

A HECTIC FIRST FEW WEEKS

Nigel Knowles, MBYC Commodore

In my first article as Commodore for last month's newsletter, I mentioned that there may be a need for stamina in the role to which I have been elected. But I had no inkling of the amount of stamina that I was going to need in the first 3 weeks alone, mainly due to an amazing Fishing Tournament.

Bobby Stewart pulled off a great event with the help of many of the new committee who threw themselves into supporting the event with long hours and very little sleep. It truly became something we are all very proud of. However, next year it will be better still!

The whole vibe and atmosphere of the club was fantastic from before the first canoe fisherman arrived for breakfast until after the excellent Tight Lines beach party (my apologies for appearing in the Sunday Gleaner with no shirt on, not very becoming of a Commodore, but it was such a great beach party!). We want the Club to continue to be a place where people want to be. We had members whose partners had not visited the club in the past two years now turning up 3 evenings in a row to enjoy the social aspect day after day.



The new commodore at the Montego Bay Yacht Club, Nigel Knowles (centre), is flanked by Pier One's Robert Russell (left) and Seawind Beach Club's Luis Fitch. Photo credit to the Gleaner and Janet Silvera

The Committee and I have also tried to get to grips with many issues that we felt needed resolving or instigating, which sadly made our first two meetings much longer than we anticipated, but gave us all direction, responsibilities and clear goals to achieve to make our club better and better.

We have made fast and substantial progress on improving member benefits (more exciting news on this in a couple of week's time). In addition to planning some fabulous social events, we want to prioritize dock improvements. We are also been looking into becoming compliant for insurance and other purposes.

I must say we are working very well as a team. We've set up sub-committees to drive forward key ideas which we firmly believe will make all our members feel that membership truly does have privileges and that MBYC is a fun and attractive place to spend time. I would like to thank the Committee for working so hard and with

such good humour since we came together. If we can keep this momentum up, we will see some major improvements very quickly.

Link to the Gleaner article: <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20140928/out/out3.html>

Engaging Our Younger Members

Youth Commodore Position

Nigel Knowles, MBYC Commodore

As the new commodore of the Yacht Club I am very keen to support initiatives that engage and encourage a new generation of young people and their families to start a long term relationship with MBYC. With this in mind, I wanted to find a way to more fully engage the children and young adults at our club so that they can be active and involved with sailing, fishing, tennis, social events, and all the activities that will allow them to grow with our remarkable club.

I felt we needed a young person to liaise between the youngsters and the committee so that the Committee could fully incorporate the next generation into our plans for MBYC. The Committee has fully supported the idea of establishing an 'Honorary Youth Commodore' position.

Our Youth Sailing Committee put forward a name to hold this prestigious new position and the Committee unanimously agreed with Tanique Brodber-Ventura's suggestion. Therefore today we are pleased to announce that MBYC's first ever Youth Commodore will be Zoe Knowles.

As Zoe's father I am very proud of her being asked to take on this prestigious role, I know she will throw herself into it and ensure that all our younger members are involved, appreciated, encouraged, learn new skills and make the most of MBYC.

This role has some set parameters and objectives, the biggest two being that of being an Ambassador for the club, both in and outside of the club, and to champion the children and fully engage them in our many activities. Below is an outline of the role that the committee drew up.

- They should be an ambassador for our club, so hopefully they can attend other school/college/UWI presentations and youth events to highlight our club as a great place for youngsters and their families to become members. Being confident and able to stand up and speak publicly will be important in this aspect of the role;
- The role will allow and facilitate youth in dealing directly with the Committee so that they can get key items that they feel are important on the agenda. They may even represent themselves and their suggestion at the Committee meetings;
- They will be viewed as a focal point and conduit for all the youth, regardless of whether they are sailors, fishermen, tennis players, social members, etc.

- They will act as a conduit between the Committee and the younger members in communicating information and ideas;
- The Youth Commodore must be between age 13 and 21 and a club member;
- Because the position is Honorary, it not subject to voting at AGMs and can be changed if needed;
- The occupant of the Youth Commodore position may be replaced upon the election of a new Committee;
- Because the Youth Coordinators/Youth Sailing Organisers work with and know the young members, their attributes, skills and interpersonal abilities, they are in the best position to nominate/suggest candidates to be considered for the position by the Committee;
- The Youth Commodore will be expected to be inclusive, supportive and respectful of all of youth members so as to ensure that they feel valued and listened to at MBYC;
- When planning family events the Youth Commodore will solicit input from the youth so that they (and their parents) can be fully included in the event, wherever possible, through specific activities and fun aspects;
- The Youth Commodore may want to form small ad hoc youth committees to assist them in keeping youth engaged. Maybe a tennis fan, fishing fan, sailing fan etc could be included to form a small group of helpers for the Youth Commodore;
- The Youth Commodore will also help the Committee to keep information flowing through social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, webpage, etc) to both the youth and older members.

