



Montego Bay Yacht Club 'Sloop News'

September 2016

COMMODORE'S REPORT



Nigel Knowles

As the children head back to school and the summer holidays come to an end, MBYC still has plenty of fun and adventures to look forward to.

Firstly, the dock is finally getting the upgrade it has sorely needed for so many years. The new and improved dock and dock electrics moving ahead at great pace. These new services, coupled with the expanded width and raised height of the dock itself will offer benefits in terms of the quality of the services we can offer to both our boating members and visiting boats. The dock deck's expanded width will make it easier for people to pass one another on the dock without fear of falling into the water; a benefit that will please many dock users. Redundant piles and moorings are being removed to allow us greater flexibility in terms of how we use our dock in the future.

A complete rewire of the dock is partially complete. In addition to the increased number of pedestals, we will have an increased power supply coming from our meters to the new transformer. This upgrade will allow us to remove the overhead cable that has caused the J22 owners and users such difficulties and concerns with their masts touching live overhead feeds. With all cables now buried in the ground and out of the way, boats with masts can be safely launched and docked.

For the future, we look forward to a dock with world class facilities; a welcoming sight for visiting boats. And these improvements will provide a welcoming and impressive start to the upcoming 55th MBYC Marlin Tournament in a few weeks.

Thank you to all the boat owners and users of the dock for enduring all of the current and past construction inconvenience. We very much look forward to 'the new look' dock.



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Secondly, we have the 55th Montego Bay Yacht Club Marlin Tournament coming up in short order. This annual event starts on the 20th of September with the local canoe fishermen competing in their own event. The big boats will join us for the main event starting on September 21st with a Captains' briefing. Please see Bobby Stewart's article below for more details. I do hope our members turn out in full support of local charities on our fun filled prize giving evening that features comedians taking a turn in between awards. Tickets for this event will soon be available.

We must thank all of the committee and many others who have worked so hard on both the tournament and the dock upgrades, with extra thanks going to Bobby Stewart and Bryan Langford for their time, hard work and dedication in achieving this result

Please join us to celebrate our new upgrades and the famous Marlin Tournament. I can promise you an exciting and fun filled week.

Tight Lines, Nige

MBYC DOCK IMPROVEMENTS IN PROGRESS





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Montego Bay 55th International Marlin Tournament Bobby Stewart

It's another record-breaking year for the 55th Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament, presented by Digicel Business and Appleton Estate, at your favorite place, the ever-faithful Montego Bay Yacht Club. With 48 teams registered for this year's event, it's sure to be an exciting week for both the anglers, and all the friends and family from near and far.

The week kicks off with the traditional Canoe Fisherman fishing tournament - at 7:30am on Monday, September 19th - which is being organized by the Yacht Club's own Denise Taylor. This promises to be a very well attended event this year, as Dr. Guy Harvey's film crew will be in town to film the action, and our local fishermen have a great opportunity to star in his next documentary. Kudos!

The main MoBay Marlin tournament begins with the Captain's Briefing, at 3:30pm on the afternoon of Tuesday, 20th September - which will be preceded at 3:00pm, by a special presentation by Dr. Guy Harvey on the finer techniques of releasing Blue Marlin. We are most pleased to welcome Guy back this year, who will be fishing with his team and family, as well as enjoying the festivities both on and off the water. He will also bring hi-tech electronic tags to town with him, which he will deploy on several lucky fish during the week.

I'd like to personally extend a huge thank you to Guy Harvey, and on behalf of the club and the members, for his amazing and generous contribution of his art and the beautiful new official tournament shirts. They will surely be treasured by all the anglers, and become keepsakes that will make this an unforgettable event.

That same Tuesday evening, at 6:30pm, there will be the traditional Sponsor Cocktail, which we would be thrilled for all members to enjoy alongside our ocean-going visitors. Visiting boats and Club Members alike will have the chance to see the great improvements on the dock, including a brand new power supply system - more than a year in planning - which will elevate the regional standard of excellence. Much thanks to the entire JPS team for their support in providing a new high voltage infrastructure to supply the 500 KVA transformer that now powers the docks!

On the morning of Wednesday, September 21st, at 7:00am the team boats start their parade towards the starting line, and at 7:30am the action begins with a bang - literally - as our Commodore fires the club flare to initiate the classic Bimini Start! The sight of 48 Marlin-hunting vessels accelerating to planing speed, and heading out of the harbor channel in their quest for crucial competition points, will surely give goose bumps to everyone lucky enough to witness it.

