SALUTE TO

YEARS OF SERIOUS FUN!

SUPPLEMENT OF THE DAILY HERALD
MARCH 3rd, 2020
Have a blast!

For many, the first weekend of March means only one thing: The annual St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, already in its 40th edition. That the four-day happening has earned its stripes is an understatement.

It’s become an almost irreplaceable fixture on the calendar that it is anxiously anticipated by not just those interested in boating, but the public at large. This no doubt has a lot to do with the accompanying entertainment spread out over four different nights featuring quality and internationally renowned musical acts.

One should remember, though, that the sailing competition remains the focus, making the regatta the island’s biggest sporting event that attracts thousands of visitors from abroad. These guests come to take part in and/or witness the races, but also to enjoy the parties. The latter are what residents tend to most identify the regatta with, helping to maintain the local support needed to ensure its existence in the long run.

The event’s positive impact on the tourism economy also in terms of worldwide exposure cannot be denied. As a matter of fact, the local marine industry likely would not have seen the spectacular growth it has experienced without the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

So, hats off once again to the organisers, sponsors and essential volunteers who make it all happen. We wish the yacht crews – without whom it would of course not be possible – favourable winds and friendly seas, hoping they truly have a blast on “The Friendly Island”.

The Publisher

The Heineken Regatta in Perspective

When Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta started 40 years ago, there were four other regatta events in the Caribbean; now there are many, many more.

The events 40 years ago were a mix of boats with a greater local participation, generally smaller and much less specialized than many of the regattas now running in the Caribbean.

The “general” regatta events still exist, but their share of the total regatta event participation has become very much less.

Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta maintains its position as the largest of these general regattas and its trademark is clearly the strong music and after racing onshore component. No other regatta offers the onshore attractions that take place in this regatta.

But other event types have developed for particular audiences. The “superyachts” category is likely to sail the St. Barths bucket or the Antigua Superyacht Regatta. The “Grand Prix” yachts are likely to sail the Voile St Barths. The adventurous long distance sailors are likely to sail the Caribbean 600, a long distance race that circles many islands including Saba and Sint Maarten.

Classic Yachts are likely to sail the Antigua Classic Yacht Regatta. Beach cat sailors are likely to want to sail the Cata Cup in St. Barths. Boat owners who own particular boat types are likely to sail events designed for their boats like the Swan Cup or the Oyster Regatta (two particular boat brands from Finland and the UK).

The following 40 years are likely to see regatta events continue strongly in the Caribbean, but there is likely to be that continued narrowing of the audience interest. Different islands will be wanting to attract niches that can ultimately become great regattas, which will not only create attention for their destination, but maybe some fun, excitement and economic value.
Race Director Marc van Dongen: ‘I speak the same language as sailors’

By Robert Luckock

When Sint Maarten Yacht Club was looking for a new Race Director to take the Heineken Regatta to the next level, one of the people consulted for advice was media maestro Anton van de Koppel, whose association and experience with the Heineken go back 30 years.

Anton and Marc have been friends for 25 years from working in the media. Anton recommended Marc for the job based on his extensive racing background and organizing experience. Marc took about a month to think about it before deciding to accept the offer, he arrived in St. Maarten in November to get a feel for what lay ahead.

Marc (60) is the whole package. He’s raced different types of boats all his life, from dinghies to Yngling to 29ers to Tornado catamarans to the heady heights of the Whitbread around the world race.

He’s been on the media and television side of sailing projects – notably as media producer for the 2005 APF AMRO campaign – and in recent years as board member of class organisations at various levels, ranging from club races to world championships.

He was Race Director for the European championships in the 29er class in 2014 in the Netherlands, an exercise for the race committee for the World Championships two years later.

The hugely successful second Caribbean Multihull Challenge, for which he was Race Director, provided a perfect introduction into how the racing is in St. Maarten. Now the Heineken beckons.

“When I came here in November, we were lent a boat by Garth Steyn and I was amazed at the beauty of the coastline. You have fantastic wind, sunshine, warm water, and I understand why sailors from all over the world love this regatta,” he enthused. “I was sold. I met a lot of volunteers who were very welcoming.

“It’s important to have races that are interesting and inventive to please amateur sailors, but also challenge professional sailors. I do like organization. That comes from my time on committee boats. My racing background helps; I speak the same language as sailors.”

Marc took to sailing from a very young age in the Netherlands, following the traditional route of sailing small dinghies on the lakes until his later teenage years when he sailed more competitively.

“I was sailing in the Yngling Class on the North Sea coast when I saw big boats in the port and that really interested me,” Marc recalls.

When the Innova was the Whitbread around the world race boat and was surprised to see his friend Dirk Nauta on board. The two had previously been racing together on another boat. Dirk explained he was entering the 1985/86 Whitbread race as skipper.

“I said to him, ‘Please send me a postcard when you get to one of the stopovers.’ For me, it was so exciting to meet one of the Whitbread sailors.”

Dirk invited Marc to come on board for a delivery and then there were some qualifying races to do. This was some six to eight months before the actual Whitbread race started. After the Fastnet race, Dirk formally asked Marc if he wanted to join the crew for the Whitbread race. Marc happened to also be a qualified chef and, as the German chef had just lost his job, the vacancy came up.

“It was the opportunity of a lifetime. I didn’t even have to think about my answer,” he remembers.

It was a coincidence that Bouwe Bekking was also part of the crew on Philips Innovator. Bekking will be skipper on the Volvo 65 Childhood for the Heineken and no doubt he and Marc will be pleased to see each other again.

Marc decided not to do the next Whitbread race with Dirk on the modified boat with new sponsor Equity Law 2 as after some test racing, he didn’t feel the boat was competitive enough compared to the original.

It’s a coincidence that Marc was a chef during the 1985 Whitbread race as was Tracy Edwards MBE on Atlantic Privateer in the same race.

“I think Marc and Tracy should have a cook-off,” Anton says as he and Marc break into laughter.
Marc van Dongen has been named Race Director for St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

One of the goals of Race Director Marc van Dongen for the 40th anniversary of St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is to keep many of the courses close to shore so the sailors could enjoy the natural beauty of the island.

Race committee on course to deliver simple yet challenging course for the 40th anniversary

St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is celebrating 40 years of serious fun and is therefore looking at the regatta’s Past, Present and Future – all this, while the Race Committee is striving to “Keep It Simple”.

“The goal of the Race Committee is to set out enjoyable race courses,” said Cary Byerley. “We have a new Race Officer and we are here to assist him.” The committee consists of Race Officer Marc van Dongen, Cary Byerley, Rien Korteknie and Joris van den Eynde.

In the past few years as the regatta attempted to offer more challenging races with multiple marks and courses being announced just before the start of a race, to take advantage of the current wind situation, some sailors were left confused.

New Race Officer Marc van Dongen, at the age 60, has an impressive résumé that includes racing in the 1985 Whitbread Round the World Race on board the Phillips Innovator. He has raced in and worked on regattas at the club levels and all the way up to World Championships.

“The first thing I did was study the race courses used in the past. I really like the one in 2015, the 35th anniversary course,” said van Dongen. “For me, I want the courses to be adventurous and have an element of being tactical. I want to test sailing skill and decision making.”

He explained that one of the biggest tactical questions is presented to the sailors Friday during the around the island race. As the boats sail past the northern part of the island up the Anguilla channel, do they hug the coast looking for flat seas and lift, or do they power right up the middle hoping for a friendly current, stronger winds and – for the lighter boats - an occasional wave to catch.