A Word from our First Youth Commodore

Zoe Knowles



Firstly, I would like to thank the new MBYC Committee for creating this position and electing me as the first MBYC Youth Commodore. I am very excited and honored to receive this position.

For those that don't know me, I was born in England, and raised there by my two wonderful parents; Nigel Knowles (Commodore) and Julie Knowles (Committee Member). I have been visiting Jamaica during the summer to see my Jamaican grandparents and other family members since I was 5 months old. We finally moved to this amazing Island when I was 10.

I attended Heinz Simonitsch School in Montego Bay for 3 years, until I moved to Kingston to attend the American International School of Kingston (AISK), where I have been for almost 3 years. Now I am 16, and I barely consider myself British anymore.

I am a very active person and have played tennis with the coaches at MBYC. I also have a great passion for horse riding and scuba diving. However, my life would not be complete without the amazing sport of sailing, which was introduced into my life at Montego Bay Yacht Club.

I have been sailing at MBYC for over 5 years during Summer Camps and the Saturday Racing Series with the 'old' race team, plus I have been racing with the amazing crew on Richard Hamilton's boat *Renegade* for 3 years. I have also traveled overseas to compete in International Regattas such as CORK in Canada. Over the summer, I received a wonderful opportunity to become an RYA Dinghy Sailing Instructor. I taught 2 summer camps at MBYC and am now MBYC's in-house sailing instructor.

My goals over the summer, as a sailing instructor, were to build the Youth Sailing Team and create a new generation of sailors at the club. With that goal almost accomplished, I am excited to create new goals as Youth Commodore. As a teenager myself, I believe it is very important to bring more young members into the club. I say this because the majority of my long-term friendships were formed at MBYC. Plus, the children are the next generation of MBYC members.

My first task as Youth Commodore will be to look into organizing a party. All the young members will be invited to have fun and meet other young people at this event. Following this, there are many events at MBYC such as the Pineapple Cup (where MBYC has its own team!). At these events I plan to create a way for the youths to become more involved in everything MBYC has to offer. Following this, there are family fun days and many more events that the children can attend and in which they can participate.

I am extremely excited to start working as Youth Commodore to bring in new young members and to make the club a more active and fun place for them with all that MBYC has to offer. I am also thrilled to start working with the MBYC Committee and regular members because as the great Pablo Picasso once said- "Youth has no age."

MBYC Manager's Report

Judith Dear, Club Manager

Montego Bay 2014 Fishing Tournament



Angler Joy Clarke

The Fishing Tournament was a great success thanks to the Chairman, Bobby Stewart. We had thirty participants from Falmouth, Kingston and of course Mobay. The dock was simply hopping and a good time was had by the anglers. Being a neophyte of this great sport, I have to share with you the banana and rooster story LOL. It is alleged that if there is a rooster or bananas on board, the anglers on that boat will not catch any fish. Well, Pension Fun had ripe bananas on board on Wednesday. The captain got rid of them and the next day a 297 lb. marlin was caught. In Jamaica there is a saying that says 'if it nu go suh, it nearly go suh'

It was absolute pleasure being the host to this amazing group of fun loving people. They have all promised to be back in Mobay for the bigger better 2015 tournament. The Seahorse Grill Restaurant staff outdid themselves. Thanks to all the staff, especially Chef Byrd and Manager Andrew. The curb side service was a hit.

Cathy Charley manned the two way radio and was dubbed 'the sweet voice' by the anglers. She was ably supported by Erica Downer Hamilton who formally ran The Discovery Bay Fishing Tournament. Edward Downer was up at six in the mornings until late in the night taking photographs. Nicky Feanny and Hugh Byfield and their staff worked their magic with the electricity and WIFI system.

The Montego Bay Marine Police and the Marine Park kept a diligent watch of our dock. The Montego Bay Yacht Club staff members stepped up to the plate and gave wonderful service to our special guests and our very own members. We thank those mentioned and all others who helped to make the tournament the success it was.

Tennis Courts

The Tennis Committee has advised that work will resume on the court by the week of October 13th, 2014. This will make the area more attractive, after which, the court will need to settle for another 6-7 weeks. Once the settling period of time has been completed, the court will be available to tennis players.