A variety of locations are well-suited to make the best of this spectacle - from Pier 1, and Margaritaville, to Doctors' Cave Beach and the balcony at Biggs. So make your plans early - and don't forget to grab your video



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camera, as MoBay has never before seen as impressive a starting line-up as what will take to the waves that morning! "Lines out" is at 5:00pm, at which point the boats return to the dock, and the weigh station becomes a busy place well worth visiting. As the light fades, it is a certainty that anglers and friends alike will settle down for an evening of music, Appleton rum, and tall tales!

Thursday morning, the 22nd, sees the fishing begin at 7:00am, with the boats headed out for another day of battle – and you can follow the action for all days, blow by blow, via "Instagram Stories", on the tournament Instagram at @MoBay_Marlin_55 – as well as our Twitter feed. "Lines out" is again at 5:00pm, at which point the docks are once again the place to be.

The final day, Friday the 23rd, also kicks off at 7:00am, as the teams desperately search for that last fish or two, to secure or improve their standing in the charts! "Lines out" is at 4:00pm on this final day, to allow for final weigh-in and scoring to be completed before the evening's Awards and Charity Comedy night. At 6:30pm, there will be an open bar to get the laughter on cue before the first Stand-Up Comedy act at 7:00pm, which sets the mood for the Awards presentations, and more comedy!

Members are always welcome at this event, and we urge you to encourage your friends to buy many, many tickets, 100% of which will be for charity. We'd also like to thank the comedians themselves, who have given their time and energy towards this cause!

And, as has become Montego Bay's new tradition, the tournament is capped by the celebratory Beach Party and Marlin Boat Raft up event, hosted once again at the one and only Doctors' Cave Bathing Club and Biggs Barbecue – beginning at 11:00am and going till dark, at which point, the MBYC will again be the place to enjoy the last of the festivities before the boats head home on Sunday.

As with the last two years, specially priced tickets are available to all members of both the MBYC, as well as Doctors' Cave Bathing Club, and your support will go a long way to ensuring that this beloved event will get better every year, and give us all something to enjoy with our friends and family for the future.

We are excited to welcome two new sponsors to the tournament this year! We are pleased to announce that Caribbean Airlines has signed on as the Official Airline of the Montego Bay International Marlin Tournament, and BMW, along with ATL Autobahn, will take us out on the road.

We are also incredibly happy to recognize the continuing and ever-strengthening partnership and support of Digicel Business, Appleton Estate, FFK Insurance, JPS, NCB Capital Markets, Sandals Resorts, Secrets Montego Bay and Viking Yacht Company, who are also providing a special trophy this year!

We look forward to you joining the fun at the 2016 MoBay Marlin 55!

My very best regards, **Bobby Stewart, Chairperson, Fishing and Tournaments Committee**



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MBYC MANAGER'S REPORT



Taddy Tavares, Club Manager

PROGRESS OF CLUB UPGRADES

General maintenance will be carried out on various sections of the property. In addition to the dock, the following projects have been and will continue to be the key areas of focus:

- Dry Dock: a clean-up campaign to remove old dinghys and other useless debris (completed last month)
- The shingles at the front entrance of Club to be given a facelift
- In collaboration with JSPCA, efforts are underway to capture and 'home' most stray cats
- Additional poles to be erected for extra lights for the tennis courts
- General clean-up of the dining patio, doors and trellises
- Re-coating of the swimming pool

EVENTS

Final preparations for the 55th Montego Bay Yacht Club Fishing Tournament, scheduled for September 20-24 are now in full swing. The upgrading of the dock with improved electrical wiring and a new deck will not only enhance its appearance, but will definitely afford resident boaters a much safer and more comfortable environment and services to 'home' their vessels.

This improvement will also attract larger visiting vessels that have specific requirements. To this end, we ask all for your cooperation in bearing with the contractors as they plod on with their respective projects. There will be instances of disruption in power, water lock-offs and minimized space in walking on the dock. I offer a reminder to everyone to please be as careful as possible when going to and from their vessels.

We encourage everyone to enjoy the Marlin Tournament. Please visit the club and enjoy the proceedings.



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Functions and events in the month of August are traditionally few in number. However, those held at various locations in the Club last month were in the form of weddings & receptions, birthdays, family reunions and a children's workshop gearing students for back-to-school.

OTHER 'HAPPENINGS'

Belated birthday wishes to Heather (Admin), Buckley (Security) and Robbie (Joseph – Seahorse Grill) who all celebrated birthdays in August. And to Zeirain (Admin) whose birthday was on September 2nd.

The MBYC Newsletter is compiled, edited and published by Carole Small with the invaluable contributions and help of many others. Please send your newsletter comments, photos and contributions to carolesmall@shaw.ca.