



NEWSLETTER

Thanks to the support of The Maria Holder Memorial Trust, we received, in May, 10 new RS dinghies. The RS QUBAS will replace the Laser Picos purchased new in 2011 (all of which have suffered from environmental stress cracking around the mast base). The RS FEVAS are a 2-handed boat, with spinnaker, and are a pathway to Olympic class boats - 29'ers @ 49'ers. We also have our first RS Venture connect - a dual purpose lifting keelboat that can be adapted for disabled sailing with side by side seating and dual controls.



On June 19th, we held our first Regatta with the new dinghies as part of the 'Queen's Baton Relay' for the Commonwealth Games which will be held in Australia in 2018.

First place in the Feva Class went to the girl's team of Junella King & Alesea Charles of All Saints Secondary School. The Quba Class was won by Mauriceson Valentine of Irene B Williams Secondary School and the Optimist Class by Ozani Lafond of New Bethel Primary School.

THE NATIONAL SAILING ACADEMY
DOCKYARD DRIVE, ENGLISH HARBOUR



Teachers, Friends and Families Welcome.

The Queen's Baton is visiting Antigua on Sunday 18th June enroute to the Commonwealth Games in Australia in 2018.



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In August, we received a further consignment of new boats – 2 of these are Venture Connect boats suitable for our ‘Sailability’ programme for the disabled children and adults of Antigua and were donated by the Peter Harrison Foundation.

The other new sailing dinghies received were acquired thanks to the good offices of the Royal Ocean Racing Club who, in addition to sponsoring a dinghy themselves, also solicited donations on our behalf from various RORC members. Our Thanks go to Andrew McIrvine (RORC Admiral), Michael Boyd (RORC Commodore) and Eddie Warden-Owen (RORC CEO) for their support.

The dinghy donors were: Sir Irvine Laidlaw (Highland Fling); George David (Rambler 88); Hap Fauth (Belle Mente); Dennis O’Brien (Digicel) and Adrian Lee (Lee Overlay). We also received financial contributions from Tony Brookes (Athos) and Gibb Kane (Bounty).

GIRLS SAILING TEAM

One of the goals of ‘World Sailing’ (the governing body for our sport) is to encourage more girls to take up sailing. Their research shows that girls particularly like the teamwork and camaraderie of sailing in two handed boats and so we applied through our National Olympic Committee for funding of two more Fevas to add to our fleet. Our Thanks go to Hon. E.P.Chet Greene, Chairman of the National Olympic Committee and Minister of Sport for his support in regard to this project. Now we have the boats, we will be aiming to increase the number of girls in this programme.



More recently, on Sunday 17th September – notwithstanding the imminent arrival of Hurricane Maria – the Sailing Academy and the Antigua Yacht Club managed to hold the ‘Barts Bash’ Regatta. This Regatta takes place all over the world annually and all proceeds are donated to the Andrew Simpson (aka ‘Bart’) Simpson Foundation. The funds raised this year will be dedicated to helping youth sailing venues who have suffered hurricane damage from Irma, Jose & Maria.

The regatta took place in the morning with a total of 28 boats on the water. In the afternoon, all the sailors assisted with the task of securing boats & buildings ready for the approaching hurricane on Monday.



TRAINING PROGRAMME

Our training yacht, the 28ft Contessa - 'Feanor' - has been undergoing an engine rebuild and, now this is complete, the first trio of students have started learning navigation, passage planning, and life aboard as preparation for their RYA Day Skipper & STCW and other qualifications they will need to eventually gain employment in the yachting industry.



(L to R) Maliek Patterson, Joshua Daniels & Kamar James all attended All Saints Secondary School and started their sailing careers with the Academy in 2014. In 2016 they attained RYA qualifications as Dinghy & Keelboat Instructors and now work at the Sailing Academy. They all have ambitions to join the yachting industry and, in due course, become yacht Captains. Giving these young people the necessary skills and qualifications to obtain employment in the industry is the mission of the Academy.

SWIMMING: Once again, Thanks are due to our volunteer 'Water Confidence' teachers, led by Zoe & Richard, for their very successful programme with the lessons in the "Endless Pool" for those children who cannot start sailing because they cannot swim. We have now graduated several groups and could do much more if we had more volunteers. You do not have to be a swim teacher to help with this programme - we will teach you what you need to know. We ask you to give 2 hours of your time each month. Please contact us if you would be willing to help. It is wonderful to see some of these kids who are initially too frightened to put their heads underwater, several sessions later, jumping off our dock into water 10ft deep.



ANTIGUA SAILING WEEK

Our Cork 1720 raceboat 'Spirit' was skippered by Jules Mitchell. They were in a 'hot' racing class and – in their first international regatta as a team – ended the week with the amazing result of 2nd in Class (by 1 point). Given that the youngest on the team was 16 years, and the average age was 18 years, this was an outstanding result. The other members of the 'Spirit' team were: Louis Bavay, Rocco Falcone, Adrian Burdon, Tyrese Loctar and Vincent Anfi. Our Thanks go to Pete Townshend who sponsored getting the boat into racing trim and to Caribbean Alliance who sponsored a new mainsail.



And, Finally, we are delighted to announce that our students have, after 10 consecutive days of intensive training in September (no stopping for hurricanes!!) all attained their RYA Dinghy Sailing Instructor qualifications. They are: Junella King, Alesea Charles, Xavier Athill (all from All Saints Secondary School); Rasheem Nedd (Jennings Secondary School); Mauriceson Valentine (Irene B Williams Secondary School). Also attending were Rhone Kirby, Sean Ashby and Ryan Tonge who also gained this valuable qualification which is recognised everywhere in the sailing world and is the first step on the ladder of a career in the sailing/yachting world.

Our Thanks to the Mill Reef Fund who sponsored the course and to Tim Cross & Dan Hallam of the RYA who delivered the training.



Elizabeth Jordan.

3rd October 2017.

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