

## MONTEGO BAY YACHT CLUB J22 RACE REPORT



International Invitational J/22 Regatta

26<sup>th</sup> February – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009



### MBYC honoured again

They asked us to come back! What an honour. The Cayman Island Sailing Club CISC excelled again with the 3<sup>rd</sup> KPMG International Invitational Regatta to which they kindly invited back MBYC J22. The regatta was organized so well by so many experts to run itself. The sailing was memorable and activities left us all gasping and begging.....for more! With a huge team of volunteers and sponsors, sailing and partying went swimmingly well (literally for Juan, on more than one occasion!)



Twelve J22 boats raced, six from Cayman with six invited teams from the Bahamas, Bermuda, the UK and the US. The hot crews were all from Cayman, with the Compass crew being joint favorites and with Donald and the Youngsters mixing it up. We knew we were in for a tough time but had every faith in doing well. As long as we could keep the Argentinean on the boat...we were determined to leave with some booty.

## JAM On!

We pieced together probably the greatest J22 racing team that has left Jamaica in recent years. Pity there was no category for the over 50's (next year?) Peter Harper on the helm, Richard Hamilton in the middle, Juan Francisco Lago on the bow and Jacqueline Hamilton as the tactician.

## Fluke

The main event spans 3 days with 3 races on each day. The day before racing started there was a practice race. From experience, we don't do well in practice races but this year we romped ahead and won! Despite a man overboard (he really clings on well) we got a good start and were able to convert to a bullet. There was no helicopter distracting us and we did well in the typical Cayman conditions of 15 to 20 knots and a short chop. Happy, confident and perhaps a tad relaxed we proceeded to make the most of our Caymanian hosts hospitality

## The Main Event

The helicopter did appear on the first day of real racing taking some fantastic action photographs and it was downhill in the points for us from there. The big breeze was still with us and we watched the Cayman teams show the fleet how to and where to go. The youth team on Regatta Sprite showed how practice really makes perfect too. Not so good for team Jamaica. To cheer us up we did another man overboard on a tight spinnaker reach and once again the man was able to get back in the boat without even breaking his smile

On the second day of racing the breeze dissolved ahead of an approaching cold front and turned very light. All of the heavy weather teams were suddenly challenged by the tactical minds of the visitors and it was common to see the teams from day 1 towards the back of the fleet on day 2. Those who found the pressure and kept in phase did the best: those who got squeezed at the committee boat with no wind and lots of chop didn't. Team Jamaica of the regatta with a clean way to the finish.

The front hit Cayman in the morning. The CISC had hidden in the canals around was coming and it was just found 20 to 25 knots out of the dock. It would have – but after several hours of



managed to get their first win start and a nose ahead all the

early hours of the following arranged for all the J22's to be the sailing club knowing what as well. The third morning the north blowing directly onto been a beautiful day for racing delay the race committee

cancelled for the day. It wasn't so much the conditions on the water but the channel to get to the race course – with the murky water it was impossible to see where the limits were and safety was the name of the game. It didn't stop Team Jamaica from windsurfing straight out from the ramp in delectable conditions.

### Party Time!

Having played safe in the middle of the fleet (4<sup>th</sup> at the end of day 2) we were positioned



exactly where we had planned to be – ready to challenge for the lead on the last day and leave with all the booty. Of course with the last day's racing cancelled this all came to naught and we left 'bootyless'. Congratulations to the Cayman teams who placed one and two and the first time J22 sailors from the Bahamas who were very strong in the lighter breeze. We made up for the loss of the days sailing enjoying several parties for the visitors for

which we thank them. Night 1 – Latin Fiesta Margaritas Night 2 – Kaybo barbeque on the beach Night 3 – Prize giving



A big thank you to our host, the beautiful Judy Bullmore, her house guest Andrew, the race committee (Peta), the boat owners, the organising committee and anyone else who had anything at all to do with sponsoring or volunteering.

See you next time, Cayman!

