winners of the Dutch racing clog trophy.



For up-to-the-minute yachting information in Antigua, see ANTIGUA'S YACHTING INSIDER

<http://www.antiguanice.com>

ANTIGUA'S YACHTING INSIDER

ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR YACHTING ENTHUSIASTS

CORRECTION—CLUB NAUTICO DE SAN JUAN INTERNATIONAL REGATTA



The photo in Last Month's CSA Newsletter depicts Mollee Donovan from the British Virgin Islands racing in the Laser 4.7 Class. And not Juan Carlos Perdomo. Sorry for the mix-up!

Entries are looking very good!



39th International Rolex Regatta

23 March—25 March— 59 Entries to date (16th March)



BVI Spring Regatta

26 March—01 April — 83 Entries to date (16th March)

Les Voiles de Saint Barth 2012
2-7 Avril - 2-7 April

Les Voiles de St. Barth

2—7 April — 69 Entries to date (16th March)



Antigua Sailing Week

29 April—4 May 2012.— 97 Entries to date (16th March)

UPCOMING REGATTAS

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| 15—18 Mar | INTERNATIONAL J22 INVITATIONAL REGATTA—Cayman Islands
www.sailing.ky |
| 15—18 Mar | 2012 RACE CAYMAN OPTIMIST OPEN
www.sailing.ky |
| 22—25 Mar | ST. BARTH'S BUCKET
www.bucketregattas.com |
| 23—25 Mar | 39TH INTERNATIONAL ROLEX REGATTA St. Thomas www.rolexcupregatta.com |
| 26 Mar—01 Apr | BVI SAILING FESTIVAL
www.bvispringregatta.org |
| 2—7 April | LES VOILES DE SAINT BARTH
www.lesvoilesdesaintbarth.com |
| 5—8 April | TOUR DE LA MARTINIQUE EN 2 ETAPES
www.clubnautiqueleneptune.com |
| 5—9 April | ROUND GUADELOUPE REGATTA
www.triskellcup.com |
| 6—9 April | BEQUIA HEINEKEN EASTER REGATTA
www.begos.com/easterregatta |
| 19—24 April | ANTIGUA CLASSIC REGATTA
www.antiguaclassics.com |
| 24 April | GUADELOUPE TO ANTIGUA RACE
www.sailingweek.com |
| 28 April | YACHTING WORLD ROUND ANTIGUA RACE
www.sailingweek.com |
| 29 Apr—4 May | ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK www.sailingweek.com |

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