



RJYC NEWS

Royal Jamaica Yacht Club Newsletter

June/July 2003

The Commodore's Letter by David Moss

"Perplexed sadness"

was the common emotion we felt following Edward Johnson's death. Edward was a young man, just 29 and those of us who knew him saw a quiet but helpful and willing person. I wish Peace for his sprit and solace and spiritual comfort for his family.

The Club has been without accountant and

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CLUB News

Rest in Peace Ed



Only our absentee (overseas) members will be unaware of the passing of our young (29 year old) Secretary Manager

Edward Alexander

Johnson on May 13, 2003.

Our deepest sympathy to his family and friends.

We share their feeling of loss and hurt.

Editors L & H Stewart

Sincere thanks are due to Cathy Thwaites who stepped in to assist in the internal audit and investigation of suspected fraud by a (former) clerical staff member. So far it appears to involve cash sales diversion and no false billing to members accounts have come to light. Investigations continue.

Cathy also filled the breach as Acting Manager. The Management

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REGATTA 2003 is upon us!

August Independence Regatta kicks off with Pigeon Island Race on Sunday, July 27 and continues Friday August 1 through Sunday August 3. Our activities have been scheduled to fit in with THE HARBOURFEST Events planned for Saturday August 2nd - something both

Power and Sail can take part in - A SAIL PAST followed by live demonstration by the JDF Air Wing and Coast Guard, also start of the RJYC's 4th Harbour Race (near Victoria Pier).

The Governor General's Inspection of the Fleet at the *cont'd on pg 4*

Social News

PIRATES & WENCHES

July 20!

Intriguing!
A fun event - sponsored by Real Rock, who will give six major prizes (for best fancy dress etc) as well as free sampling, special offers, decorations, T shirts, and pool furniture!

Hope and I regret we will miss it as we return from the UK on the 21st!

DON'T YOU MISS IT!

Support the serious efforts being made to get the social side of our Club moving!



Sailing News -

Sailors All at Sea!

The Easter Cruise to Cuba was generally enjoyed though Miguel DeLeon reports an incident that put one of his crew into the casualty department for stitches after a robbery late at night. All ended well but take note that the Health Service are NOT free for visitors and the bill rendered is payable only in cash!

Tom & Rowena Connor's Stephanie J sailed in company with Dr Feelgood and Jim Wilson's Little Breeze as far as Cienfuegos. From here Jim soloed it and last heard had reached Fort Lauderdale via Key West in good form.

Ann Wilson reports that Richard Neish was on board a yacht crossing the Irish Sea. They encountered heavy weather at night and the helmsman, not hooked on, went overboard. Sadly, though they got him to the stern, they could not get him aboard and he was lost. Sad news and we extend

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ROAL MITCHELL

We record with regret the passing of Roal Mitchell on March 14th, after a day spent fishing!

Roal really enjoyed his boating and the Club. We will miss his cheerful smile and friendly wave as he blew by us! To his family we express our sympathy, belated but no less sincere for that.

MOTOR YACHT TRAINING!

Vice Commodore Alastair Stewart has invited expressions of interest in boat handling courses covering subjects that members have an interest in.

FEEDBACK NEEDED!

CLUB News contd.

Committee know the wonderful job she did and the debt of gratitude we all owe her. Thanks Cathy.

Pat Yap Chung has joined the Club and takes up the duties of Secretary Manager as of June 1st. Pat is a capable person and with your help and support will work hard to move our Club forward.

Talking of moving forward the office is doing just that. The "shop" will house the Manager and the Committee Room the clerical staff. The Committee will move to a reconfigured office area. The objective is to greatly improve the oversight of the Marina and Club house and get the Office and members into closer contact! Hey you can't make an omelette without breaking eggs so we just have to change to improve!

*** BOAT INSURANCE ***

Members are reminded to send in particulars of your boat insurance! Failure to do so may result in the loss of your berth!

**PLEASE NOTE -
The Club House is
OUT OF BOUNDS
for people in
wet swim suits!**

sympathy and take note that as Capt. Worton would say "There but for the grace of God go I". We have all done it and we need to remember how hard it can be to do what seems a simple task after a ducking, especially in cold water and how heavy a wet clothed man can be.

JOHN ROULAND AND LOUIS MANION made it safely to Puerto Rico after a hectic sail to DR they made the leg to PR in style.

