

JOLLY HARBOUR YACHT CLUB _AGM Report Jan 11th 2010

Saturday Sailing and Regattas 2009.

Saturday Sailing

JHYC revitalised Keel Boat sailing on June 6th 2009 with the introduction of the JHYC Saturday Sailing Series.

Scheduled over a year with 4 Series of 12 races, most Saturdays gather a fleet of up to 16 boats leaving the Start Line in Jolly Harbour at around 2 p.m. You have to see it with your own eyes to appreciate just how far the Club has come in the promotion of Keel Boat sailing.

To date, the pinnacle of our success came just last Saturday when we were delighted to welcome Jamie Dobbs on “Lost Horizon” who joined our Racer Fleet for the first time. Jamie’s participation along with Bernie Wong, Tanner Jones, Geoffrey Pidduck, Tony Sayer, Tommy Paterson, Colin Jones, Iain Mellows and Rick Gormley, some of our most successful sailors, must indicate that JHYC has “arrived” on the scene when it comes to regular competitive sailing in the Caribbean.

We have also succeeded in encouraging many “Cruisers” to get involved, despite the spectre of the words “Yacht Racing”, and it is noticeable just how far some of these sailors have come in terms of Performance Sailing over the past 30 weeks. Boats like “Sequel” and “Miramar”, both “tail end Charlies” a while ago, are now fiercely battling against each other every week, and sailing their boats far better than they were when they were just “Cruisers”. The concept of Saturday Sailing was to engender fun primarily, and improved performance secondarily. There is no doubt the concept is working!

All the information on the Saturday Sailing Series’ is on our website and you are encouraged to check it out and join in. Well done to all who have organised and participated in this event, particularly our ever enthusiastic time keeper, Lynda Stacey Lowe, who has overcome her initial trepidation and now “Rules the Clock” with an iron hand and a confident voice!

Regattas

During the year, your Club has yet again hosted the Budget Marine Valentine’s Regatta and the JHR Caribbean Annual Regatta with even more success than we have had in previous years. This years JHR Caribbean event brought a record number of 21 entries resulting in a fantastic weekend of sailing! It is believed this is due, in some small way, to the increased popularity of Saturday Sailing, but the efforts of

Tanner Jones in promoting the JHR Caribbean, and raising the standard, must not be overlooked. Our thanks to him for a job well done!

We look forward to even more competitors in 2010 but if we are to continue our upward trend we do need more people to help with Regatta organisation. Hosting these events is a huge job for our Club with our limited resources and we need more volunteers to take the load off the rest of us and help promote and organise. The 2010 Budget Marine Valentines is just a month away and there is still much to be done if we are to be sure of another successful edition. The more people that get involved the less effort is required from each individual. Please step up to the plate and do your bit for the Club.

Finally, we cannot forget the generosity of The Foredeck Bar, Sugar Ridge, and Sign Pro for their contributions to Saturday Sailing and Budget Marine and JHR Caribbean Real Estate for their support of our Club Regattas. They are not alone as we have had many kind contributions from a host of prize donors this year and we thank them all and look forward to their continued support of JHYC throughout the coming year.

THANK YOU!