“I was honoured when asked to be Race Director for this world famous event. It’s a fantastic team to work with and they bring a wealth of local knowledge with them. Cary Byerley, Rien Korteknie and Joris van den Eynde have all been involved in this event in one way or another for many years,” said van Dongen.

The group started meeting. Everyone brought a different perspective to the table. The youngest at 40, Van den Eynde has raced with his dad for years. As a teen, he was the lightest of the crew, so he handled the foredeck. “We want to bring new energy to the regatta; provide quality races and competitive classes,” said van den Eynde. He continues to say new courses have been developed and old favourites modified. “I’m all about safety. I like to err on the side of caution, with a little bit bigger start lines,” said Byerley. A while ago, a race committee on another island dodged a bullet when they accidently had two groups of sailors race around the same mark at the same time in opposite directions.

Byerley first joined the regatta in the “late” 1980s and started volunteering in 1993. She left a few years ago, but decided to return for the 40th Anniversary. “We tried to simplify some things. We get back the amount of marks that will be used and we worked on the announcement system. Courses will be posted on the website earlier and then repeated over the radio during the start sequence,” said van Dongen.

“Anniversaries are always big. You usually get more people so it is important that everything is just right,” said Byerley. “This year, eight Volvos have already signed up for the regatta. That is amazing to have so many at one time in one place.”

She continued, “I actually prefer to watch the class 40; they are very exciting.”

Byerley admitted that in the past, she has been the director of the Big Boat Series. “We wanted to keep the flavour of the past regattas but still offer a new course design. I think we achieved that.”

“The island is so beautiful,” said van Dongen. “Even while the sailors are out on the water, I want them to see the beauty. We kept several of the courses close in, to ensure the sailors have a memorable visual experience.

The 40th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta features 26 courses.

8 ‘KIDZ AT SEA’ TRAINEES POISED FOR FIRST EVER HEINEKEN REGATTA

By Robert Luckock

Eight young trainees from the “Zero to Hero” sailing programme will be racing in their first St. Maarten Heineken Regatta on the Catalina 36 Moondance in CSA 6, Kidz at Sea founder Garth Steyn disclosed.

“Four have just graduated from the Zero to Hero programme and the other four enrolled in the programme two weeks ago,” Steyn explained. “The warm-up regatta will be their first ever regatta. It’s going to be a great experience for them and they are excited and ready.”

Zero to Hero sailing instructor Tony Burns will be the skipper on Moondance for the Heineken Regatta.

Steyn is also competing on the J70 Franny in CSA 5 with one of the Kidz at Sea students, Kippy Gilders, Rien Korteknie, and Island Global Yachting (IGY) Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Brian Deher, as crew.

IGY Marinas is sponsoring the two boats entered.
Family and friends celebrate
and sail Heineken with Tom Pas

“I have never actually sailed in
the regatta, so since this is the
40th edition of the Heineken
Regatta, I decided to give
myself a three-quarter of a
century birthday present,” said Tom Pas.

“I was able to secure
a bareboat from the
Mooring; I rented a dock
space at Port de Plaisance
Marina, and booked a room at
the Port de Plaisance Resort.
We will go sailing in the
Heineken Regatta!”

Sailing with Pas will be his
girlfriend Nancy, daughter
Chantalle, son-in-law
Jerry, grandson Jean Luc,
granddaughter Britta and his
friend Jorn.

Pas is no ordinary visiting
sailor coming to St. Maarten
for some Serious Fun. He is a
former Commodore of
the St. Maarten Yacht Club –
1986 to 1987. He and his son
worked the start line of many
Heineken regattas. He was
on the regatta committee, “I
arrived in St. Maarten in 1981
and became the Assistant GM
and later GM of the Dawn
Beach Resort,” said Pas.

While work kept him busy,
he wanted to become more
involved in the community.

“I became part of the St.
Maarten Hotel and Tourism
Association, school board,
St. Maarten Yacht Club and
the Heineken Regatta and
Carnival!”

Pas grew up in Curacao, the
child of a Shell Oil employee.
“We were privileged to
be introduced to sailing at
the Admiral Yacht Club; we
sailed a modified row boat,
Flying Juniors, 470s, Stundies
and Pampus sailboats.” Pas
continued, “Once sailing gets
under your skin, it will be
there forever.”

During his early days in Dawn
Beach, he was invited to go out
sailing and even to race in the
upcoming Heineken Regatta.
“On the first try,” he says,
“there was so much yelling
on the boat that I decided not
to sail with him.” Pas spent
time at the Anker Bar and met local
sailors like Koos Richie, Robbie
Ferron, Frits Bus, Bobby
Velasquez, Rien Korteknie, Jan
Matser and Peter Sint.

“That made the decision to
join the Heineken Regatta
Committee easy,” recalled Pas.
“Since I did not own a sailboat
at the time, I was in charge
of setting the course at 3 o’clock
in the morning. I organized
the start and finish boat,
managed the start sequence
and recorded the finishes.
What a great time with all the
volunteers doing the start and
finish on the Cheshire Cat!”

Pas continued helping with
organizing the race. He
became the club Commodore,
yet never raced in the regatta.
The first years the regatta was
financed by the sale of T-shirts,
tank tops, and trinkets with
the logo of the club, all run by
volunteers,” recalled Pas. “A
marketing plan was developed
and Heineken has been a loyal
sponsor ever since.”

Continuing his reflections, he
shared that during the local
club races, the start boat
was for many years nothing
more than a dinghy with an
outboard motor. And now,
he says, “To see these 30–
40-footers coming toward the
start line was at times very
scary. My son Cedric and I had
an emergency plan that if any
of these monsters was going
to hit us; we would bail and
jump overboard... Thankfully,
we’ve never had to jump.
“Thanks, guys.”

“When I became involved, I
remember the regatta had
27 sailboats taking part and
when I left for Aruba in 1988,
there were about 110 — a
considerable increase. The
Heineken Regatta and the
St. Maarten Yacht Club have
evolved tremendously in a
professional aspect and in
organization,” beamed Pas. “I
[read] the newsletter of the
St. Maarten Yacht Club and
am totally impressed with the
youth program, sailing lessons
and activity the club organizes
to promote sailing.”

How unlikely is not ironic
it is that, with all the years
involved with St. Maarten
Heineken Regatta and St.
Maarten Yacht Club, Pas has
never actually sailed in the
regatta. That will change this
year, as the 40th edition finds
Pas at the helm, surrounded
by family and friends. They
will hoist sail with his own
variation to the regatta motto:
“We Are Unsupervisable and

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Heineken Regatta Preview 2020

In one of the strongest fleets seen in years, the 2020 Heineken Regatta will have some very interesting classes and consequently stiff competition to match.

The flagship class for this event will be CSA Ocean Racing, which consists largely of ex Volvo Ocean Race boats, and specifically of three Volvo 70's, three Volvo 65's and two Whitbread Volvo 60's. I don’t believe that any regatta – even in the Caribbean – has ever seen a line-up of these Ocean Racing boats. The interest in these powerful boats is further inflated by them representing Poland, Canada, the UK and the Netherlands.

A second class that is not as large is the four “Class 40s”, which is a relatively new class that is designed to do longer ocean races with minimal crew. As per the norm, France is over represented in this class.

CSA ONE is constituted of 10 relatively heavy but often magnificent yachts over 50 feet coming from Mexico, Russia, Norway, UK, Antigua, USA and Italy. They will be most watchable. This is a class the regatta can be particularly proud of and will be worth watching.