TONY BULLIMORE came to Montego Bay with his giant Cat and duly set up a time for the sail from Montego Bay to Lizard Point UK via the Windward Passage with his Russian crew. When ratified by the World Speed Council it will stand as a challenge for others to try to beat. I think it was under 12 days but will confirm this.

LABOUR DAY WEEKEND caught out a few who should know better including your's truly. We, like Maurice Lethbridge, ignored John

Lethbridge's advice - this time the guide book was on board **Chen!** We (*Hope and I*) joined **Stephanie J** and **Dolphy** at Big Pelican late Friday evening and laughed at the thought of a norther as we star-gazed and socialised in a raft until midnight. Rain in the night should have alerted us but at **6AM WHAM about 50 knots from NNE!** Driving rain reduced visibility to about 50 - 100 ft and the rain made it difficult to look into the wind at all. **Chen** grounded and we had to release our anchor to let the others out! Suffice to say we got off under engine but it was a close thing. An attempt to anchor again proved our near undoing as the anchor dragged and motoring to ease it in the gusts led to a loop around the keel and a cut anchor line. Have you ever motored out of Pelican in low visibility in 50 knot gusts? Thanks to GPS we did it and the JDF Coast guard was a welcome sight as we approached Three Fathom Bank. Alls well that ends well as a fisherman alone in a Canoe hanging on to an anchor south of Three Fathom Bank was rescued by the Coastguard. His chances of being seen if they had not come out to stand by Chen was NIL! Happily both **Stephanie J** and **Dolphy** rode the storm out safely and returned to port in the afternoon.



Skippers of Stephanie J & Dolphy at Pelican

Two power boats were at Pigeon; thankfully they moved out from the shore in the night and were firmly attached to moorings when the wind hit. **Roy Lankaster** reports Old Harbour Bay was the roughest he has known it and the trip into Salt River benefitted from GPS and Radar as visibility was effectively nil!

Saw a drenched **Leslie Pickard** at the dock when we left for Pelican. He was on a "Round the Island" in his small motor boat and his adventures are on pages 5 and 6.



The Late Dr Roy Foster & wife Gloria at RJYC Centenary Reception - Kings House 1989

XAMAICA AFLOAT! Roy Foster's dream and Desmond Blade's persistence bore fruit as the big 80ft. Ron Holland designed yacht left her building berth without fanfare and is now afloat in the canal. Plans are moving to slip her again to place her on her keel, no canal berth after that is on!

Well done to Past Commodore Desmond, let's hope the next phase goes well and we will see the dream sailing soon.

Sailing News in Brief!

Jazz wins Moonlight Race on May 16th. Five boats sailed on what was a good night all round!

Next Jazz took all three Pursuit Races, beating Chen by 19secs in #1, Geronimo by 1 sec in #2 and a comfortable 2 minutes plus in #3. Four boats took part Saturday but the Chen could not play Sunday. When there are closely handicapped boats in the Pursuit it is great fun and good sailing. LS.



Jamaica Yachting Association SAIL TRAINING.

Richard and Paula Jackson have been busy! Their efforts resulted in a Sailing Instructors Course (JYA in collaboration with US Sailing) over the Labour Day weekend that turned out 9 Instructors certified to level 1 - Evelyn Harrington, Richard Hamilton, Frank May, Bryan Langford, Fiona Black, Peter Harper, Nicky Jones, Loren Couch and Richard Jackson. We can now set up and run sail training courses without outside assistance. The plan is for Level 2 certification later this year. Their next effort is aimed at Crews and people who would just like to know more: The JYA will now be able to hold sailing courses year round.

*A US Sailing Level 1 instructor is qualified to teach basic sailing skills and safety to include: knots, rigging a dinghy, wind awareness, points of sail, basic mark rounding, righting an inverted dinghy and rules of the road and how to teach!

The JY15s used were given to the JYA on an open-ended loan basis by owners (Gordon Hall/John Ruland, Laurie Stewart/Phillipa Burnett, John Ramson and David Allen) for the development of sailing in Jamaica. Thanks are due also to the Jimmy & Erith Brassington who hosted the Trainer - Serge Jorgense and Robin deLisser who dealt with the boats.

The JY15's will be available to all members on a fee basis, which will go to the maintenance of these boats. In Montego Bay - the contact is Peter Harper: 979.8550/1 (0) or 956.438 (h) & ppj@cwjamaica.com. Coca-Cola is showing an active interest in becoming the major sponsor to the JYA Youth Development Programme! After the summer the JY15's will be in Kingston at the RJYC for courses and events as the winds between October and February may be more suited to these boats.

