

Jib Sheet

Trinidad and Tobago Sailing Association Annual Prizegiving An Evening of Sailing Elegance

Saturday the third of July the rain god gave the Sailing Association an ease up as the annual prizegiving at the Sailing Centre in Chaguaramas attracted a lively crowd of over 175 enthusiastic sailors, young and old, with spouses, friends and children, feteing under a crescent last quarter moon in a clear sky.

Making a break with the past, instead of a formal sit-down dinner, members and guests enjoyed generous portions of delicious hors d'oeuvres served by caterers Nazma and Balliram Rampersad, for over an hour before the official proceedings got under way.

Master of ceremonies Mark (Fish) Loe, for once abandoning his barefoot stance, wittily opened the ceremony without the traditional honorifics, in the absence of the guest of honour, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Anil Roberts, who had to make a last minute trip to South Africa for the World Cup final rounds.



Debbie Scott presents Best Female Dinghy Skipper – Kelly Ann Arrindell received by Julie Ann Bushe (Kelly's Cousin)

First on the agenda was the roster of top Dinghy Sailors, some of whom were unavoidably absent, competing in North American championships in Canada. Committee member Andrew Affoo ably described the achievements of the dinghy fleet, in home waters, in regional and international events over the 2009/2010 sailing season and paid tribute to coaches, monitors and newly recruited Chris Shuter,

a certified Yacht Master and Youth Trainer, who serves as Sailing School Administrator. During the season two UK based dinghy coaches ran a training session for coaches and dinghy sailors, while in May Tim Cross, an International Sailing Federation representative, conducted an evaluation

of the Association's administrative, management, training, racing and safety procedures, with a view to eventual accreditation to international standards by ISAF.

Awardees were: Male Skipper of the Year: Derek Poon Tip, **Female Skipper of the Year:** Kelly Ann Arrindell, **Best Optimist Skipper:** Abigail Affoo, **Best Laser Skipper:** Wesley Scott.



Racer Cruiser Boat of the Year 2010: Skipper Lloyd de Roche and proud crew of NIRVANA

It was then the turn of Committee Vice President Jay Alvi to spell out the achievements of the offshore cruiser fleet over the past season, ranging from racing in the Gulf, to events further north – Grenada, Bequia, Antigua, as well as the homegrown Tobago Race

Week Regatta, which was recently shifted to a date closer to Carnival, to fit in with a Southern Caribbean racing circuit. He announced that while Tobago would in all likelihood be the venue for a regatta for Bum Boats, kite surfers and wind surfers, the big boat event would be repatriated to Trinidad in 2011 and the calendar of racing for the 2011/12 season would be published shortly.

Prizes were presented to:

Racer-Cruiser Boat of the Year: Nirvana – Lloyd De Roche,

Racing Class Boat of the Year: Jaguar – Peter Morris,

Melges 24 Class Boat of the Year: Wasabi – Jeffrey Chen,

Most Travelled Regatta Attendee: Stephen Bushe,

Skipper of the Year: Lloyd De Roche,

and with sponsorship from BMobile Blackberry, crisp white Nike polo shirts carrying the new TTSA logo and the name of a winning boat were



Panoramic view of An Evening of Sailing Elegance 2010 at the TTSA



Racing Committee Paul Solomon, Simone Brown presents Skipper Peter Morris and crewmates of JAGUAR – Racing Class Boat of the Year 2010



3rd prize of Round the Gulf Classic to Bastien Pouthier of BREAKAWAY



Stephen Bushe receives the Traveler prize for most regattas attended overseas.



Jeffery Chen of WASABI receives Melges 24 Class Boat of the Year 2010

presented to all members of its crew.

In running a **Round the Gulf Race**, the past season successfully renewed an event that had been in abeyance for many years and hampers, courtesy A.S.Bryden and Sons(Trinidad) Ltd, went to the first three finishers: **1. Nirvana** – Lloyd De Roche, **2. Pirouette** – Robert De Vlaming, **3. Breakaway** – Bastien Pouthier.

Committee Secretary Antony Edwards briefly outlined plans to publish a commemorative history of sailing in Trinidad and the Association since its establishment of the Chaguaramas Sailing Centre, requesting assistance with names of outstanding personalities, past records, photos and suggestions for sponsorship.

An outstanding feature of this prize giving was the inauguration of a perpetual TTSA Hall of Fame as Committee President David Leighton introduced the four first inductees with a memorable recitation of their significant lifetime achievements. After receiving a personalised plaque and a bottle of bubbly, Tattering Champagne compliments of Vemco Ltd., each of them regaled the gathering with fascinating accounts of their youthful introduction to sailing and serious and amusing episodes in their half century plus yachting lives. For the late Duggie Myers, his younger brother Harry did

the honours, while there in person were Rawle Barrow, Sidney Knox and Harold La Borde, all of whose stories were roundly applauded.

The final awards were in the form of two hamper door prizes drawn on entrance ticket stubs, while a BMobile sponsored Blackberry awarded boats acting as Race Committee Officer of the Day in a draw from names of yachts participating in the past racing season went to Crash Test 3 – owner Tim Kimpton. As a backdrop, was a banner clearly indicating the sentiments of the evening – An evening of Sailing Elegance, recognizing and thanking our Season’s Sponsors who contributed to the overall success of our Sailing Season – Angostura Ltd., Brydens Ltd., Alstons Marketing Co., Bmobile, Budget Marine Rigging Ltd., Carib Brewery Ltd. Iceberg Vodka, Marine Pilots of T&T, Pres T Con, Trinidad Import and Export Co. Ltd., Soca Sails, Brown & Partners Design Ltd and Vemco Ltd.

MC Mark Loe closed the proceedings with a vote of thanks to the Association’s staff, to all concerned with the organisation of the Prizegiving as well as the past racing season, and in anticipation of members taking part in future activities in the coming season, then invited all present to enjoy the rest of the evening, patronising the bar, dancing and listening to the music of DJ Larry Govia.



TTSA Hall of Fame Inductees 2010 (L to R): Mr. Rawle Barrow, Mr. Harry Myers for Mr. Duggie Myers, Mr. Harold la Borde, Mr. Sidney Knox with HOF Awards and Tattering Champagne.



TTSA Hall of Fame Inductee Harold la Borde receives his HOF Award.



Brother of Duggie Myers, Harry Myers accepts TTSA Hall of Fame Award on his behalf.



Jay Alvi presents TTSA Hall of Fame Award to Rawle Barrow.



TTSA Members and Guests celebrating An Evening of Sailing Elegance – All feet on deck!



Presentation of TTSA Hall of Fame Award to Sidney Knox by Management Committee Members