CSA TWO are the light and fast boats that include the two Melges 32’s, one of them being the local team Kick em Jenny; the other is Luis Juarbe from Puerto Rico. This likely battle may be influenced by long time visitors Jon Desmond of the US and Bernie Wong from Antigua. Grace O Malley from Australia is a little bigger than the others and has to stay well in front to sail to their rating.

CSA THREE are a group of 12 “less all out racy” boats that include regular winner Ross Appleby on the 48-foot Oyster called Scarlet Oyster, a boat whose crews have stood on podiums all around the Atlantic Ocean and Mediterranean Sea. The class also includes Dauntless, a local boat who swept his class last year.

CSA FOUR are slightly smaller boats of similar boat type to CSA3 who have graced the podium often. They include the Antigua Liquid, the Bajan Whistler and the Canadian Touch2Play as well as the local J-aguar. The Bajan Whistler is a new boat that might build on the success of the old one and from the BVI the 1111 Spike is also a possible podium taker.

CSA FIVE includes the local Melges 24 class boats, but also the highly successful Magras owned boats from St. Barths. Previous overall local winner Wanna Be is there, plus some first-time visitors like the XP33 from Connecticut in the US and the beautiful Sensei 30 from St. Barths.

CSA SIX are the lower rated and smaller boats (even though some may be physically larger). Tanner Jones from Antigua is one of the smaller boats; J30 called Blue Peter, who has performed well here before as well as Antiguan Sandy Mair on Cricket, a Beneteau 35. There are many visitors in this class that we have not seen before.

The first three Bareboat classes look like they may be pure “one design” with the Sun Odyssey 509 in the first and the Oceanis 46 and 45 in the second and third. The fourth class is likely to be a mix or be integrated in one of the other classes. Final allocation not done at press time.)

The multihull entry consists of 10 cruising hulls that fit beautifully into CSA Multi TWO and three hulls of a more performance type. These three are, however, of very differing sizes, a 26-footer, a 51-footer and an 80-footer. It’s expecting a great deal of the CSA multihull rating to deal with such a wide range of equipment. CSA Multi TWO has many well matched hulls in the 10-boat fleet, including six from the Leopard factory. Three of these Leopards were successful in the recent Multihull Challenge, including La Novia and Spellbound.

The ISLAND TIME class is one that uses an arbitrary rating that gets modified on a performance basis during the regatta. This prevents participants from having to go through the measurement process. Nine boats entered for the fun of sailing with the podium positions being of less immediate significance.

With the present class allocation (which is not final), that adds up to 15 classes and most of them at a size that can only mean they are going to be very competitive. At its peak, the Heineken Regatta had 18 classes and many more were bareboats, but these simply are no longer in existence.

This large entry makes large classes with closely matched boats possible and in turn, large classes mean that the status of winning class increases considerably – and that is good for the Sint Maarten Heineken Regatta.

NOTE: Classes may change as this preview was written before the final class allocation.

Wishing all sailors a Happy & Safe Heineken Regatta

FROM THE TRAVEL EXPERTS!
Maxi Trimaran Ultim’ Emotion 2 – pushing the speed boundary

The 80ft (24-metre long) Maxi Trimaran Ultim’ Emotion 2 will not only be turning heads, but should be producing some incredible speed around the island when she makes her debut in the 2020 St. Maarten Heineken Regatta next week.

She comes here fresh from winning the Cape2Rio race in January, where the crew set a world record for completing the race in eight days.

But as one veteran Heineken Regatta insider noted, being a one-of-a-kind trimaran, and so much bigger and faster than anyone else, the worst scenario is that she just competes against her own rating.

“The Volvo 65s will give them value for money,” he said. “But the trimaran will have to be way ahead to beat its own rating so it will be interesting, and also interesting for the race committee, to be sure that the trimaran measurement is really up to par. Anyway, the trimaran will still have to be miles ahead on time to beat the Volvos.”

It took two years for designers and builders to come up with a model that could push the very limits of yacht racing. Since her transformation, the boat is composed of three new hulls integrating the latest shape evolutions as well as DFI Incidence sails. The modification of the hulls enables her to reach better speeds and to turn faster in light winds.

This giant of the seas, built entirely of Nomex carbon, combines power, lightness, robustness and comfort – a true work of modern art – and has the weight of an 18-metre boat, according to her publicity features. Weighing only seven tons, speed is guaranteed even in light winds.

Trimaran and crew plan to arrive on March 2 and stay till March 10. The crew will be made up of six clients plus three crew members including Antoine Rabaste, owner of the boat and winner of the Cape2Rio.

“From the Cape2Rio race, her other results include 2016 second in SNSM Record, 2015 third in the Artemis Challenge and Rolex Fastnet Race, first in the Artemis Challenge in 2014 and fourth in the Route de Rhum, and first in the Route des Princes in 2013 and third in the Tour de Belle Ile.

The season has been a bit hard to be fully prepared, so we won’t participate in all the races that we would have done in better circumstances. But next year, we will be more prepared and will probably participate in the Voiles de St Barth and the BVI as well.

“Anyway, if we can be on the starting line, we will compete for the victory. We proved already that we have the boat for it and it’s up to us to make it happen again.”

Ultim Emotion 2 will return to France in April and resume its training programme for people who want to learn how to race on such a big craft under the guidance of professional skippers.

“In fact, we have so many French or foreign enthusiasts dreaming of helming such a big boat that we are organising few day trips in the Atlantic and Mediterranean coast, where people can learn and practice all the manoeuvres we do on this boat”, Kilian adds. “No pre-experience is needed – just motivation and a smile.”

View on board from the trampolines (photo contributed).
The St. Maarten Heineken Regatta is well-known among racing sailors for its close and intense competition. But the 40th Anniversary Edition of the event, scheduled for March 5-8, is also an island-wide festival of sailing, parties and music. And if you’re a cruising sailor visiting the islands, the best way to participate is to hoist sail and join the on-the-water fun.

And the easiest, coolest way to do that is sign up for the Island Time Class, the division especially created and designed for cruising sailors.

Sponsored by Hank Schmitt—who runs the free crew network Offshore Passage Opportunities (www.sailo.com) and organizes the annual NARC Rally from Newport, R.I. to St Maarten—the Island Time class is now in its fifth year.

"A lot of cruisers raced when they were younger, and still have those competitive juices," said Schmitt. "But they don’t have a race boat and don’t want to make the commitment to do a huge event. With the Island Time Class, you can be ready to go in two hours, not two days. Take the anchor off the bow and drop your dodger if you wish, and you’re all set. And you get to be part of the action, which is really the ideal way to enjoy the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta."

The Island Time division is surely the most civilized way to go sailboat racing. You compete against like-minded cruisers. There’s only one race a day, at 11:00am and a special bridge opening at 10:30am, so no frantic dash at dawn to get on the racecourse. The simple rating system changes each day, ensuring everyone gets a chance to be a winner.

A pre-regatta party for Island Timers on Wednesday, March 4, and special parties every day after racing, add to the camaraderie, as everyone meets up regularly to mingle, enjoy a beverage or two, swap sea tales and relive the day’s experience on the water.

"The idea is to get as many cruisers as possible, and have as much fun as possible," adds Schmitt. "It’s a way to open up the regatta and get more entries. If you’re already in the islands on your boat, there’s no reason not to come join us. If we don’t get enough entries, we’ll have two separate Island Time classes. But either way, it’s going to be a great time."

Among the entries so far is Schmitt’s own Swan 48, Avocet, an offshore voyager that competes every year at the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. St. Maarten’s own Robbie Ferron will be sailing his Nonsuch 33 catboat, Bunglebird. Feels is a sturdy Hallberg-Rassy 31; Parcels is a German-built Bavaria Cruiser 45; Per Gyn is a Hanse 470; another yacht built from a large production builder; and Black Diamond a Delphia 47. All of them are long-legged, fully-fount cruising boats, and all will be having a blast on the water and off at the Heineken Regatta.