SUMMER SAILING COURSES:

July 10-13th Adult Intensive Racing/Rigging Strategies.

July 14-19th Juniors Basic Sailing Skills 11.

July 21-26th Juniors Advanced Skills&Techniques.

Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Level 4 Instructor Ms. Flora Pickard will instruct these courses - ably assisted by our Level 1 instructors.

Each course is only open to 12 participants. Contacts - for Youth courses: Paula Jackson at 422.4109 or thornbird@cwjamaica.com or Lyn Langford 366.0111 or lynda.langford@acs-inc.com. For the racing/ rigging strategies course: Evelyn Harrington at 361.2396 or eharrington@cwjamaica.com

RACING/RIGGING STRATEGIES COURSE:

To improve helming/ crewing ability and general understanding of racing and performance techniques. - the course includes: Starting procedure and techniques; Wind observations/Meteorology; Boat tuning; Sail trim; Spinnaker tuning/handling/trim; Rules; Deck work; Steering a course.

INTERNATIONAL MIRROR DINGHY CLASS.

These dinghies, suitable for adults and juniors, have been proven in our waters and are the most family oriented dinghy - easily prepared for sailing and launching. The JYA reported costing for importing these boats in kit form, but interested parties had to commit by 14th May 2003. Basic Kit, CIF Kgn Jamaica: US\$2,443.98

RJYC - Marine Science Summer Camp

Week 1 July 14-18; Week 2 July 21- 25;

Week 3 August 11- 15; Week 4 August 18- 22.

Course fee per week: \$6000 (including sandwich lunch meal and transportation*)

Course Times: 9 am - 4 pm • Ages: 7 - 16 years

*From Sovereign Centre, Liguanea to RJYC, return daily

(Liguanea 8:30 departure, 4:30 return)

Course includes: Swimming lessons • Introduction to sailing, motor sailing and rowing • Astrology/ navigation • Marine wildlife and shells • Marine vegetation and landforms • Environmental protection • Swamp Tour • First Aid and subject to level of interest - Swim coaching ** Life Saving **
Contact Mrs. Fiona Black Tel:977-7367 or 422-2550

...from the QUARTER DECK

Rosemary Lethbridge touches base ...

... went to Cornwall (UK) for the 40th wedding anniversary of the Birches; Chris not so well; Hilary looked great and nice to see Anthony and Caroline with their kids.... Anthony with a son of 13!!

... Bill Keatinge had to get back from the Med' in a hurry - rushed to S'ton hospital ICU and ended up losing 28lbs in weight!!! He and Hilary hope to go back to their boat at the end of the month.

... My new granddaughter is going thru' the terrible twos !! today has been so far a constant bawl ... a good thing I am going out to lunch!!



Spotted - Christine Nunes

with Iris Harvey at the Wortley Home Brunch on June 1. She looks good!

A Great May Moonlight

Event - Good to see Christian & Harriet of Pegasus fame entertaining a number of diplomats who all seemed to enjoy themselves! The quarter deck was full - food was good - and all entered into the spirit of the evening. Some went sailing, some played cards, some just chatted until past midnight and a Not-so-Great June

Moonlight - FATHERS DAY

NIGHT! - when the H&S put on a really good show for a mere handful of people! But the spirits were high - led by play leader - Fay Harrison who had Susie Scarlett and Sarah Hart in fishnet tights and short black skirts showing to good effect the frilly cap & apron donned by all sporting wives to serve their husbands dessert! The Club was beautifully decorated in blue & gold, the food (oh the roast pork!!) was excellent and desserts - scrumptious. Pity more of us did not attend!! the Dad's enjoyed themselves!

THE POOL OPENING

PARTY WAS GREAT! - with MC

Dave Allen and music by Ian Gibson. The pool looked good and the fun and games organised by a team led by Rebecca Harper was great!

Celebrating 40! - at an impromptu family gathering - Laurie Stewart's 40th year in Jamaica. having arrived in '63 on a 2 year contract! Is the V-C impressed?



The Commodore's Letter contd

Secretary/Manager for many weeks and whilst our recruitment exercise for the latter is now over, we would have floundered if not for **Cathy Thwaites**. Major thanks to Cathy who has managed our operations skilfully and provided management continuity during this difficult period.

On your behalf I welcome Patricia Yap Chung as Secretary / Manager. Pat has enjoyed a successful career in banking and is well known to many members. Please introduce yourself when you are next at the Club. I know that you will see the service improvements and Pat will be glad to have your suggestions and ideas.

