

It's Gouyave All The Way at Westerhall White Jack Workboat Regatta 2019

The title of ***Champion of Champions*** returns to Gouyave for the third year running when skipper Kimmon Charles with his talented crew from Gouyave Canoe *Ah Doh Know*, sailing the GSF16 *Pink Gin*, stormed through just in front of GSF16 *Tomorrow's Worry*, skippered by Shankeil Gibbs and crew from Woburn Sport boat *Press Play*, in one of the most exciting & closest Match Race Finals in many years. The winners took away a cheque for US\$1,000.00, sponsored by Republic Bank, plus a Yamaha outboard engine for the boat owner, 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 once again on Saturday and Sunday 2 & 3 February as the 26th annual Grenada Sailing Festival Westerhall White Jack Workboat Regatta took place, bringing high adrenalin racing and fun feting to the crowds of local supporters and overseas visitors, who came to enjoy this unique sailing experience. A fleet of 19 boats from Gouyave, Sauteurs and Woburn lined Grand Anse Beach - bringing their well-known and much loved colour to its shores again. This year for the first time the workboats were joined by a fleet of Optimist & Mosquito Dinghies - sailed by talented Junior sailors from Gouyave & Woburn, taking part in Budget Marine Junior Dinghy Racing.

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. 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 Budget Marine and Carib National Team Sailing Match Races using the fleet of GSF16s - the 16' matched design workboats of the Grenada Sailing Festival.

The racing was as tough as ever and in the Budget Marine Junior Final, Team Gouyave, sailing in *Mr.X*, came through at the finish line to take first in front of Woburn in *Tomorrow's Worry*. The crowds were treated to more high-octane racing in the Senior National Team Sailing Final sponsored by Carib, with Team Gouyave and *Mr.X* once again crossing the finish line first in front of Woburn in *Tomorrow's Worry* 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 race for the Big Prize. The crew from *Ah Doh Know*, the winner of the Gouyave Canoe Community Class, sailing the GSF16 *Pink Gin*, 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.

Winners went home with cash prizes, trophies and a great selection of Westerhall Rums products. In the true spirit of the Festival, participants that did not gain a prize place in their Community Class were awarded a cash Consolation Prize and gifts from the Grenada Tourism Authority. There were also Gift Vouchers from Courts and each boat is to receive a Voucher from Harris Paints valid for the whole of 2019 - to go towards preparations for 2020.

There was great action on the beach as well, with Festival favourite DJ Blackstorm keeping the atmosphere to 'D' Max'. Crowds also enjoyed all the best traditional dishes from Oil Down to Lobster at Community Kitchen food stalls and sampled the range of Westerhall Rums, plus ice-cold Carib beers, the Official Beer of the Festival, and refreshing Glenelg Spring Water, the Official water for Grenada Sailing Festival, at the Festival Beach Bars throughout both days. The Environment Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and consultants GIZ once again had a great display of information about the range of projects being undertaken in Grenada.

After the final Prize Presentation, the party continued with DJ Blackstorm, 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.

Grenada Sailing Festival wishes to thank Sponsors, Supporters & Festival Friends who make the event possible: Westerhall Rums Westerhall White Jack; Grenada Tourism Authority; Budget Marine; CARIB; SIFH Group; True Blue Bay Resort's Dodgy Dock; McIntyre Brothers & Yamaha; Glenelg Spring Water; BLAST Grenada; Camper & Nicholsons Port Louis Marina; Mount Cinnamon; Horizon Yacht Charters; COURTS Grenada; Republic Bank; Antillean Group; Waggy T; Bryden & Minors; Coca-Cola Grenada; Ramdhanny's True Value & Harris Paints; CARIBTRANS; DeSign Factory; Andy's Soup House; Victory Bar & Restaurant; Island Dreams Yacht Services; Sanvic's Skip Hire; Savvy Grenada Sailing Charters; Grenada Marine; Clarke's Court Boatyard & Marina; Esther's Bar; CashWiz Grenada; act-artanddesign; Bulk Buy; Amalgamated Security Services Grenada & Spice Island Fireworks .

Thank you also to Budget Marine; Tropical Sails & Canvas, Turbulence Grenada Ltd.; Ramdhanny's True Value and ACE Home Hardware for offering discounts to workboat participants to help prepare for Westerhall White Jack Workboat Regatta 2019.

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

WESTERHALL WHITE JACK WORKBOAT REGATTA 2019 - RESULTS

Full Results as follows:

Community Class Racing:

Gouyave Sloop

1. Classic - Skipper Ted Richards
2. VOOP - Skipper Shevon Sampson
3. Riot Act - Skipper Lennon Marshall

Gouyave Canoe

1. Ah Doh Know - Skipper Kimon Charles
2. Etieron - Skipper Devon Edwards

Sauteurs

1. The Flying Dutchman - Skipper Hughie McIntosh
2. No Retreat No Surrender - Skipper Chris Jeremiah
3. Climate Change - Skipper Heron Richardson

Woburn Sport

1. Press Play - Skipper Shankeil Gibbs
2. Loose Cannon - Skipper Adian Bethel
3. Trouble - Skipper Allan Noel

Match Race Finals - raced in the Grenada Sailing Festival's own fleet of workboats - the GSF16s:

One Crew is nominated by each Racing Community to represent them in the National team Sailing Finals:

National Team Sailing - Junior - Sponsored by Budget Marine

1. Team Gouyave - sailing in Mr X
2. Team Woburn - sailing in Tomorrow's Worry

(NB: This year Sauteurs Racing Community did not have enough sailors 18 years or under to enter a Team)

National Team Sailing - Senior - Sponsored by Carib

1. Team Gouyave -- sailing in Mr X
2. Team Woburn -- sailing in Tomorrow's Worry
3. Team Sauteurs - sailing in Gybe Talk

Westerhall White Jack 'Champion of Champions' Match Race Final Final

The Skipper & crew from the winning boat in each of the Community Racing Classes qualify to enter a Match Race Final in the GSF16 workboats to find the 'Champion of Champions'

2019 'Champion of Champions':

Winner - Gouyave - Skipper Kimmon Charles and crew from Ah Doh Know (winner of Gouyave Canoe Class) sailing GSF16 Pink Gin -- winning US\$1,000.00 & boat owner winning a Yamaha outboard engine from McIntyre Brothers

Second : - Woburn - Skipper Shankeil Gibbs and his crew from Press Play (winner of Woburn Sport Class) sailing GSF16 Tomorrow's Worry - winning US\$500.00

Third: Gouyave with a crew from Classic (winner of Gouyave Sloop Class) - Skipper Ted Richards - winning US\$250.00

Budget Marine Junior Dinghy Racing

1. Keagan Bedeau
2. Tavell Bernadine
3. Nicolai Collins

Other Participants: Jerel Brathwaite; Tchidi William; CJ; Makhya Brathwaite; Dwaynille Henry