"We’ve done every thing we can to make it easier and less expensive, as the entry fee is a small part of the cost of setting up the flat-out racing divisions," Schmitt says. "We aim to get sailors who want to experience something different, and it just seems to get better and better. So why not come join us for the fun? Yes, for dedicated cruisers, Island Time makes it the Right Time to sail the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta."
Whitbread round-the-world race created surprising coincidences for Heineken’s 40th

By Robert Luckock

Fate works in extraordinary ways sometimes. Imagine, of all the choices in the world, two crew members from the 1985/86 Whitbread around the world race bumping into each other in St. Maarten and making the island their home.

South African Ian Martin and Aussie Kym “Shag” Morton both raced on 82ft Maxi Atlantic Privateer in that race. The Heineken Regatta’s new Race Director, Marc van Dongen, also participated in the same 1985 race on Philips Innovator.

Ian doesn’t remember meeting the Dutch crew during the 1985 race at stopovers, but 35 years later, memories can be unreliable. Marc does remember meeting Ian and Shag a couple of times along the way.

Neither Ian nor Shag had any idea Marc was going to be Race Director until that famous meet and greet reunion at Sint Maarten Yacht Club.

In another coincidence, Tracy Edwards MBE was chef on Atlantic Privateer in the 1985 race before achieving fame later as owner/skipper of 52ft Maiden with the first all-women crew. And in further twist, Marc doubled as chef/crew on Philips Innovator.

When the original chef on Atlantic Privateer couldn’t hack it and disembarked after a stopover, Tracy came on board as chef for three legs.

“I thought she did a good job,” Shag remembers. He knew her before the Whitbread race when she crewed on yachts in the Med. “That was the era when freeze dried food was being introduced so it wasn’t great. Halfway through a leg, everything tasted the same; you didn’t know if you were eating fish, chicken, or vegetable. But we didn’t care. You couldn’t judge a cook by that food. The important thing was to get the food on time.”

Ian also had known her in England from parties before the Whitbread. “I like Tracy. She was great,” he said. When we finished the race, we had no money and nowhere to go for a while and she put us up in her house that she had just bought, but there was no furniture except one double bed. She slept on the floor and let my wife and me take the bed. That’s how kind-hearted she was.”

Adds Shag: “Remember in those days women weren’t even looked at in yachting. So, she did well in that environment against the men. To have a female cook on board was unheard of. And four years later, we did help her get Maiden ready for the 89 Whitbread race.

“I got to know her more then. I think if the owner had not let Tracy come on board for those legs and given her the opportunity, we might not have heard from her as much.”

Ian and Shag were both recruited in England for the 1985/86 Whitbread by Atlantic Privateer owner/skipper, financier David Padda Kuttel, but had not met before then. Both were among the top experienced sailors of the day having raced boats all their lives. Shag had either been racing with David or against him prior to 85 and Ian also knew him from before.

Shag, 38 at the time, was watch captain on board and took over running the boat after the first leg when they lost their mast, and after David stepped off.

“Shag was the oldest and wisest,” says Ian generously. “I was the second youngest. I did the running rigging, halyards, driving, a bit of everything. You had to do everything.

On the first leg, we had a 200-mile lead until the mast came down. But with a new mast, we came back to win the second leg and beat the record. It was the closest finish ever, beating the New Zealand boat into Auckland by seven minutes. We also had a third-place finish. The boat was fast, and we could easily have been placed if we could have finished the first leg.”

Ian did only the one Whitbread race while Shag went on to do two more, on Rothmans as co-skipper with Laurie Smith in the 1989/90 race, finishing fourth, and on Fortuna in the 1993/94 race. Fortuna did not finish due to a dismasting and was forced to retire.

“The Whitbread around the world race was the pinnacle of yacht racing in those days, there was nothing else like it,” Shag recalls. “People had been around the world singlehandedly before; Robin Knox Johnston, Sir Francis Chichester, etc., but it was the first time that fully crewed yachts went around. The first race was in 1973 and thereafter every four years. I’ll admit it was hard. I had grey hair by the end of the race.”

“There was no sponsorship or pay in those days, so you went for the food and accommodation and for the experience,” Shag continues. “But the owner David paid for everything. There was no other event you could race for 26,000 miles for 120 days, day and night, and push yourself. That was what attracted everybody. Today, it’s a paid professional job.”

When I was on Rothmans,
that was when we started to get paid.”

Unlike today, safety considerations and communications were very limited. Three lives were lost in the 1973 race.

“In those days, we just had Single Side Band (SSB) radio to communicate with. Sometimes, you didn’t hear from yachts for two or three days. You could be in trouble all alone in the Southern Ocean and nobody would hear from you for two or three days. Sometimes, boats couldn’t call but would tell another boat to report your position and tell headquarters you were okay.

“Today, you have GPS tracking for every boat. And most of the safety gear you have today was developed from those early Whitbread races. In those days, the Southern Ocean course took you down to the screaming 60s, so low you were racing between icebergs. These days, the course doesn’t go so low.”

Adds Ian: “When you committed to the race, they just asked you what your mother’s phone number was in case you died. No signing of forms and waivers or anything.”

In those days, Shag points out, you would be recruited based more on how you got on with others, how qualified you were, one reason why crew on Atlantic Privateer never had any major falling outs. There were no crew uniforms in those days, something that prompted Ian to pull out a photo of some of the crew in pirate outfits.

“The owner liked to have a crew that was competent but a bit off the wall as well,” interjects Ian.

Stopovers were where everything started to go crazy, usually for good reason, like winning a leg. “You had to make sure the boat was ready for the next leg but after that, you could party,” says Shag. “There was nothing organized. You had to make your own fun and it was really a special time. As long as you didn’t go too crazy, the countries opened up to you. Nowadays, it’s all organized for you. There’s too much of what you can’t do than what you can do.”

Shag, now 73, is semi-retired, but still races at events like the Super Yacht Club reunion with Race Director Marc van Dongen (left), Shag, and Ian (photo contributed).

Ian makes a living from his two charter catamarans Spellbound and Spellbound Too and is still active in racing. Both Ian and Shag agree that having a round-the-world race on your résumé was not only an invaluable experience but it improved your career prospects tremendously.

“It opened up doors; you could get jobs easily; people looked up to you,” said Ian. “After the race, I built, as project manager, a state-of-the art carbon race boat and got in the Guinness Book of Records with my brother for the fastest time for a monohull from England to the USA in the 1990 Carlsberg Two Star. Plus, we won a race from New York to Bermuda, and then to England in 1988. We won both legs. All of that was immediate extension of what we learnt in the Whitbread.”
Maiden to compete in 50th anniversary Retro Whitbread around-the-world race

By Robert Luckock

Maiden, the 58ft Bruce Farr-designed yacht, is to compete in the 2023 Ocean Global Race (OGR) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first Whitbread around the world race in 1973. The course around the globe will be the same as in the 1973 race, covering 27,000 miles in seven months.

Tracy Edwards MBE confirmed the news via email and regretted she could not be in St. Maarten for the Heineken.

“Yes, it is confirmed,” she said. “Very excited. I hope to be navigating with a young up and coming skipper and a mix of original crew and young female sailors of the future. We are thinking of taking a male cook! I think the race will be a great opportunity for round the world sailing to get back to its roots and to inspire a new generation.

