



ST. LUCIA YACHT CLUB

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Newsletter, September 2007

Dear Members,

Once again it is time for another Newsletter although with no events having taken place during the period since the last one, it will be brief.

Firstly, it is with deep sorrow that the Club recognizes the passing of our Honorary Commodore, Sir John G.M. Compton. A copy of the condolence card printed and sent by the Club can be seen on the Club notice board.

We have of course had the unpleasant experience of hurricane Dean that as all resident members will be aware, caused some damage to the Club. For those overseas members, or those who have not visited the Club for sometime, there is a short article on the home page of the website, www.stluciayachtclub.com with links to a photograph album showing some of the damage and of the clean up. Thanks must go to our Bosun, for promptly organizing a team consisting of a few volunteers, a JCB and some paid workers to facilitate the clean up.

Sailing. With no events taking place I'm afraid there is nothing significant to tell you this time. Two of the J24's are out of the water with the Club's boat Grayling due to join them very shortly, in preparation for the upcoming winter series. Hopefully I will be in a position to give more details of that in the next letter. Our Sailing Captain tells me that we might have another J24 in St. Lucia by the end of the year, which will be very welcome news if indeed it happens.

Kids/Junior sailing program. As I mentioned last month the program is due to recommence in October. We are in the final stages of recruiting two new instructors to run the program and so hope to have them here to get things started on time. Fortunately, while the boat storage sheds had 18 inches or so of water in them together with considerable quantities of sand during the hurricane, there was no damage to the boats themselves or the equipment.

AGM. This will take place in October. I hope to get the Notice and Agenda out to you by the end of the week.

We continue to try to keep our website www.stluciayachtclub.com updated. As well as the article and photographs of hurricane Dean, mentioned above, the Merchandise section is once again activated. Here you will find Club Burgees

and Polo Shirts for sale so take a look and treat yourself ready for the new season! Our Club Manager ordered new stock back in August for September delivery, so supply should not be a problem. Caps too were included with this order so will be available and shown on the site as soon as they arrive.

The Membership section has also been revamped and a new Membership Application form is available in either PDF or Word format, so why not print off a few copies and recruit your friends to our Club.

Earlier in the month we experienced some problems with the email address secretary@stluciyachtclub.com It is possible therefore that if you tried to contact us using this address during that period, your email might have been returned undeliverable. My apologies for this but happily the problem has now been rectified and it is working as normal.

Rule of the Month. A Reminder of the BASIC PRINCIPLES. SPORTSMANSHIP and the RULES. Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of Rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a RULE they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to Retire.

RULE # 18. Rounding and Passing Marks.

In rule 18, "room" is room for an inside boat to pass between an outside boat and a mark or obstruction, including to tack or gybe when either is a normal part of the manoeuvre.

18.1 When this rule applies:

Rule 18 applies when boats are about to round or pass a mark they are required to leave on the same side, or an obstruction on the same side, until they have passed it. However, it does not apply

- (a) at a starting mark surrounded by navigatable water or at its anchor line from the time the boats are approaching them to START until they have passed them,
- (b) while the boats are on opposite tacks, either on a beat to windward or when the proper course for one of them, but not BOTH, to round or pass the mark or obstruction is to tack.

That is all I have for you this time except to say that I hope to see you at the AGM. Until then keep safe and enjoy your sailing.

Peter M. Gibbs,
Secretary.