



ST. LUCIA YACHT CLUB

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Newsletter, August 2007

Dear Members,

Last month I started the Newsletter by saying that a lot had been happening at the Club. Well, this month it is the reverse with many people being away on holiday and no events taking place. The kids sailing program is suspended for the summer holidays but we do have a great story about one of our junior sailors who took part in the ISAF Volvo Youth World Championship 2007, in Canada.

However, first I have some sad news. All resident members I am sure are already aware but overseas members perhaps not; that one of the Club's longest standing members, Lester Rapier, passed away in July. Lester was a well-known character on the local sailing scene who participated with some success in numerous local and regional regattas over the years, in his yacht Regis. He won the St. Lucia Round the Island Race on at least two occasions. In addition to his sailing skills he was also a qualified pilot. He will be missed at the Club and we extend our condolences to his family.

In July I mentioned that we had been working on keeping our website up to date suggesting that those of you who had not visited the site for a while, might like to do so. I hope you did and liked what you saw – any comments or suggestions welcome to secretary@stluciayachtclub.com I am now pleased to be able to tell you that we have activated the Picture Gallery section of the site. It has links to three albums containing over 200 photographs covering the Kids Fun Regatta, Olympic Day Run and the 2007 Subaru St. Lucia Squash Open. Take a look at them at www.stluciayachtclub.com It is our intention to create a new album for each future event and add it to the Gallery. Danielle took the photographs and compiled the albums so thanks to her and of course to our webmaster Chris Gardiner for getting it all on the site itself. Thanks also to Lily Bergasse and Cheryl Renwick for supplying articles on the kids sailing and squash.

ISAF Volvo Youth World Championship 2007. One of our junior sailors, Luis Meixner, has recently returned to St. Lucia after taking part in these championships in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. The event caters for only one sailor per class, per nation. It is sailed in the 29'er (a skiff like 2 man boat) boys and girls, Hobbie 16, the RSX (surfboard) boys and girls, Laser Standard for boys, and Laser Radial for girls.

With 50 nations listed it was truly a world championship. St. Lucia was one of only a few countries taking part for the first time and consequently got very extensive press coverage in the sailing news well ahead of the Championship and all through it. SLYC was mentioned in numerous international email and press releases.

For Luis it was a huge challenge not least because these Youth World Championships are sailed in the Laser Standard that has the largest rig (normally sailed by adults only) which he had only recently started to sail having used the smaller Laser Radial during the last 2 years. Also, at the age of 15 Luis was pretty much the youngest competitor in the Laser boys' field.

After a few promising results during the first races he finished 34th of 38 ranked competitors. The Laser boys sailed 10 races with 2 discards.

In the end St. Lucia was placed before Paraguay, Uruguay, BVI and Guatemala with Bermuda and USVI ahead by just 2 and 24 points out of 235.

The event was well observed by all international sailing bodies to find the best of the best for future sailing events. For the beginners it was a great learning experience, especially since the U.K. national and ex Olympic coach, Jim Saltonstall took personal care of them with special weather briefings before the races and video debriefs afterwards.

We hope Luis will pass on some of his experience to the kids he is taking care of as junior instructor during the upcoming sailing season here in St. Lucia. He is most grateful and thankful to the ISAF and SLOC for their sponsorships and to the Club for assistance with transport costs. Well-done Luis.

Squash. As I write this our Squash Co-ordinator Cheryl Renwick, and two other St. Lucians, Charlie Sonson and Alana Simmons are away in Jamaica taking part in the Caribbean Squash Championships. Good luck to them and more news in next months Newsletter after they have returned.

Optimist purchase. In the past couple of Newsletters I have been keeping you updated regarding the purchase of some newer Optimists in order to upgrade our fleet for the kids sailing program. Finally I am pleased to be able to inform you that the deal has been concluded and that all that remains is for the boats to be collected from St. Vincent.

Email addresses. If you are one of the few who still receive this Newsletter by snail mail or by hand from the Club but now have an email address, please let me have it. It will save me time and the Club money so will be much appreciated.

Rule of the Month. Know your flags. Rule 30.3. Black flag Rule.
If a black flag has been displayed, No part of a boats hull, crew or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing, even if the race is restarted, resailed or rescheduled, but not if it is postponed or abandoned before the starting signal. If a general recall is signaled or the race abandoned after the

starting signal, the Race Committee shall display her sail number before the next warning signal for that race, and if the race is restarted or resailed SHE shall NOT!

Well, that's it for this month. Take care and avoid the storms if you can.

Peter M Gibbs.
Secretary.