“I am so thrilled that Maiden is racing again for the first time in 30 years and is taking part in the 600 and Heineken which are great regattas. The crew are very excited to be taking part and putting Maiden through her paces again!”

The idea for the retro race is for it to be sailed by the early Whitbread yachts, without the high-tech aids that are available today: GPS, satellite systems, computers, mobile phones, etcetera.

Communication will be via Single Side Band (SSB) radio and VHF radio, with navigation limited to sextant plots on paper charts. Music will be allowed, but on cassette tapes.

The iconic Maiden, now restored and relaunched, was skippered by Tracy Edwards, then 26, with the first all-female crew in the 1989/90 Whitbread around the world race when they won two legs and finished second overall in class.

Maiden is currently racing in the Caribbean 600 with an all-female crew skippered by Liz Wardley before their participation in the 60th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta next week. They are entered in CSA 1, a fleet of 10 boats and will be arriving March 1 and departing March 10.

“It’s going to be an exciting few weeks of racing aboard Maiden,” commented Wardley. “First the 600, followed by the Heineken Regatta. By the time we get to St. Maarten, we will be full on race mode and looking forward to some close racing. It will also be amazing to see a few different generations of Whitbread/Volvo boats out on the racetrack.”

Summer Morton (16), daughter of Shag and Janet Robertson-Morton, will be joining the all-women crew on Maiden for the Heineken. Sailing since she was eight years old, Summer has extensive experience on different boats, and from sailing with her father, a veteran three-time around-the-world yachtsman.

Maiden’s mission is the Maiden Factor Foundation, founded by Edwards, to highlight and create awareness of the 130 million girls around the world who cannot afford quality education and to engage with organisations to facilitate that basic right. The project entails sailing an around the world odyssey with Maiden to spread awareness.

Maiden and crew were in St. Maarten in December 2019 to work with schools and sailing programmes and to show the Maiden documentary film. Now they are back again to raise funds for the foundation, some guests will be on board for the Heineken who have made donations.

“Since Maiden’s launch in September 2018, she has been to Malta, Sri Lanka, Fremantle, Sydney, Auckland, Hawaii, Vancouver, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Monterrey, Santa Barbara, and Antigua. Project Assistant Mackenna Edwards-Mair discloses. “After the Heineken, we will stop in St. Barths, then up to Fremantle, Savannah, Annapolis, New York, Newport, and many places in New England, then to Halifax and back over to the UK. After that, we hope to visit Asia as we had to miss that last time around due to weather.”

Visiting the St. Maarten schools is not on the agenda this time however.

“As the crew will be quite busy with racing, we won’t have time to visit them again, but that was why it was so perfect that we were able to go there before to have the crew go to lots of schools,” Mackenna explained. “We have already collected some handprints on our sail and messages of hope from the kids of St. Maarten.”

The crew also took out the young sailors from Garth Roy’s “Kidz at Sea” programme and some of the kids from St. Maarten Yacht Club’s youth sailing programmes. Thanks to Michele Korteweg, Janet Robertson-Morton and, everyone at the Yacht Club.”

Maiden’s launch in 1973 was preceded in the countries visited. Mackenna replied, “Maiden really does inspire! Since leaving the UK on her world tour in November 2018 to raise awareness and funds for girls’ empowerment and education, she has visited seven countries with ten stopovers and several additional short visits.

“Tortillas of all sizes, fish boats, water cannons, local dignitaries, inspiring women from the community, a traditional Maori welcome, leis made and given by young members of the Hawaii Yacht Club, have all been part of Maiden’s welcome into ports.”

Maiden skipper Liz Wardley (centre) and crew (photo contributed).
British-born Bajan soca sensation Alison Hinds plans to bring a lot of "high energy" to the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta party on Friday, March 1, and she urges everyone not to miss this great show.
<table>
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<th>Coordinates</th>
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<th>West</th>
<th>Color</th>
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Courses ST Maarten Heineken Regatta 2020

Course 1 10.4 NM East
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
08 Leave to port
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 2 13.7 NM East
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
10 Leave to port
09 Leave to port
Pelican Rock Leave to port
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 3 14.2 NM East
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
09 Leave to port
08 Leave to port
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 4 22.5 NM East
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
09 Leave to port
08 Leave to port
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 5 23 NM East
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
09 Leave to port
08 Leave to port
14 Leave to port
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 6 27 NM East
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
09 Leave to port
08 Leave to port
04 Leave to port
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 7 30.3 NM round East St Maarten
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
08 Leave to port
04 Leave to port
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 8 32.0 NM East
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
09 Leave to port
08 Leave to port
11 Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 9 32.9 NM O round East St Maarten
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
08 Leave to port
11 Leave to starboard
Ile Tintamarre Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 10 40.5 NM O round East St Maarten
Start South of Cole Bay
Mark H Cole Bay Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 11 7.7 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
02 Leave to starboard
01 Leave to starboard
02 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 12 10.6 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
02 Leave to starboard
01 Leave to starboard
02 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 13 17.1 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 14 20.7 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
07 Leave to port
06 Leave to port
05 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 15 22.3 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
Marigot light buoy East Leave to port
05 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 16 25.2 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
Marigot light buoy West Leave to port
06 Leave to port
05 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 17 26 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
06 Leave to port
05 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 18 27.7 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
06 Leave to port
05 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 19 29.4 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
06 Leave to port
05 Leave to port
03 Leave to port
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 20 * 34.8 NM West
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
Marigot light buoy West Leave to port

Course 21 35.8 NM round West St Maarten
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 22 37 NM round West St Maarten
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 23 38.0 NM round West St Maarten
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 24 38.9 NM round West St Maarten
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 25 46.0 NM round West St Maarten
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay

Course 26 46.7 NM round West St Maarten
Start South of Simpson Bay
Mark H Simpson Bay Leave to starboard
12 Leave to starboard
04 Leave to starboard
05 Leave to starboard
16 Leave to starboard
15 Leave to starboard
13 Leave to port
Finish in Simpson Bay
OFFICIAL GEAR AVAILABLE AT

SHIPWRECK SHOPS
EST. 1972

40 YEARS STRONG

- Front street opposite Holland House
- Sint Rose Arcade
- Port of St. Maarten
- Simpson Bay Resort
- Sonesta Maho Beach Resort
- Oyster Bay Beach Resort
- Divi Little Bay Beach Resort
- PJIA Airport (SXM Airport)
- Sint Maarten Yacht Club

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As one of the pioneers of St. Maarten's marine industry, F.K.G. Marine Rigging & Fabricating NV first opened its doors in a 20-foot container in 1984. Thirty-six years later, F.K.G. is the technical reference in the Caribbean for all rigging works, metal fabrication and hydraulics.

The company now employs 40 people and occupies 1,000 square meters of purpose-built workshops on a 4,000-square metre site, with its own deep-water pier to accommodate its clients. Under new ownership and management since 2017, Chris Marshall and Norina Edelman continue to build on F.K.G.'s existing foundation, bringing in new technologies and significant international technical capabilities.

The hydraulics department keeps up with all the latest technology by attending courses with Reckmann, Lewmar, Harken, Rondal, Kobelt, Eaton and Navtec. Equipped with a test bench that can test PTO's, valves, rams and so on up to 5,000psi, they also have an "in-house" fluid power engineer with electro hydraulics knowledge for all control systems.

The rigging department works with all the world's major spar manufacturers. With cold heading and swaging capabilities up to 26mm wire, there are no limitations on the size of rig they can step/in-step, and with their new business partnerships allowing deep-water quay access, no rig is too big! Additionally, they are agents for practically every rigging hardware manufacturer.

