

JOLLY HARBOUR YACHT CLUB NEWSLETTER # 4 OF 2014 19/02/2014

These Newsletters are reaching about 200 persons worldwide who have an interest past or present in the Jolly Harbour Yacht Club and its' ongoing activities. If you know of anyone who might wish to receive them, or if you don't want to receive further newsletters, please contact the Club at jollycommodore@gmail.com .

ExecCom Report. Your Committee has been busy with the Valentine's Regatta, but will meet next week to sketch out ways in which the Club can be taken forward, as well as planning the next Regatta and other events. If you have any suggestions which you feel might benefit the Club and its' Membership please send them to jollycommodore@gmail.com .

Saturday Sailing. **Yess** (The Commodore) showed a commendable turn of speed on Saturday Feb 8th with an ever- improving crew to win the Cruiser division twenty seconds on corrected time ahead of **Ocean Harmony** (John Wills) with **Volare** (Terry Allen) third and **Full Monty** (Grahame Williams) fourth. **Blue Peter** (Tanner Jones) on the Racing course came home well ahead of **Arrabbiata** (Joke), who was having difficulty flying a big reaching sail dead down wind! *Don't forget the Winter Series Race this Sat 22nd, Club Line start, warning signal 2pm.*

Valentine's Regatta

What a Blast! Great sailing weather with gusts up to 30 knots saw 23 boats entered, racing in 3 classes, Racing, Racer/Cruiser, & Cruiser. The usual difficulty in classifying boats of vastly different speeds, sizes, ages (boats not skippers!) and ratings put one or two in what seemed to be anomalous classes, a problem to be addressed in the future, but all enjoyed great sailing in clear flat turquoise water and glorious sunshine.

Visiting yacht 47ft **Scarlet Oyster** (Ross Appleby) a three time winner of the ARC and a favourite for the RORC 600 showed her paces, winning the first six races against J105 **No Face to Face** (Robbie Ferron) and J120 **Sunset Child** (Christian Reynolds). Sadly in the last race she was dismasted (*See Commodore's Contemplations below*)

Racer/Cruiser class had some hot racing between J 30 **Blue Peter** (Tanner Jones) and ex USA Coastguard Yawl **Frolic** (Hans Lammers), **Blue Peter** squeezing home in the series by the narrowest of margins. **Chardonnay** (Franklin Braithwaite) was third. Elethea (Rick Gormley) retired with a broken boom.

Swedish Yachts 42 **Ocean Harmony** (John Wills) dominated the much smaller yachts in the rest of the Cruiser division, being beaten only in the lighter air sixth race by **Spring Tide, Cydia & Yesss**, and in the last race, by **Yess** (Commodore). **Cydia** (Colin Jones) was second overall, **Spring Tide** (who had to accept and count a DSQ for a contested OCS in the last race which she should have won) was third.

Full Regatta results are on the website www.JHYCantigua.com– Valentines Regatta Results.

Prizes were graciously awarded at a lively post race party at The West Point Bar (which generously awarded a prize for Best Yacht in Regatta, which went to **Scarlet Oyster**) by **Elizabeth Jordan**, past Commodore of the AYC and President of the Antigua National Sailing Academy. *See also Commodore's Contemplations below.*

A couple of attempts to innovate “fun races” on the Friday of the Regatta, while Registration took place (managed from **9am to 7.30 pm (!)** by Club Secretary **Barbara Thomson** & a team of lady helpers) met with mixed success. The “**Find the Marks**” race saw half a dozen visiting yachts sailing a Saturday Sailing type course to discover the new marks laid in Five Island Bay by the Club. Unsurprisingly, **Scarlet Oyster** won the Rum! In the controversial and poorly attended “**Show the Flag**” time trial race, **Arrabbiata** (Joke ...) won Rum, and the beflagged **Yesss** (Commodore) flying (in addition to an incomprehensible signal) the battle flag of the Imperial Poota Yacht Club and an enormous Union Flag received consolation when her novice lady helm **Celia Lazenbury** was awarded the Best Lady Helm prize!

The Prizegiving was greatly enhanced by a slideshow of wonderful professional photographs by **Jody Sallons-Day**, she has the images for sale, proceeds to the Antigua National Sailing Academy, please contact her on jody@hawkswoodwi.com , tel 01-268-764 8145, more info on www.leadingimages.org

A special thanks must go to our Club Rating Secretary **Susan Wills**, who despite being a crew member on Ocean Harmony, spent most of the time below with a computer working out the results for each race!

Thanks also to those who provided canapés on Friday, **Akropolis Greek Restaurant, Crows Nest, Al Portos**, and **Rear Commodore Grahame Williams** (he didn't actually make them himself!).

Prizes in addition to the trophies provided by the Club were generously given by **Budget Marine, Melinis Restaurant, Akropolis Greek Restaurant, Il Giardino's at the Golf Club, Epicurean, Townhouse Megastore, Hermitage Bay Resort, Angie's Sushi Bar** at AYC, **Sea Hawk Paints** (Tee Shirts), **Outdoor World** (Bags etc), and free berthing for competitors by **Jolly Harbour Marina**.

Social. A Car Rally / Treasure Hunt (to make a change!) is planned for **Sunday afternoon 2nd March**. Briefing at West Point Bar 2pm. Start from the road under the Marina Office around 2.30, finish around 4.30. All welcome (**JHHA members too!**) entry EC\$ 20 per participant, proceeds to the National Sailing Academy. See the Antigua you didn't know existed! More later, watch this space!

Barbuda Pursuit Race / overnight stay. Sat 15/Sun 16 March See the attached expression of interest form from the organizer Rick Gormley (Elethea). Contact riktheskip@hotmail.com for more info.

Commodores Contemplations. Although she did not need to race in the final race, having won her class already, **Scarlet Oyster** sportingly took part, only for disaster to strike in the form of a failed masthead fitting which saw her mast come down when flying a huge masthead spinnaker in a 30 knot gust. Her carbon spinnaker pole broke, sweeping crew member Sarah overboard. Skipper Ross Appleby dived overboard to the rescue, fortunately this happened within sight of several yachts who stood by while they and the rig were secured; the Club safety boat was also on hand to provide a tow if necessary.

While no one would wish such an accident to happen to anyone, one can only be glad it occurred in daylight with assistance at hand. If the same fitting had failed in the tough “600” during the night with a steep-to island close under the lee, the result might have been very different.

Finally, and sorry to end on a sour note, but I and most others were disgusted by the unsportsmanlike booing at the prizegiving of a competitor who won by skill and persistence. Let's have no more of it!

Fair winds!

Budgie Burge, Commodore, JHYC