Fuel Pump/Line

The original fuel pump was reconditioned. Unfortunately the fuel line pipe had rotted and had to be replaced. A lock off valve has been placed on the line to ensure its safety. We do apologize to our members for any inconvenience that they experienced during this period of time

Recap of the 53rd Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament September 17th, 18th and 19th, 2014

Bobby Stewart, MBYC Marlin Tournament Committee Chairman

This year's 53rd staging of the Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament has shown itself to be somewhat of an historic event. A tournament record 30 boats were registered at the start, and 29 boats fished – tournament chairman, Bobby Stewart, found himself too busy with ongoing tournament matters and was unable to fish on his boat, "Knotty Dread" - much to his dismay!

In another positive development, the tournament was sanctioned under International Game Fish Association (IGFA) rules as an Official Qualifying Event for the Offshore World Championship (OWC). This International certification means that the winning team in this tournament receives an entry for the World Championship in Costa Rica, to be held in the first half of 2015.

At the Captain's meeting on Tuesday night, September 16th, 2014, the anglers supported taking this significant step up, as part of the strategy to lift the tournament into the future, with an overwhelming show of hands. The MBYC tournament committee thanked the anglers for their show of support of the vision for the tournament's future - and a new chapter has now begun! 99 inch sticks were also given out at the end of the Captain's briefing, to assist anglers in ensuring that undersize Marlin would not be boated.

In even better news, the new rules did not negatively impact the excitement in the least! The tournament started under almost ideal conditions for anglers, who were also assisted each morning with satellite data provided by Weather Routing Inc., and a phenomenal result for the fishing was seen!

Overall results for the three days were 46 Blue Marlin hook-ups, with 28 Blue Marlin brought to the boat and controlled, of which 25 were successfully released, with 11 TBF Tag cards being submitted to Tournament Control to send to The Billfish Foundation. 2 Blue Marlin were boated and brought to the dock. Of these two, one met the 99 inch minimum length, and so qualified, however, it was 2.5 pounds shy of the 300 pound mark, and incurred a -5 point penalty. The other Marlin brought to the dock did not meet the 99 inch requirement and was assessed full penalties of -300 points, as well as the weight.

On the first day of fishing, Wednesday, September 17th, the 53rd Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament began with a Bimini start from a shotgun flare at 7:28 am, covered by the all-seeing eye of our friendly neighborhood Drone. 10 Blue Marlin were brought to the boat and subdued, from a total of 17 hookups. An estimated 22 strikes were had for the day.

David Moss, fishing his boat Fair Prospect, was the first to notch the Tournament Scoreboard, with his first hookup reported at 9:34 – a short fight later, he successfully released a Blue Marlin at 10:02 am, gaining an automatic 300 points, as per the new rules.

The excitement of the day saw the radio buzzing with activity, and 9 more Blue Marlin releases were had by “lines out” at 5pm: Stephen Silvera, 10:22am, on Cheryl Ann; Paul Thompson, 11:20 am, on Fishy Bizniz; Sue-Ann Panton, 11:42 am, on Reel Driva; Miguel Benitez, 12 noon, on Deputy; Ian McNally, 2:05 pm, on Sea Duction; Lester Spaulding, 2:15 pm, on Fair Prospect; Brenell Spence, 3:43 pm, on Likkle Hookah; M Habib, 4:04 pm, on Mur Mur; The final Marlin for the day was hooked at 4:45 pm by Brenell Spence on Likkle Hookah, and released at 5:09 pm.

On day two, Thursday, the fishing was nothing short of spectacular. An estimated 30 strikes saw 21 hookups, which resulted in 14 Blue Marlin being brought to the boat! The first hookup occurred at 9:45 am and was landed at 10:39 am by Kyle Gregg, on Reel Driva. 13 more Blue Marlin came to the boat in quick succession during the rest of the day – although one is not officially recorded here due to a failure to safely release.

The rest of the day’s Blue Marlin releases played out as follows: Adam Stewart, 11:02 am, on StewFish II; Brenell Spence, 11:45 am, on Likkle Hookah; Gordon Shirley, 11:51 am, on U Sea Mi; Michael Baugh, 12:17 pm, on Bye Pass; Kamal Azan, 1:54 pm, on 2 Motivated; Jaylen Taylor, 2:30 pm, on Keepin’ It Jiggy; Israel Benitez, 3:46 pm, on Deputy; Gary Brown, 3:46 pm, on Keepin’ It Jiggy; Paul Thompson, 3:30 pm, on Fishy Bizniz; Gregory Christian, 4:05 pm, on Juicy; and finally, John Brennan on Bye Pass released the last Blue Marlin for the day at 4:58 pm. Also, at 4:26 pm Joy Clarke on Pension Fun landed a Marlin and brought it to the scales that evening. It met the 99 inch limit and was weighed at the scales at 297.5 pounds, attracting a 5 point deduction, scoring 292.5 points

On the final day, Friday, Anglers were awoken at 5 am to the raucous cries of many Roosters foisted upon unsuspecting boats during the dark of the night! Cries of “Fowl Play!” rang out, up and down the docks! In addition, many Bananas were witnessed to have been planted on various competitor boats, as another symbol of bad luck and fishy misfortune. Anglers desperately attempted to clear their vessels of all of these symbols of sabotage, and anxiously scrubbed their decks and hands!

