



ST. LUCIA YACHT CLUB

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Newsletter 8th June 2007

Dear Members,

A warm greeting to you all. As Lindsay informed you in the May Newsletter, following her return to the UK I was given the task of Secretary and as such am now responsible for the monthly Newsletters. Therefore should you have any comments, ideas or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact me at secretary@stluciayachtclub.com

Sailing news. During May the Club hosted the inaugural BMW J24 Invitational Championship, sponsored by Ultimate Automobiles. It was a splendid event with representatives from Trinidad, Martinique, Barbados, and Dominica as well as St. Lucia taking part. Mike Green of Cats Inc. was kind enough to donate the use of an Endless Summer catamaran that anchored in the bay and served as a base for the teams to facilitate crew changes and get refreshments etc.

Towards the end of the first day after some close races, the teams were split into Gold and Silver Fleets, the winner and second place of each of the groups going into Gold and the remainder into Silver.

On the Sunday both groups were fiercely contested. The Gold group was eventually won by the St. Lucian junior team skippered by 18 year old Fredric Sweeney, with second place going to our Sailing Captain, Nick Forsberg. Third and fourth places being taken by teams from Martinique and Trinidad respectively.

The Silver contest ended with the two leading teams tied, one skippered by our Commodore, Charles Devaux and the other by our Club member Jerry Bethell who stepped in to skipper the Dominican crew after their skipper had to withdraw due to health problems. The rules state that in the event of a tie the winner of the last race becomes the overall winner. This gave Charles first place and Jerry second. Third was the team from Barbados.

A barbeque and prize giving was held at the Club after the racing when prizes were presented by Mrs. Nanette Reyes of Ultimate Automobiles. Bottles of Champaign were also presented to the sailors courtesy of Bryden & Partners.

Special thanks must go to Ultimate Automobiles without whose sponsorship the event would not have been possible. The excellent news is that they are keen to stay with the event and have undertaken to continue their sponsorship for at least three more years during which it is hoped to promote the Championship to ever-greater levels.

For a more detailed report please see the feature on the home page of our website www.stluciayachtclub.com

Kids sailing program. This continues to do well with the average number of students hovering around 30. The Club is determined to continue to grow the program and to this end measures have already been taken to increase and update our fleet of Optimists with a number of newer boats. The purchase of these boats is close to completion and more news will be included in the next Newsletter when the deal will hopefully have been completed.

Our two top junior sailors, Luis Meixner and Fredric Sweeney are busy preparing for their events in Canada and the USA, with extra coaching from the Club coach.

Kindly note that the kids end of term celebrations will take place at the Club on **Saturday 7th July 2007**. It will be an all day event with a regatta, BBQ, and prize giving etc.

Squash. (Provided by our Squash Coordinator, Cheryl Renwick).

The St Lucia Squash Association recently hosted the annual OECS Individual and Team Squash Championships at the St Lucia Yacht Club and if you missed out on seeing some fantastic squash you must try and attend some of the games at the end of June when the Association hosts its annual Open tournament.

From May 24th to 25th top OECS individuals from BVI, Dominica, St Vincent and host St Lucia competed in the Individuals division of the OECS Squash Tournament to get their current rankings in the different categories. At the end of the two days St Lucian's Charlie Sonson and Alana Simmons captured the two prestigious positions of top male and female in the OECS both defeating their Vincentian opponents in the finals. There was an initial draw of 16 in the mens division and David Piper also playing for St Lucia created an upset in his first match defeating a Dominican who had been seeded higher than him. David ended with a ranking of # 7 in the OECS. 19 year old Dominique Rivers also played in the mens division and placed third in the men's consolation draw. The other two St Lucian men who played in the individuals were Chris Gardinier and Randolph Khan. In the Ladies division Cheryl Renwick placed 4th in the ladies Vet division and 6th in the Ladies draw while Paula Calderon placed 3rd in the ladies 50+ draw.

The following two days May 26th and 27th were devoted to the team division of the tournament and at the end St Vincent came in first, St Lucia second, BVI third and Dominica fourth. The teams were made up of a men's team of four plus a reserve – Charlie Sonson, Jason Noon, Oliver Gobat, David Piper and

Dominique Rivers. The ladies team consisted of Alana Simmons, Lindy Alexander and junior player Megan Piper while the vets team was Cheryl Renwick, Paula Calderon, Valence Andrew and Clive Beaubrun. The vets team also required an over 60 male which we were not able to field putting us at a disadvantage from the start. In the individual team divisions St Lucia's men's team actually tied with St Vincent for matches but St Vincent edged us out of first place as they had won 3 games more than St Lucia. The St Lucian ladies team lost to St Vincent by one point and the St Lucian vets team placed 3rd.

The Squash Association has gone straight into planning its annual open and this year they have been able to entice a title sponsor. The 2007 Subaru St Lucia Squash Open takes place at the Yacht club from June 25th to 30th and will host top regional and international squash players. Play will begin daily between 5.00 pm and 6.00 pm and Yacht Club members are invited to come down and view some of the games.

Social event. Make a note in your diaries that there will be a party with DJ at the Club on **Saturday 23rd June**. More details from Duncan at the Club.

Subscription renewal. As you are probably aware subscription renewal time is nearly upon us. The good news is that if you pay before the end of June you are entitled to a 10 percent discount, yes 10 percent, so dust off your chequebooks.

Bargain of the month. Here is your chance to secure a BMW J24 Invitational Championship tee shirt and cap for the modest sum of EC 25.00 for the pair (not each). Once the stock is gone it is gone, so please contact the Bosun or Danielle either direct or through the secretary at secretary@stluciayachtclub.com without delay to secure your purchase. Alternatively ask at the Club when you next call in.

The Royal Canadian Yacht Club, Toronto has kindly offered reciprocal arrangements to SLYC members for the 2007 season. They have a number of facilities available. Full details of these and their Reciprocal Policy for Visiting Yachts is held by the Secretary, so please contact me should you wish to take advantage of the arrangement.

Rule of the Month. From next months Newsletter onwards we will be quoting a Rule of the Month and as a precursor to this why not test your knowledge by doing a few quiz's at <http://www.ukhalsey.com/RulesQuiz/index.asp>

Well that is about it for this month.

Safe and happy sailing to everyone.

Peter M. Gibbs
Secretary.