Clubs thrive upon member usage and activity and whilst we generate our cash flows from subscriptions, berthing and services, the actual Club esprit is people-inspired. So during this summer please use our club, the bar, restaurant and pool, spend some time and spend some money! Both are good investments.

Summer holidays are almost here and for a couple of months the absence of school traffic makes the morning commute an easy run. Would that I could use much of this time for fishing but the south coast summer weather cycle works against my angling. In the fall are storms and hurricanes and in the winter, Northers – and all have to be contended with in the fishing calendar. **On the RJYC calendar is the August Regatta which is preceded by a Pigeon Island weekend which I recommend highly.** Pigeon is a fine time, powerboaters, racers and cruisers gather for fun and sun on Saturday, with good grub and re-hydrating rum and beer in the evening. Come and join us!

Looking further forward, the AGM will be scheduled soon and its date advised to all members. Please attend as this is your opportunity to contribute to the Club, whether by way of questions and guidance or voting for the Committee. Forms will be available at the office for nomination of any member who wishes to stand for election.

The hurricane prediction guru, Prof Bill Gray says that we will have an above average windstorm season for 2003. **Pleas add "Boat" to your hurricane check list.**

Here's wishing you a great summer and in due course, fair winds and tight lines

David

REGATTA 2003 ... ! contd

Club is scheduled for 1800 hrs. It is planned that our Patron will inspect the Fleet from a Power Yacht just before sunset. Form is to turn your boat **BOW OUT** in the berth and dress ship. Crew present should tear them selves away from the Cocktail Party as our Patron makes his way to board the inspection vessel and line up on their boats to greet him as he passes.

The Club really hopes you will support this event and bring your guests.

The arrangements for Pigeon Island are unsettled as I write. Expect fire and drink but perhaps food will have to be arranged by each boat as the Club took a beating on the last event.

Check the notice boards and the office and watch for e-mail follow up from Rear Commodore Leslie.

FUTURE HAPPENINGS

On the Quarter Deck & On the water

Friday 1 August

Races # 1 & #2

HAPPY HOUR after Race #2.

Saturday 2 August

Races #3 & #4

NB: Race #4 starts after

SAIL PAST - near Victoria Pier!

18.00 hrs - COCKTAILS & THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S INSPECTION OF THE FLEET.

Sunday 3 August

11.00 hrs • ALL COMERS RACE & FUN EVENTS for all ages - tug of war, beer drinking, pool races etc

16.30 hrs PRIZE GIVING followed by light supper.

Friday 15 August

MOONLIGHT EVENT!

Sunday August 17

Shilletto Cup All Comers Race

Sunday August 31

Lewis Cup All Comers Race

Marina, House and Grounds.

THE POOL is gaining support and weekend traffic is up. If you haven't done so do **TRY IT!** Bring your guests to our special place on the Harbour.

"CHI CHI" are being found on boats around the Marina and the Marina Committee is looking at a serious extermination attack. It takes about a year and costs! There will be an approach to boat owners for contributions to this necessary action that cannot be funded from the Club's general funds.

ID BADGES are now being organized all non staff workers that provide services to members. Boat owners please cooperate with the office, this scheme is part of an effort to improve security by controlling who can have access to the berth area.

HURRICANE SEASON IS ON US AGAIN.

Owners of boats need to review their moorings and hurricane plans NOW! It is generally accepted that our berths can handle up to 45ft vessels. Over that size the windage will likely stress the piles beyond failure. (Note a 50 footer pulled down a pile during Gilbert and was holed, the only vessel seriously damaged in the marina.)

Reduce windage by removing all canvas, outriggers and other encumbrances. 40lb per square foot is not unlikely as a load in a hurricane blow. If you leave a 12ft long by 2ft high dinghy on the bow you are adding about a thousand pounds to the pile load! Plus if it is not tied down it will blow away! **BE PREPARED!** One problem is how to hold your vessel in the middle of it's berth while allowing it ot rise on the storm surge. One method is to tie lateral midship lines forward and across say two berths either side giving you line lengths of 40 - 50ft. long. Pull them up tight then measure in about 6 inches of slack. That will allow sufficient rise without lateral movement beyond rope stretch. Run an anchor out into the marina to stop her moving forward if a stern line parts and tie by the bow to an anchor buried ashore. If you tie to a utility pole or tree tie right down at ground level. If you tie off at a comfortable waist level your boat may well pull the pole or tree down!