Alas – whether these last day antics were to blame, or not, the Marlin proved elusive on Day 3, with just 4 Blue Marlin brought to the boat, out of 8 hookups, and an estimated 14 strikes. Security will, INDEED, be increased next year, to discourage the perpetrators, LOL!

Ted Muschett, fishing his boat 2 Motivated, was the first to get hooked up, at 7:56 am – and he successfully released his Blue Marlin at 10:30, after a grueling battle. Matthew Morin, fishing on StewFish II, also released another Blue Marlin at 11:39 am. Brenell Spence, on Likkle Hookah, recorded his fourth Blue Marlin release at 11:24 am. It is suspected that the water was warmer today, and many Marlin moved inshore towards the cool water upwelling at the drop-off. The final Marlin of the day was brought boat side by Keith Braithwaite, on

Persistence. This was landed, rather than released – however, at the weight station it was determined to be under the 99 inch minimum guideline and was disqualified, attracting a penalty of 300 points plus its weight.

The Awards Ceremony, Friday night, was extremely well attended, with not a seat left in the house, and standing room at a premium. This despite the rain showers which had forced the event to be moved inside at the last hour. His Worship, The Mayor of Montego Bay, Glendon Harris, accompanied by his beautiful wife, Dr. Angella Harris, was in attendance, and spoke very kind words about the format and success of the new tournament, as well as about the positive impact the tournament is now set to have for the city.

The awards ceremony for a very informal affair and, due to the high spirits of the anglers, the stage and microphone were hijacked at various points during the proceedings, for anglers to voice their positive feelings for this year's event, and for various "alternative awards" to be held high! A good time was had by all, and the event was officially closed, with all upstanding for the National Anthem. After this, all present made their way to the shore front by the docks to enjoy a fantastic fireworks show that underscored the week that had been, with all its positive emotion, and attendant fishing pyrotechnics!

The next morning, Saturday, the majority of the Marlin Fleet made their way to the iconic Doctors Cave Beach, where they anchored up and rafted together, for the first ever Tight Lines Beach Party and Boat Raft-Up. Since this event had never been held by the tournament before, there was much concern as to its success this year. These concerns were put to rest as the day continued, as 500 people, both on the beach, and on the boats, drank and laughed the day away; a well-deserved day of relaxation that was enjoyed by all.

Before closing this recap of the 53rd Tournament, I must take another moment of your time to publicly thank all the members of the MBYC AGM and Tournament Committee who helped lift the enormous load that was required to set this tournament apart from all others in our history, as well as all the other people outside of MBYC who gave their time and energy towards its success. Ladies and gentlemen, we aimed for the stars with this one, and managed to hit almost every nail on the head. We have set the bar for ourselves next year. Rest up, it's soon time to start planning the next one!

Next year's 54th Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament promises to continue the new direction of this year's event. The 2015 date will be announced as soon as it's finalized.

We'll see you there – till then, however – TIGHT LINES!!!!

Fishing Tournament Results

Tournament Winners

Most Blue Marlin Points by Team:

First - Likkle Hookah, David Galbraith Charley – 1200 Points

Second – Fair Prospect, David Moss – 600 Points

Third – Reel Driva, Jeffrey Panton – 600 Points

Largest Blue Marlin, by Weight – Individual Angler:

Joy Clark, on Pension Fun – 297.5 pounds (submitted at 99 inches)

Male Angler, on Marlin Points:

First – Brenell Spence, Likkle Hookah - 1200 Points

Second – David Moss, Fair Prospect - 300 points – First Marlin of Tournament

Female Angler, on Marlin Points:

First – Sue-Ann Panton, Reel Driva - 300 Points

Second – Joy Clark, Pension Fun - 297.5 Points

Junior Angler Award:

Jaylen Taylor, Keepin' It Jiggy – 300 Points

Largest Sailfish, by Weight – Individual Angler:

Stephen Silvera, Cheryl Ann - 48 pounds

First Marlin Awards:

Joy Clark, Pension Fun

Keith Braithwaite, Persistence

Matthew Morin, Stewfish

Miguel Benitez Rasgato, Deputy

Israel Benitez Rasgato, Deputy

Heaviest Dolphin:

Kyle Gregg, Reel Driva, 22.5 pounds

Heaviest Tuna:

Brenell Spence, Likkle Hookah, 20 pounds

Non-Billfish by Weight:

Deputy - 116.75 pounds

Best Behaved Crew!