F.K.G. stocks a huge range of running rigging that includes Gleistein ropes, heavy-duty dock lines and possibly the largest stock of hi-tech ropes Caribbean-wide, able to supply lines for every need.

F.K.G.'s full workshop includes all tools necessary for fabrication, along with a complete machine shop, making the company a true one-stop shop for all fabrication needs. The fabrication shop is not limited to creating custom items for yachts and the marine industry. They are also able to make custom riggings for homes, villas and commercial buildings.

The use of highest quality S16 grade stainless steel tube, super buffed for a beautiful mirror finish, ensures that it maintains its luster and finish, even in the tough salt and humid environment of the tropics.

F.K.G. has a number of very experienced welders, including access to IACS-qualified welders, and is able to weld all materials (including cupronickel, stainless, aluminium) using all processes (MIG, TIG, ARC) and can assist with any repair, refit or redesign. They are also capable of replacing wire up to 12mm for cranes and davits and producing custom-made crane cables, slings and bridles as well as load testing for annual certification.

All of their high load applications can be verified and tested on their certified pull-test machine at forces of up to 70 tons. In 2018, F.K.G. became the authorized SUZUKI dealer on St. Maarten, offering a great stock of all maintenance parts, a selection of outboard engines at their showroom and qualified technicians ready to serve.

F.K.G. continues to invest in St. Maarten's economy and people, offering training opportunities to the island's youth interested in the marine industry, in collaboration with institutes such as NIPA and Kidz At Sea. With skilled staff, wide range of tools and equipment, F.K.G. can solve almost any issue in a fast efficient and professional manner. If you have a unique problem or emergency and don't know where to turn, F.K.G. is up for the challenge!

Contact info: Phone: +1 (721) 544-4733, +1 (954) 495-4497; Email: info@fkgmarine.com; Website: fkgmarine.com
Something for everyone: Welcome to the Regatta Village

The Regatta Village doesn’t just come alive at night for the epic concerts. This year, daytime activities have expanded, and even more focus is being placed on welcoming visitors of all ages, with different interests, day and night. There’s more to explore and enjoy than you may realise.

The Grand Opening took place last night, and registration begins bright and early at 10:00am today and tomorrow. Every day until Sunday, the Regatta Village will be open during the daytime, with food and drink, booths showing off arts & crafts, environmental causes, and destination offerings, as well as lively entertainment, and a play area available for the kids.

Today and tomorrow, you’ll be treated to steel pan melodies by Sweet Pan Entertainment, from 12:00 noon until 2:00pm, and special performances by the youth at National Institute of the Arts (NIA) from 4:00 to 6:00pm. Stick around for some evening entertainment as well.

The popular Pub Quiz, normally held on the first Tuesday of the month at Sint Maarten Yacht Club, has also moved to the Regatta Village. Join in on the fun this evening from 6:30 – Dale Buchan will be hosting it, and has some musical treats in store for the audience.

If you’re not yet familiar with dynamic musical duo known as Avocado Pie, come out to discover them tomorrow at 7:00pm. Virginie Doris and Annabelle Ducrot bring the smooth entertainment with nothing but pure voices and classical guitar.

A new play area for the kids, including bouncy castles, will be available near the food court every day until 6:00pm Sunday. Food stands, including some new additions, will be open starting at 12 noon, for lunch and dinner.

Established favourites at the food court will include Domino’s Pizza, The Johnny Caker, Topper’s, and Driftwood Bar, while restaurants new to the scene this year include Balls & Wine, Le Délice de Mimi, and La Chingona. All drinks will be served at the main bar, centrally located and open from 9:00am.

The Heineken Regatta, one of the island’s largest and most anticipated yearly events, knows that it can promote sustainable causes and serve as a platform for showcasing the destination, its culture and arts.

The tourist bureaus of St. Maarten and Saba will be showcasing the islands’ offerings, and visitors can also explore the combined Art & Eco Park. Many of the movers and shakers featured in the park have been making their marks, especially over the past couple of years, in combining art and sustainability: artist/designer Tim Dowling, Aquarel artist Christiane Ladeon, Hilda’s Flying Crafts which offers costume jewellery, Art Craft Café, Waste2Work, and Recycle Art SXM.

One feature functional art piece by Waste2Work is a large receptacle for aluminium cans, designed as a fish.

New this year, in celebration of the 40th anniversary, will be a curated collection of photos, featuring impressions of the Regatta’s history.

Follow the racing action on screen, live from the Regatta Village, Thursday through Sunday. Daily prize-giving takes place at 6:00pm and concerts all start at 8:00pm.

See you at the Regatta Village at Yacht Club Port de Plaisance for some Serious Fun! Photos: Marko Radisavljevic via St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

Sol Cares Fuelling the Future

The St. Maarten Heineken Regatta continues to be an event that we at Sol are incredibly proud to support. It demonstrates the combination of power, passion and people that embodies much of the spirit of Sol, and we offer our heartiest congratulations on their 40th successful staging of this amazing event. For the past several years, we’ve provided some smooth sailing of our own via our water taxi service and are excited to continue to support this world-class event for yet another year!

info@solpetroleum.com | facebook.com/solpetroleum

www.solpetroleum.com
The 40th edition of St. Maarten Heineken Regatta runs a full week of activities at the Regatta Village with performances from more than 20 local bands, dance groups, and DJs, which will undoubtedly bring some cultural flair to the event. The Village officially opened yesterday at 6:00pm and will close its doors on the 2020 edition of the event on the morning of March 8. Patrons to the event will find food and drinks, regatta merchandise, and a variety of other goods in the eco-art park. Headliners include international artists Tesselated, Grandma Flash, and Flo Rida.

Monday’s festivities will start with DJ Shine. “Light” takes the stage at 7:00pm, opening with their high energy Afro-caribbean drum beats, led by Soulymane. “Light” comprises a large group of musicians, spearheaded by our very own local Cultural icon Clara Reyes. They will be adding an eclectic cultural flair to the opening night.

Tuesday’s schedule starts with performances from 12 noon to 2:00pm by Sweet Pan Entertainment, a band that consists of seven local band members who enjoy performing a range of music including Reggae, Hop, Soca, R&B, and even some jazz. You name it, and they can play it.

Various food vendors will open their doors for the lunch crowd. Registration for the sailing side of the event officially opens its doors at 10:00am and will continue until 6:00pm. Guests who are at the venue at 4:00pm will enjoy an exceptional performance by National Institute of the Arts (NIA), where they will showcase their Company with choreographies by teachers: Peggy Oulerich, Eola Ada (Beebee) and Kimberly Milan.

Additionally, the NIA Youth Orchestra will treat the crowd to a few selections of music NIA established St. Maarten’s first Youth Orchestra with the help of the Dutch Disaster Fund, and for the past two years the Institute has been under the direction of Arlene Halley.

The mission of the National Institute of Arts (NIA) is to provide national awareness internationally recognized interdisciplinary education inspired by the principals of nation-building. Serving the community of St. Maarten, NIA’s purpose is to provide Art education to the highest standard of excellence for amateur and professional pursuit in a safe and nurturing environment. The Institute will engage in research, documentation, preserving, and ensuring the tangible and intangible cultural heritage as well as contemporary legacy.

The evening will continue after the NIA’s performance with a Pub Quiz organized by Sint Maarten Yacht Club. Music by “Dale Buchan” will keep the Quiz entertained as teams strive to come out on top. Australian singer-songwriter Dale Buchan has performed around the world as an original and cover artist for over 10 years. Formerly of successful Australian pop-rock duo The Firetree, Dale has branched out on his own, performing his one-person show to captive audiences in the US, Europe, and now St. Maarten. His energetic, raw talent with acoustic guitar, harmonica, and unique “funk drums” accompany his unmatched voice over a wide range of musical styles to bring your favourite songs to life.

