

Gouyave Storm Back to Take All Top Prizes at Westerhall White Jack Workboat Regatta 2017

Skipper Ted Richards with his talented crew sailing in Tomorrow's Worry, one of the five matched design boats owned by Grenada Sailing Festival, stormed through the finish line to bring the title of Champion of Champions back to Gouyave for 2017. The winners took away a cheque for US\$1,000.00, plus a Yamaha outboard engine presented by McIntyre Brothers. This completed a 'Hat-Trick' of wins in the major Match Race Finals, with Gouyave crews taking First place in both the Budget Marine Junior National Team Sailing Final and the Senior Team Sailing Final, sponsored by Carib.

Sailing action took centre stage on Grand Anse Beach on Saturday and Sunday 28 & 29 January as the 24th annual Grenada Sailing Festival White Jack Workboat Regatta took place, bringing high adrenalin racing and fun feting to the crowds who came to enjoy this unique sailing experience – both local supporters and overseas visitors. The fleet of 25 boats from Gouyave, Grand Mal, Sauteurs and Woburn lined Grand Anse Beach – bringing their well-known and much loved colour to its shores again. The organisers were delighted to report new boats had been built to take part in the 2017 event, and Woburn, with a Community fleet of ten boats entered two Racing Classes for the first time: Woburn Traditional and Woburn Sport.

The racing was as close and competitive as ever in the Community Classes, with every skipper and crew sailing hard to take first place and the chance to go through to race in the Westerhall White Jack Champion of Champions Match Race Final. At the end of the first day positions were close, leaving everything to race for on Sunday.

After another two races in The Community Class Series on Sunday morning the scene was set for an afternoon of Match Race Finals. In another first for 2017, the two Woburn Classes took to the water together in a fun 'Bragging Rights' race between Tradition and Sport – the honours going to skipper Allan Noel with his boat Here Comes Trouble. The excitement levels moved to a new high as the growing crowds on Grand Anse Beach waited for the boats and teams to be picked for the National Team Sailing Match Races in the fleet of GSF16s – the 16' workboats owned by the Grenada Sailing Festival.

The racing was as tough as ever and in the Budget Marine Junior Final, Team Gouyave, sailing in Pink Gin,



came through at the finish line to take first in front of Woburn in Mr.X. The crowds were treated to more high-octane racing in the Senior National Team Sailing Final sponsored by Carib, with Team Gouyave and Pink Gin once again crossing the finish line first in front of Woburn in Mr.X, with Sauteurs sailing Gybe Talk in third place.

The afternoon ended when the winning skippers and crews from the Community Class Race Series battled it out in the Champion of Champions Final. As the sun went down, crowds lined the water's edge to watch the five crews battle for the Big Prize. Positions changed throughout the race, but Gouyave pressed hard and started to show an edge, starting the charge for the line after rounding the final mark. The Gouyave crew from the Community Class winning boat Classic came home in style to take the Title, trophy, US\$1,000.00 and the prestige prize of a Yamaha outboard engine donated by McIntyre Brothers.

There was great action on the beach as well, with Festival favourite DJ Blackstorm keeping the atmosphere to 'D'Max'. Once again, Macdonald's Amusement Park from Calivigny provided a fun Bouncy Castle in Camerhogne Park for children to enjoy, plus Caribbean Rentals Grenada created a great new attraction with their ATVs and a Segway for people to try. The Nature Conservancy & the Environment Division of the Ministry of Agriculture once again had a great display of information about the range of projects being undertaken in Grenada, plus a fun treasure hunt with great prizes which started in Molinere and ended at their booth on the beach.

Once the crowd had enjoyed the excitement of the last race of the day on Saturday, they moved into Camerhogne Park & enjoyed great music with live performances from A#keem and Dennison 'Lion Paw' and D Unit – some of Grenada's most talented and popular musicians. Both acts will be on stage performing at the Pure Grenada Music Festival taking place from 5 – 7 May. On Sunday afternoon the large crowd was treated to a wonderful session of 'Sweet Sounds of Pan' with the Republic Bank Angel Harps Steel Orchestra. Many thanks again to the republic Bank for presenting this enjoyable performance. After the final Prize Presentation, the crowd was once again entertained by A#keem, and the whole event was rounded off with a wonderful firework display courtesy of Spice Island Fireworks, Dodgy Dock and True Blue Bay Resort -- a true high spot to start the week of Independence celebrations.

The Westerhall White Jack Workboat Regatta was staged on Saturday & Sunday 28-29 January on Grand Anse Beach and Camerhogne Park. Grenada Sailing Festival wishes to thank Sponsors, Supporters & Festival Friends who make the event possible: Westerhall Rums; the Grenada Tourism Authority; Budget Marine; True Blue Bay Resort's Dodgy Dock; Carib; Spice Isle Fish House; McIntyre Brothers & Yamaha; Waggy T; Horizon Yacht Charters; Camper & Nicholsons Marinas; Republic Bank; Courts; Blue Aqua; Bryden & Minors with Campari, Smirnoff & Monster; BOSS FM; L.L Ramdhanny's True Value & Harris Paints; DeSign Factory; GUT Co-operative Credit Union; Andy's Soup House; Victory Bar; Umbrellas Beach Bar; Coca Cola; Bulk Buy; Digicel; Clarke's Court Boatyard & Marina; Grenada Marine; Caribbean Rentals Grenada; Amalgamated Security Services; Savvy Grenada Sailing Charters; Island Dreams Yacht Services; Sunsation Tours; and Spice Island Fireworks.

Thanks also goes to the Royal Grenadian Police Force; the Grenada Coastguard; Grenada Lifeguards; GTA Beach Cleaning Crew; Grenada Solid Waste Management Authority; St. John's Ambulance and W & R Electrical Contractors for their support.