



ST. LUCIA YACHT CLUB

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NEWS LETTER 11th JULY 2007

Dear Members,

Since our last Newsletter of 8th June, there has been quite a lot happening at the Club. First we had the 2007 Subaru St. Lucia Squash Open, then the Olympic Run in which there was a good turnout from the Club, and finally the kid's end of season Fun Regatta and Barbecue.

We have been putting some effort into trying to keep our website www.stluciyachtclub.com up to date and so any of you who have not visited the site lately might find it interesting to do so. You will see an article and photographs of the kid's end of season regatta and barbecue on the home page and in the Squash Club section articles and pictures of the 2007 Subaru St. Lucia Squash Open. In the J24 Results & News section there are full results of the J24 Winter Series as well as an article and photographs of the BMW Invitational, held in May. In the News section you will find this Newsletter along with some archived versions from previous months. We are also working on activating the Picture Gallery with photographs of recent events. I hope this will be completed before the August Newsletter.

Kids/Junior end of season Fun Regatta & Barbeque. The season concluded on Saturday 7 July with what really was a fun packed day. Of course there was the sailing, in testing conditions, but also a number of other activities to keep all 25 of our young sailors busy for the whole day. These included tug-of-war, dinghy paddling without oars, an obstacle course created by our coach, Ben Todd, involving swimming, sail rigging, and tire rolling amongst others.

After all the activity there was a much-welcomed barbeque with delicious sausages donated by Franck Chevrier, before a slide show and award presentation upstairs in the Club.

There where two trophies being contested, the Chris Renwick Laser Championship Trophy and the Home Services Optimist Championship Trophy, both being presented for the first time and were awarded based on results from the Spring Series.

The Laser winner was Dominic Lovell, with Luis Meixner second and Fredrick Sweeney third, while Raina Bergasse took the Optimist trophy, with second place going to Stephanie Lovell and Marcus Sweeney third.

There were also Special Achievement Awards and Merit Certificates presented to a number of other participants. Well done to them all.

All in all it was an excellent day to conclude an excellent Season for our junior sailors. A full report with photographs and a list of all those presented with awards can be found on the home page of our website www.stluciayachtclub.com

Kids/Junior sailing programme - other news. Firstly, congratulations to Fredric Sweeney who has returned after taking part in the North American Championships in Boston, USA. He was an excellent representative of our Club and sailed well, finishing 14th out of a field of 58 in the silver fleet radial class and taking a first place in one of his 10 races.

Our best wishes are now with Luis Meixner who left this week for Kingston, Ontario, Canada, to take part in the ISAF Volvo Youth World Championships.

It is indeed a tremendous tribute to our dedicated organizers, volunteers and instructors that from our small Club on the small island of St. Lucia, we have two junior sailors of this standing.

Following the Fun Day Regatta we bade farewell to our coach, Ben Todd who has done much for our junior sailors in the past few months. We wish him well in his future ventures and hope to see him again one day. As a result we are now looking for new coach/s for next season starting in October.

Last month I mentioned the intended purchase of some newer Optimists for our fleet in order to enhance our training capabilities. I am pleased to be able to tell you that everything has now been agreed with the seller and within days we expect the whole thing to be completed. The sale of 6 of our older boats is also well advanced and that too should be completed very soon.

The 2007 Subaru St. Lucia Squash Open. The St. Lucia Open is in its fourteenth year and this year with a title sponsor, Subaru, distributed in St. Lucia by Prestige Auto Imports. Prior to the tournament, on Wednesday 20th June a sponsors evening was held in the Club which the Hon Mr. Leonard Montoute, Minister of Sports attended and addressed the gathering. He pledged his and his Ministry's support to assist the Squash Association develop the sport islandwide in the coming months.

The tournament itself commenced on the 25th June and culminated with exciting finals on Saturday 30th June, followed by a prize giving ceremony at the Club in the evening. The ladies division final involved the no. 1 seed Carrie Hastings from the UK

and defending champion Karen Meakins from Barbados, with Karen finally taking the title.

The men's final was between the Jamaican no. 3 seed, Steve Smith and unseeded Josh Pinard of Trinidad who put up an excellent performance to take the trophy.

A big thank you to all the sponsors, particularly Subaru, Prestige Auto Imports. For more details, full results and a list of all the sponsors please visit our website www.stluciyachtclub.com where there are two articles and some photographs in the Squash Club section of the site.

Olympic Day Run. For the past 20 years, in June, the National Olympic Committees around the world have held this event marking the beginning of the modern day Olympics, when in June 1894 Baron Pierre de Coubertin began the task of reviving the Olympic Games. This resulted in the first modern day Games held in Athens in 1896. The purpose of the Day Run is to heighten awareness of the Olympic movement and to get as many people as possible, of all ages, to participate and so it can be walked as well as run. The Olympic Committee of St. Lucia provides valuable support to the Club's junior sailors and so we wanted to field as many participants as possible. This we managed to achieve with a turnout of some 30 members including many of the kids from our sailing programme. The course took us from the Vigie playing field, around the airport runway to St. Mary's College, Vigie and back. The first SLYC member home was Gerard Bergasse with a time of 36 minutes, so congratulations to him and well done to everyone who took part.

Membership renewal. Thank you to all of you who took advantage of the prompt payment discount and renewed during June. For those who have a little more trouble locating their cheque books it has been decided to extend the 10 percent discount to include payments received by the end of July, so don't delay!

Rule of the Month. The international rules for sailing # 11 says: 'ON THE SAME TACK OVERLAPPED.' When boats are on the same tack and overlapped, a Windward boat shall keep clear of a Leeward boat,

I think that about covers it for this month. More news in August.

Safe and happy sailing to you all.

Peter M Gibbs
Secretary.