



ST. LUCIA YACHT CLUB,
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NEWS LETTER
1st MARCH 2007

Dear Members,

Plenty of activity, past and future, to report this month.

SAILING:

The J'24 winter racing series continues. Results can be found on our website "www.stluciayachtclub.com". The Sailing Captain was particularly heartened to see all our J's out on the water last Sunday.

Plans for an international J'24 Regatta to take place here during May are progressing apace. Our Commodore tells me that the other Islands he has contacted are very interested and enthusiastic about this event. Further details of this will follow in future newsletters.

KIDS' SAILING:

The Regular Programme is going very well and the International School programme has expanded and is now on two afternoons a week instead of just one. We have Ben Todd, a RYA qualified dinghy instructor, as our head coach and he, helped by two assistant coaches, is doing a sterling job.

Eight of our kids (Optimist and Laser sailors) went in for the Schoelcher Regatta in Martinique, which took place from 16th to 21st February. Frederic Sweeney came 8th in his class and Luis Meixner 9th. All our kids finished all their races which was a tremendous achievement in itself as, in some cases, this was their first large Regatta (about 120 sailors took part) and the Club is proud of them.

The Kids' Programme plans to have representatives at the Antigua Laser Open Regatta, which takes place on 10th/11th March, and at the BVI Spring Regatta which is at the end of March/beginning of April.

Luis Meixner and Frederic Sweeney are now on the Olympic Watch list. Well done those two and their coaches.

Frederic, Luis and Raina Bergasse were in Martinique when the sportsmen and women of the year awards were presented and so the Club presented them to those three after the Independence Day Race Prize Giving.

Frederic won male sailor of the year, Luis junior male sailor of the year and Raina junior female sailor of the year.

INDEPENDENCE DAY FUN YACHT RACE:

Under the leadership of our Bosun, Ted Bull, a small team of organisers managed to put this race together, albeit on rather a last minute basis. Despite this it was a great success. Eight yachts entered the race from Rodney Bay to Anse Cochon and back. The Race was won by local boat "Whitea", owned and skippered by club member Volkmar Petzold. Well done to him and his crew. A fuller account of this event, together with full results are posted on our website under the heading "Feature".

Support from local companies who donated prizes: Cable & Wireless, Peter & Co. St. Lucia Distillers, Renwick & Company Ltd., St. Lucian Wave Riders, Solar Tours and Travel and Spinnakers Restaurant was just great and the Club is very grateful to them.

All participants said they had a good time and the visiting boats who took part were very enthusiastic and promised to bring some of their fellow visiting boats into next year's race. The Club is determined that this will be an annual event – every 22nd February.

Disappointingly few Club members turned up at Prize Giving to show support but our thanks to those that did.

Also many many thanks to Keats Compton of Marine Industries Association St. Lucia who arranged the trophy, obtained sponsorship and presented the main prizes. He was a great help and support throughout.

SOCIAL EVENT:

On Saturday 24th March there will be a "beach fete" on the beach outside the Club. This is the day of the England/Canada cricket match. Duncan, our manager, tells me that this will be a special event with four live bands, drinks, specials etc. The event starts at 10.30pm. Let's hope you can all be there!

That's all for now. Keep safe and well until the next time.

Lindsay Harrison
Secretary.