



President's report to the 2016 AGM

Highlights (and a couple of lowlights):

- Olympic year – 2 sailors competed in Rio: Cecilia Wollman and Cameron Pimentel in the Laser Radial and Laser competitions respectively – Cameron did particularly well given his was a tripartite spot/entry
- Sailing takes more awards than any other single sport at the 2016 Government Sports Awards
- Continued attempts to get Government recognition of sailing as a National Sport
- No government bursary funding for youth sailors in the summer programmes & reduced funding for help with the cost of overseas regattas
- Real outreach with the AC Endeavour programme – 2,000 school children have had experience of the programme to date
- Difficult year with office administration: desperately need a volunteer who will commit and take ownership to reduce the burden on the board of governors
- 3 sailors qualified and going to Youth Worlds in New Zealand
- Congratulations to the Viper 640 Class, and in particular RBYC past-commodore Somers Kempe, for attracting 42 teams to the International Viper 640 Championship – the majority of whom were first-time visitors to Bermuda; this was the largest international keelboat regatta ever held in Bermuda.
- Benn Smith awarded a Government Sports Award to help with funding for the Laser Worlds in Ireland
- 130 optimists participated in the Bermuda Optimist National Championships
- No match racing was held in Bermuda during 2016
- Umpire training seminar was held and some umpire experience was available during the M32 Bermuda winter series
- More efficient administration at the Dept of Youth, Sport and Recreation is evident with resulting impact on our reporting obligations
- ALL Bermuda sailors going overseas MUST notify the BSA in advance in order that we can submit their names to the BSADA
- BSA submitted a section in the 2017 Sailing in Bermuda book being published with Government support

Special congratulations to:

Cameron Pimental for his 41st place (out of 46) in the Laser fleet at the Rio Olympics against a very tough fleet. His top finish was 27th which is very credible and to be commended.

Cecilia Wollman for her 34th place (out of 37) in the Laser Radial in Rio, for winning the Junior Sportswoman of the Year award and for being selected as a MUSTO ambassador finalist with the chance to win £5,000 of sponsorship

Somers Kempe for getting so many first time visitors to Bermuda for the International Viper 640 Championships

Benn Smith and Peter Dill for 17th & 18th respectively (out of 57 sailors) at the Laser Worlds in Ireland in July

Campbell Patton for 2nd place (out of 49 sailors in the Gold fleet) at the 2016 CORK International / Sail Canada Youth Championships, thereby qualifying Bermuda for the 2016 Youth Worlds

Benn Smith for being selected for a Government Youth Sports Scholarship

Somers & Dede Cooper for their achievement in winning a Government Sports Award for their many years of contributions to youth sailing in Bermuda with their organization of the Renaissance Re Junior Gold Cup (and to Renaissance Re for continuing their sponsorship)

West End Sailboat Club for their maintenance of the Comet fleet and their success at attracting international Comet sailors to compete in the RBYC International Invitational Regatta.

Again, I must express my sincere thanks to the Board of Governors for their support and considerable additional and sometimes onerous responsibilities in the absence of permanent office help at the BSA. In particular, Susan Stan and Leatrice Oatley for stepping in and making sure that the quarterly reports to Government are delivered in time and to Lettie for all her work on the financials and in making sure that the bills get paid, the lights stay on and the parents of the youth sailors receive prompt reimbursement for the expenses they incur when our youth sailors represent Bermuda overseas; to Martin Siese for his tireless follow ups with the BOA and the BSADA; to Somers Cooper for his maintenance of the BSA Facebook page; to Pete Ramsdale for his continued help with the BSA website; to Neil Redburn for securing a new computer for the BSA office; to George Hayward for all his help with supplying sponsored beer and Bacardi product for the Round the Islands Race at Cup Match (and whenever else we need it); to Allan Williams for his sterling work on tidying up the BER sail number registry and the legacy assets at Darrells Island. It is very much a team effort at the BSA and we are extremely fortunate to have the services of such a dedicated and willing board of governors who all step up to the plate when required.

To Sally Browne, Liz Jones and Laura McBeath for helping us out in the BSA office from time to time when we get desperate; PLEASE, if anyone knows someone who might be prepared to take this on permanently, would they let us know?

I'm not sure that the average sailor realizes how much work goes on behind the scenes.