
Media Briefing – latest update 26-9-19

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INTRODUCTION

Caribbean Sailing Week brings a new format of sailing regatta organisation and race management to the Caribbean islands and countries of central America. The Caribbean is one of the most attractive and popular sailing regions in the world with its steady trade winds and numerous islands, cultures, and spectacular scenery. Though, while the Caribbean attracts boating visitors from all across the globe, the islands themselves have produced sailors at the very highest level including Olympic and America's Cup sailors, while countless hundreds of others have experienced the unique enjoyment of yacht and dinghy racing at all levels.

Caribbean Sailing Week aims to combine an agenda that will address the continuing progression of increasing the participation, successes and inclusivity of home-grown sailors and events with the growth of attendance and reputation for excellent organisation of the region's international regattas. It will also include, and run concurrently with, the Caribbean Dinghy Championships.

Caribbean Sailing Week has two main components:

17-20 October Caribbean Sailing Association Conference

17-20 October Caribbean Dinghy Championships

Prior to the start of the Week there will be a two day **Race Management Clinic on 15-17 October.**

17-20 October Caribbean Sailing Association Conference

The Caribbean Sailing Association Conference opens on 17 October and will run concurrently with Caribbean Dinghy Week. Sponsored by fighters against the plastics in our oceans, Sailors for the Sea, the CSA Conference will start out with the CSA's annual general meeting followed by two days of discussion, presentations and strategising about regatta organisation, marketing, race management measurement and sailing development.

The conference is a fantastic opportunity for members of yachting organisations from across the Caribbean region, be they regatta directors, marketeers, measurers, yacht club managers, sailing programme managers and other professionals within the industry, to discuss concerns, pitch ideas and seek support from peers, sponsors and industry stakeholders.

Many of the great personalities that have helped and are continuing to help shape the success of racing events and sailing participation in the Caribbean will be present.

Key speakers include:

Peter Holmberg – Overview of global racing events

Resident: St Thomas, USVI

Peter has represented the USVI since the late 1980s at the CSA and will present an International Racing Update, highlighting trends and feedback based on his own professional sailing, experienced in every corner of the globe. His goal is to give all the attendees at the conference a global perspective on the sport and to help events better adjust to attracting entries.

Quote *“The greatest aspect of the CSA organization is how effective we are at bringing all the players of the region together to share information, cooperate, and unite for the benefit of the entire Caribbean. We need to keep this feature prominent and strong.”*

A multiple Olympic Medallist, Peter has also held the No. 1 ranking in world match racing, and was a helmsman for Alinghi, the 2007 winning America’s Cup team.

Robbie Ferron – Caribbean events in 2019 and the future

Resident: Cole Bay, St Maarten

Robbie was president of the CSA for 10 years and was the founder of the ‘Regatta Organisers Conference’ which has become today’s annual event. Originally held during Antigua Sailing Week but now moved to this October date the Conference has over the years dealt with the various components of regatta organization, from merchandising, technical management and financial models to marketing and more.

Quote *“The early years’ conferences left me with the belief that motivated regional players had the potential to make significant changes to how yachting in the Eastern Caribbean functions.*

There is now reason for some new soul searching and review of sailing events and racing in the Eastern Caribbean. I will be providing some historical background and analyses of the positives and negatives of where the events and local sailing find themselves in 2019.”

Robbie is one of the Caribbean’s greatest drivers of today’s sailing scene in the region. He is the founder St Maarten Yacht Club, and the St Maarten Heineken Regatta and was made a Knight in the Order of Oranje Nassau.

Elizabeth Jordan – an introduction and update on the National Sailing Academy

Resident: English Harbour, Antigua

Elizabeth is founder and President of the National Sailing Academy Antigua. The Academy offers the opportunity for Antiguan school children to learn sailing free of charge. An independent non-profit charitable organization both the Antiguan community and the yachting industry are benefiting from the employment opportunities that can become available to young Antiguan, who can in time become captains, crew, bosuns, engineers, riggers, sailmakers, sailing instructors - as well as becoming competitive racing sailors.

Elizabeth will present an overview of the Academy, and its achievements and future plans.

Quote: *I founded The Academy in 2010 with the aim of introducing Antiguan youth to the sport of sailing which had previously been closed to all but a handful of them due to historical, logistical and financial barriers.*

We are approaching the end of year 10 and have now trained several hundred young people to sail as well as providing further training to suitable candidates - such as RYA Dinghy Instructor, RYA Day Skipper, RYA Coastal Skipper, STCW professional certificate. This gives them the qualifications to look for careers in the sailing/yachting industry."

Jaime Torres – building the attraction of Antigua Sailing Week

Resident: San Juan, Puerto Rico

Jaime has recently moved to a new level of involvement as the Race Manager of Antigua Sailing Week, the Caribbean's most iconic international regatta. He will use the CSA Conference to outline his aims to continue to maintain and grow the event's status by anticipating and meeting the needs of the racers, both owners and crews.

