



JOLLY HARBOUR YACHT CLUB

ANTIGUA, WEST INDIES

Another glorious weekend!
From the Director of Youth Sailing – Pippa



With the breeze from the north east blowing around 10 to 15 knots and glorious Antiguan sunshine, Jolly Harbour Yacht Club hosted another fun filled Sunday at their 'Beach Club' on North Beach. Lasers, toppers, Sport 16's, Hobies... just some of the craft ready and waiting for the racing elite of Antigua... well, a group of chums who enjoy fun racing, BBQs on the beach and a cold beer or three.



The Club is delighted to have Instructor Tony – the Club's qualified Sailing Instructor who is brilliant with the kids and equally brilliant with the novice adults. Several adults have already signed up for lessons with Tony throughout the summer. Book your place.



The weekend starts with kids training on a Saturday morning. With full life jackets and big smiles, the kids enjoy the fun of just being on the water and learning in such idyllic sailing conditions. Sunday saw some of our students learn capsizing drill...



A lesson our adult racers must have been watching closely as most found themselves cooling off in the warm water during some of the Sunday laser races. This is how it should be done...



Sunday afternoon attracts racers from all over the island. Some local, some not, and some arrive in their home made dinghies, and some on two wheels... clutching beer and sausages it's a perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon.



It's not all laid back, limin' and chillin'. For the racing elite, the Skipper's Briefing takes place before each race; courses are set and starting sequences finalised. With such precision planning and elite racers, what could go wrong?!



Some Skippers even take local race winners to one side to pick their brains about race strategy, wind bends and tactics... we're not convinced Iain gave anything away – well, why would you? We hope Iain is keeping his powder dry for next Sunday.



The excitement builds as the crowd takes their places for this spectacle. Standing room only; or bring your own deck chair. Fat Boy Nick and Jeff were obviously hydrating before the 40 minute race in the 80 degree sunshine.



As at all world-class sporting events, there's always the opportunity to dress up and promenade on the beach. No cameras, please.



Brian, as Chief Starter, offered encouragement from the shore and begins the starting sequence, complete with horn. A calming cigarette was had to settle race starting nerves...



Well, it doesn't get much more perfect, does it? All calm on the starting front....



Chris Chitty looks the part... perhaps a distant relative to Ben Ainslie?



Or maybe not!



Some close racing followed....



Not all as fast as one might hope... and Skinny Nick wishes he had some of Fat Boy Nick's bulk to get that laser upright...



Despite Fat Boy Nick's huge bulk, he showed the others a clean pair of keels as he headed off into the distance to the next mark. Sailing a 50' Beneteau most days is certainly paying off with that technique...



Sadly, his success was hampered when he lassoed the mark, capsized dramatically and decided to cool off with a dip in the warm ocean before attempting to untie his mainsheet from the mark...



Always an opportunity for Instructor Tony to say to his students “*this is how **NOT** to do it*”... Fat Boy Nick uses his upper body strength built up over 15 years of lifting pints of ale, to get back in the race...



Back on the course, Jeff of SIESTA tries the ‘flappy sail and sitting to windward’ technique and realizes quite quickly that this is not fast. Note to self: must listen to what Iain tells me in future during private tuition moments under the palm tree.



Back on the shore, inspired by what is going on at the race course; Timekeeper Lynda decides to begin her sailing career with Jeff (you remember, he of the flappy sail technique). She looks a little dubious... well, who wouldn't.



It's all too much, a dip in the ocean is just what Timekeeper Lynda needs. The end to a perfect day.



*Just another glorious weekend at
Jolly Harbour Yacht Club!*

See you next time!

Pippa, Tony and the JHYC team