Registration will continue on Wednesday, March 4, and those who were unable to see performances by Sweet Pan Entertainment and NIA will have a second chance to watch as they entertain the crowd. Performances will take place between 12:00 noon and 6:00pm. The Village will be alive and well with food, drinks, art, and vendors all open to the public. Music will be brought to you by Avocado Pie. Annabelle and Virginie comprise the local band Avocado Pie and regularly perform across various bars and restaurants on the French side. Their unique style of mixing various songs will entertain as will their covers of all the latest chart-topping hits.

The actual regatta racing begins on Thursday morning, and all eyes will be on the water, where more than 150 boats will cross the start line. The Village will welcome racers and the public as of 4:00pm with a show by Kainos. The band is a duo of original covers and acoustic compositions. Marie-Stella’s warm voice, enveloped in soul, pop and mixed music, lands on François’ groove and his subtle guitar arrangements. Let the charm act... with these two sensitive musicians whose complicity is striking!

DJ Em will be your host DJ for the night, and at 9:00pm, a big party will start with the Offi cial Music Video Premier performance by international artist FLO RIDA. As an international performing artist, songwriter, entertainer, radio host, brand ambassador and businessman, DJ Rumer started as a rapper who always had a love for Hip hop when he was in the leap of faith from Hip-Hop to Soca in 2016. This change stemmed from the overwhelming love and influence Carnival and Soca have had on him. In 2020, King Rumer will be going on his own European tour bringing Soca to the world.

The weekend program offers up even more musical talent from across the Caribbean, starting with One Blood Band from Saba. This unique group consists of the island’s top-quality musicians who have now grown to the respectful ages of 13-19. King Rumer and the band has an additional member to round out the group. This performance starts off the Saturday schedule for the evening, and Host DJ for the night, DJ Mixmaster Pauly, will perform from 8:15 to 9:30pm and will open up the night for Tessellated and Inner Circle.

The final day of the event will have the Mighty Dow warm up the crowd at 3:00pm. Prize-giving for all the participants will take place from 6:00 to 8:00pm, after which The Cut Creator DJ Q will take to the decks to get everyone in the mood for the final night of music and entertainment. Music by Tanya Michelle and What the Funk will keep the crowd at 8:30 and 10:00pm, and then it is time for the main performance by international artist FLO RIDA.

The Regatta Village is open daily with food and drinks available for lunch and dinner. A variety of food vendors will be offering up a range of dishes for the event, and patrons are encouraged to come and try the various options. The eco-art park will host a variety of eco-friendly businesses and various local artists. For more event information, you are encouraged to visit the website or follow the regatta on social media channels where updates will be made daily.

40th Heineken Regatta Schedule

overflows with various artists!
With DIVICO Distributors’ launch of Heineken 0.0 on the island this week, the C0.0L Room in the Regatta Village will provide Regatta visitors with an escape from the busy festival for a quick refresher.

Made out of a clear tent material so people can see what’s going on from outside, the hipster-style room will be the ultimate chill spot. There will be lots of plants, blue lights, and cushioned lounge chairs made out of pallets. Naturally, the bar will be well-stocked to offer everyone an experiential tasting of the refreshing alcohol-free beer. Of course, it would not be a party lounge without music and a DJ, so guests can build their own party in the C0.0L Room by participating in the silent disco.

According to Tanvi Goklani, Heineken Brand Manager, DIVICO Distributors, “The whole idea is for people to have an escape. But it is also an added element for the whole festival. We want it to be able to do different things on the festival grounds or in the Regatta village and give people different opportunities. If they don’t want to be by the main stage anymore, they can just come in and chill in the C0.0L room.”

Heineken’ 0.0 is brewed with a unique recipe of natural ingredients, for a distinct balanced taste and only 21kcal per 100ml. Initially available in 14 international markets in 2017, and now over 57 markets globally, the brand’s iconic green label has been turned blue – the colour associated with the alcohol-free beer category. Although already readily available in European and American markets, Heineken’ 0.0 makes its official debut on St. Maarten this week.

Tanvi Goklani: “It’s difficult for consumers to find alcohol-free options, and with Heineken’ 0.0, we are able to provide them an option. Also, as more people are becoming wellness-oriented, alcohol consumption is also changing. The market for low- to zero-alcohol beverages is expected to grow by 32 percent between 2018 and 2022.”

DIVICO Sales Manager Shyam Rambhadjan adds, “I think Heineken 0.0 really fills a consumer need to have a non-alcoholic beverage at a party, at a work lunch, and many other occasions where they are looking for a great tasting beer in social settings, but just don’t fancy the alcohol.”

The C0.0L Room will be located in the Regatta Village and will be open from Thursday, March 5, till Sunday, March 8, from approximately 8:00pm until midnight. For more information, purchasing and delivery call +1 (721) 524 3500 or +1 (721) 553 7012.

Keeping it C0.0L
~ Heineken 0.0 @ Regatta Village ~

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Tessellated to perform never-before released music at Heineken Regatta

By Dimetri Whitfield

Tessellated – a new, eclectic and multi-talented recording artist will be performing some never-before released music at the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. He promises a memorable and energetic evening when he takes the stage at the Regatta Village on Saturday, March 7.

The Jamaica-born Tessellated, whose real name is Joshua Meeks, has been making waves with his vibrant and unique sound, blending dancehall and reggae, sprinkled with just the right amounts of jazz, funk, hip hop, and R and B.

Tessellated was launched onto the music scene in 2017, when his hit collaboration “Pine and Ginger” with artists Amindi and Valleyz hit the airwaves. Recently, Apple singled out his song “I Learnt Some Jazz Today” for its AirPod promotion. Since then, he has caught the attention of several music industry chart-toppers, such as Camila Cabello and Lily Allen. Some of his other well-known songs include “Hallucinate” and “Searchin’.

This will be his first time in St. Maarten. “I’m really excited to bring to the people what I have. For people coming to see me for the first time, I’m going to put on the best show that I can,” said Tessellated.

With his performance coming to St. Maarten, Tessellated granted The Daily Herald (TDH) an exclusive interview. So without further ado, we will let him introduce himself.

TDH: You have been called one of the most vibrant and fresh young artists. How did it all start? How did you become involved in music?

Tessellated: I have been doing music from an early age. I started first with playing instruments – I started with drums when I was about five years old – and from that time, I have been in and out of it. It was more of a hobby at first. But when I was about 16 years old, I started taking production more seriously and started really delving into that. When I left high school when I was 18 [years old – Ed.], I decided that music is what I wanted to do full time. So I went to music school, started pursuing that; worked at a studio. Eventually, one of my songs got picked up by Warner Brothers and I started getting more opportunities. So then I moved out to Los Angeles and since then, I’ve just been pursuing music full time; production, writing, performance.

TDH: What continues to inspire you making music?

Tessellated: I gain inspiration from everything. If you just look around; like life is the greatest inspiration. I also listen to a lot of different musicians; and other people’s creations inspire me to create even more.

TDH: What or who are your influences? Who did you grow up listening to?

Tessellated: So, I grew up listening to a lot of old school musicians, a lot of the reggae greats. Obviously, you gonna have Bobby [Bob Marley], Dennis Brown, Freddy McGregor, Alton Ellis – all those. But also, a lot of people from R&B – you have Seal, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye, all those types of guys. I have influences from all over the place, who have helped to craft the sound that I have.