Jaime has been sailing all types of boats for over 45 years. He was racing in Antigua Sailing Week back in the 70s when, he says, it had *"More of a feeling of Woodstock concert on the water and ashore, long before the professionals took over from the sailing gentlemen."*

Times have changed and Jaime adds *"I have a huge passion for racing and my love for the islands. I want to contribute to making ASW and every other Caribbean sailing event as great as it can be."*

Additional quote: *I would love to see the event grow in every racing class: Owner driven cruiser/racers and Grand Prix boats, charter fleet boats bringing in more people to sample the amazing combination of hard core racing followed by wonderful shore side activity. I am especially keen to work on sweetening the deal for the high level race charters companies.*

"These folks do an incredible job enabling serious racers to come and race in our aspirational conditions for a fraction of bringing in their own boats. But once they have done it a few times and realize what racing in dream conditions is like many go on to bring their own boats or even purchase boats to race in the Caribbean. This really matters as it is a positive feedback loop that keeps the event growing and evolving."

Bob Bailey - inspiring inclusive sailing

Resident: Antigua

Bob is the director and founder of Sailability Antigua for the National Sailing Academy NSA which bought two trimarans from the UK six years ago. He has plenty of experience with

inclusive sailing – he worked in this field for 16 years in Peterborough where he was also a founder. He explains *“Here in Antigua we offer the only recreational activity for people with disabilities, taking about 90 people a week sailing.” He adds “Disability awareness has been one of our achievements. We were the only organisation of its type in the Caribbean Basin until we gave Trinidad and Tobago our original trimarans only last August to get them going.*

“I hope that my talk about inclusivity in sailing will reach out to the delegates to suggest that sailing is for all and that means differently abled people as well.”

Bob lives on his yacht in Falmouth Harbour just off of the NSA for six months a year.

Other key speakers at the event will include:

Paige Myatt, Sailors of the Sea – clean regattas

Paige will discuss the challenges of sustainability, and discuss options for running ‘clean’ regattas. Sailors for the Sea is the world’s only ocean conservation organization that engages, educates and activates the sailing and boating community toward restoring ocean health.

Tim Cross – building capacity in the sport of sailing across the region

Tim will present his vision for how the region can become self-sustaining in terms of coach development and continue to support the CSA objective of building capacity. He has been working hard around the Caribbean region, island by island, to identify the next generation of sail training coaches. He has also developed a Resort Instructor Course, for instructors at the many busy beachfront resorts in the region. Tim will present his ‘big plan’ for training, where top coaches from around the world will train a number of islanders from within the Caribbean Sailing Association who can, in turn, develop their own training programmes across an island-wide coaching network.

Lucy Jackson –charter opportunities

Lucy from LV Yachting will outline the importance or how entry levels at regattas can be increased through the availability of charter fleets.

Bastien Pouthier – Chief measurer

Resident: Trinidad

Bastien, who is a Board Member of the CSA as the Chief Measurer, will present information to boat, equipment and sail measurers and introduce current systems including boat online registration.

He explains *“An ex pilot of the RAF, Al Rapier, resident of Trinidad wrote a mathematical formula that is the basis of the CSA Rating Rule. Regattas of the Caribbean Islands use the ‘CSA’ to establish the race results.*

Every year, the measurers meet to discuss problems they have encountered over the season, compare regattas and yachts results, discuss amendments to the constantly

evolving formula and evolution of boat design. As the Chief Measurer and Chief Technical Officer, it is my duty to manage the team of measurers spread all over the Caribbean and find the compromise to the rule to make the rating rule as fair as the measurers can see it.

This year we had a few adjustments, but had a first meeting in Antigua during Sailing Week in May where we decided where to aim the 2020 Rule. My aim at this measurer's meeting is to test these amendment with the goal of having the 2020 Rule and program ready at the end of this month."

Other key speakers are still joining the Conference. To get up to date information and a detailed agenda visit our [website](#).

PRESS INFORMATION: A daily report and images from the CSA Conference will be emailed to media contacts and posted to the event [website](#). Regular bulletins will be posted to [Facebook](#). If you require further information please contact [Marina Johnson](#).

17 – 20 October Caribbean Dinghy Championships(CDC)

Sponsored by Seahawk Premier Yacht Finishes, a brand new race format is coming to the islands. Being hosted in Antigua as part of Caribbean Sailing Week, Caribbean Dinghy Championships will provide the opportunity for all sailors from Caribbean Sailing Association (CSA) member clubs around the region to come along and enjoy a three-day five-race series in a selection of dinghy classes for all ages including Laser and Laser Radial, Optimist (for the under 16s) and RS Venture Connects and Hansa 303s for disabled sailors. The RS Feva class will also be using this event as their Caribbean Regional RS Feva championship.

Competitors will be vying to win the coveted Nations Cup, for the overall best performance and prizes will abound for the classes plus women's and differently abled, reflecting the equality and inclusivity of the event.

Entries have already been received from Trinidad, St Maarten, St Kitts & Nevis with many others expected to follow in the next couple of weeks.

A unique all-inclusive package is on offer to the participants, making the event even more attractive, including the provision of a boat, airport transfers and all meals.

NOTES TO MEDIA: A round up report, results and images will be available at the end of the regatta. Regular bulletins will be posted to [Facebook](#) during the event.

Prior to the event a Race Management Clinic will be taking place on 15-17 October

The race management clinic is headed by World Sailing nominated Race Officer Fabian Bach and will offer training as a first step towards National and International Race Officer qualification. This opportunity will be of enormous benefit to representatives of National Sailing Federations and regional regattas who can, in turn, expand their knowledge and practical race management competency to the benefit of sailing on their island and in their region.

PRESS INFORMATION: A brief summary of the event will be included in our final report on Caribbean Sailing event. If you require further information please contact [Marina Johnson](#).

Further information:

Caribbean Sailing Week

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