Bye Pass

Worst Behaved Crew (Best Party Animals Award)!

Out 'n Badr

Best Team Spirit:

Fishy Bizniz

Bobby Stewart - Exceptional Dedication Awards:

Cathy Charley, Heather Vernon, Davia Powell, Judith Dear, Bryan Langford, Julie Knowles, Nigel Knowles

Pineapple Cup – February 6th, 2015

The official Notice of Race for the 2015 Pineapple Cup has now been posted. For details, go to the Montego Bay Race website: <http://www.montegobayrace.com/>. Volunteers are needed and welcome. Committees are being organized to deal with race event planning and execution, both before and during the race.

Please contact Judith or Heather at the office if you'd like to help out/volunteer.

2014 Jamin Jamaica J/22 Invitational Regatta



The 'Cayman Vikings'

This year's Jamin Invitational Regatta is honoured to host the 'Cayman Vikings'.

Here's a rundown on the team provided by Suvi Hayden, one of 'Vikings' team members.

"The team members are: Karin McGrath, Kristine Verner and myself (Suvi Hayden).

Karin, born to German parents in Canada has been in Cayman for almost 20 years, lured by the sunshine and lifestyle I think. She is a certified Esthetician and Massage Therapist. I met Karin a few years ago in a bar and we have been friends ever since. She is on the foredeck of the Viking boat (which is a very brave thing to do on a boat I am driving) and can read the sea like no one else.

Kristine is from Denmark, she has sailed since she was 5 years old, six years as a part of the Danish National Sailing Team. She has been in Cayman for a year working as a sailing coach at the Cayman Islands Sailing Club. Kristine is due to go back to Denmark to join the Danish Navy in February 2015. I used to sail a laser a bit with Kristine (getting beaten by her every time of course) so we met at the sailing circuits.

I am originally from Finland. I came to Cayman after working in London in search of better work-life balance. I work for myself now doing maritime corporate services. After 6 years in Cayman I feel very settled here.

We love sailing and having fun together but as I said we have just very recently started sailing together on the J22 so are mainly trying to learn as much as we can and sail the boat well. Our goal for the J22 women's group is to sail as well as we can, have fun and learn a lot. We are training hard to chase the tails of the Jamaican sailors in December."

Jamin 2014 boats are still available for December. This year there will be a focus for land based fun for non-sailing visitors, schedule to be announced. [Notice of Race HERE](#). Book now to avoid disappointment!

See you on the water!

J22 Racing – September 14th, Series 7, Day 1

Mike Morse, Ayahso

	Defender	Renegade	Ayahso	Awesome	Zipper
Race 1	1	5	2	5	5
Race 2	1	5	2	5	5
Race 3	2	5	1	5	5
Points	4	15	5	15	15
Prev pts	13	37	29	27	30
Series Total	17	52	34	42	45 Revised

J22 Cays Cup Invitational

The J22 Jamaica Sailing Team from The Royal Jamaica Yacht Club has extended an invitation to MBYC sailors to participate in the Cays Cup Races to be held October 25th and 26th in Kingston. Interested sailors should contact Richard Hamilton for more information.

Passages



On September 8th John Wilson Atkinson passed away in Vero Beach, Florida. John worked as a Chartered Accountant for KPMG in Jamaica for many years. He was an MBYC member and served on the Management Committee for a period of time. He will be fondly remembered by his friends in Montego Bay and at MBYC.

October Quiz

The correct answer to the September Quiz question and photo, submitted by Judith Dear, was Tuff Gong Headquarters and Bob Marley Museum, at 56 Hope Rd, Kingston.

The winner of the September Quiz is Felix Hunter who came close to beating the speed record, submitting her response just 33 minutes after the newsletter was sent out! William Craig was chagrined to find himself in a very close second place, just minutes after Felix. Hether Wright and Carolyn Barrett were hard on their heels with the third and fourth correct responses. Congratulations Felix, and enjoy your prize next time you come home to Mobay!

For the October Quiz we want you to identify another iconic Jamaican landmark and its location. Thanks once again to Judith for the photo. Responses to carolesmall@shaw.ca



Sailing Quote

"Out of sight of land the sailor feels safe. It is the beach that worries him." Charles G. Davis