TDH: Do you play any instruments? If so, what and when did you learn to play them?

Tessellated: I’m kind of a jack of all trades when it comes to instruments. I wouldn’t say I’m a master at any one instrument. I started with drums; I play piano, guitar. I used to be in a steel pan orchestra. I play a bit of saxophone and just recently I have picked up trumpet also. Just over the years, in different time periods, whatever I’m interested in, I can just pick it up and figure it out.

TDH: Your music has been described as a fusion of many different genres. What is your process?

Tessellated: My process is interesting. I couldn’t say it’s one specific thing. It’s more like the ideas come to me in my head and I form a lot of structure and patterns in my head and I lay them down piece by piece. Given that I was a producer before I started writing [music], I tend to start with the beat first. I have ideas for a beat, or I have a beat I already made beforehand. And once that is fully formed, I gain inspiration for lyrics from the music of the rhythm and flesh it out that way.

TDH: What has been your favourite musical collaboration thus far? Who have you worked with? Who is on your collaboration wish list?

Tessellated: My favourite so far is one that actually hasn’t released yet. It’s one of my favourite musicians and someone who is also a big inspiration to me. I have to keep that one a secret for right now. But overall, I really love working with my friends, working with people I have seen grow and who I have seen develop just as I have developed. And for us to come together and create something that has really come from a period of development, to see the fruits of that – especially when it is people I’m close with – is my favourite thing.

TDH: What has been your most memorable moment on stage so far and why?

Tessellated: My most memorable moment was really my first performance. At this point, I hadn’t done anything live before, I never put on a show. This was a last-minute thing that was put on by New Wave – big up Stamma, big up Lindsey – and I didn’t really expect that many people to show up, but the place was rammed out; and when I started singing songs, everyone was singing along with the lyrics – and I was like “oh this is crazy!”

It is one thing to see numbers online and see people are listening to things; but when people actually come out of their house and you see them in front of you and they’re reacting to the music and you can feel the energy – that was still the most crazy moment. That was when my mentality kind of shifted and I realised I’m really doing this thing!

Saturday, March 7, is the day you do not want to miss, as Tessellated will take the stage after the Bad Boys of Reggae, Inner Circle.
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King Rumer got his first taste of performing at St. Maarten Heineken Regatta last year, and is back as a headliner in 2020, for the Regatta’s big 40th anniversary. Make sure you don’t miss out on seeing Rumer & De Ban’ this Friday night – one of the many great performances you have to look forward to. If you’ve ever seen King Rumer perform, you already know to come prepared for a high energy performance!

King Rumer is definitely a performer who likes to keep the momentum up and the audience engaged. If he could introduce himself with only one of his songs, it would be G-String, he said: “It’s still my biggest song, the rhythm is infectious.”

Rumer has been dedicating more time over the past year to building his brand, King Rumer Entertainment. His first “Local as Possible” shirts will be launched by the end of the month, and other merchandise is in the pipeline.

Preparation for St. Maarten Carnival – Rumer’s time to shine – is in full swing as well, so life is all about music and lots of late nights right now. Besides performances, he is also slated to host the Youth Extravaganza for the third time this year.

The young talent is also making a name for himself overseas, and helping to bring the love of Soca to the world, along with DJ Siw’roo. The two will be performing in carnivals and festivals in Rotterdam, Amsterdam, London, and even in Warsaw, Poland, this summer. “There are really Soca lovers all around the world,” he says.

Come out on Friday and experience the energy! Sure to be another epic night of entertainment brought to you by St. Maarten Heineken Regatta, the show is of course free. Performances by the various artists start at 8:00pm at the Regatta Village. Follow King Rumer on social media (Twitter, Instagram, SoundCloud, Facebook and YouTube) to keep up to date, gain access to exclusives, and behind the scenes footage. His music is available across many streaming platforms, including iTunes, Spotify, Deezer, TIDAL and Google Play.
WHAT THE FUNK!

Regatta goers, you are in for a treat! The “What the Funk” band has been making waves since its inception. With its unique and vibrant sound, What the Funk is ready to spread the dance vibes and make you groove all night long!

Making crowds on Sint Marten very happy for about three years, this fun band is ready to rock you for Heineken Regatta 2020!

What the Funk members
• Shawn J on Lead Vocals
• Amin on Guitar/Back Vocals
• Cornelious Roumou on Bass
• Nikita “Fridge” Christmas on Drums

Shawn J’s vocals have been described as being subtle yet having the ability to stand out!

1. Just who is “What the Funk”?
What is a St. Maarten based Top 40’s cover band?

2. How long have you guys been in the game?
Individually, over 20 years.

3. How long have you guys been together?
We’ve been together for three years.

4. Describe your music style!
Extra groovy – we do Reggae, Zouk, Pop, Soca, R&B and of course Funk!

5. What sets you apart from other bands on the island?
We love what we do, so we try to have fun doing it [music]. Also put aside any setbacks, if there’s an issue, we deal with it and move on.

6. How has being a musician made you a better person?
Being musicians keeps us humble, sane and motivated to be better at what we do.

7. Where have you all played on the island so far?
We’ve played at The Red Piano, Pineapple Pete, Karakter, Snoopy’s Bar, Blue Martini and Lagoonies.

8. What so far has been your most memorable experience together as What the Funk?
Mostly when we travel together to St. Barths – and most recently on a yacht in the BVI.

9. What bands/musicians inspire you guys?
Earth Wind & Fire, Stevie Wonder and Prince.

10. If you could play for any audience or musician in the world, where or who would you want to play for?
Basically anywhere that would appreciate what we do.

11. How do you guys unwind and relax?
We chat, laugh, drink and discuss.

12. What do you guys do outside of your music?
We mostly do music, banking and self-employment.

13. Any advice for up and coming musical newbies?
Stay focused, be humble, and work hard on your craft.

If you get the chance to meet these guys, it’s all good laughs, high energy and lots of fun – and this really translates on stage. Catch them at Heineken Regatta on Sunday, March 8, starting at 8:30pm! We wish them much success for their Heineken Regatta show and beyond!

Check their Facebook page: What the Funk SXM or visit their website: wtfunksxm.com for more info!
ROCKING THE WAVES
~ Island 92’s Regatta Radio ~

Once again, listeners are ready to tune in from all over the world to Island 92 – Regatta Radio’s real-time, in-depth, comprehensive coverage of the 40th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta!

Dr. Soc and the Island92 team will broadcast live so you can get full coverage via radio, web cam and social media both from the water and on land covering the bridge openings, Regatta Village, the grand finale and the Prize Giving and Awards Ceremony.

Covering the race since 2003, Island 92 became the official radio station of the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta in 2012. In the last 17 years, technology has rapidly advanced, dictating new and exciting real-time media coverage of everything race related. From the parties to what crews have for breakfast, nothing is off-limits. Island 92 has taken on the challenge of being on the scene using multiple media outlets for optimum coverage of the real St. Maarten Heineken Regatta.

Dr. Soc and Cary Beyerley are up every day at the crack of dawn, boarding the Island 92 Media Boat (Billy Bones Boat Charters) and braving the elements. Dr. Soc has previously served on the St. Maarten Yacht Club Board for almost a decade, and has raced the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta with Team Goldendog back in the day, so he’s no stranger to this competition. Cary Beyerley has been a pillar in the sailing community of the Northeast Caribbean for decades. She is a World Sailing Organization Council Member representing the Caribbean, Latin America, Venezuela and Columbia. These two make for an exciting and energetic pair to cover and commentate on the race.

People from all over the world spend close to half a million hours per year listening to Island 92. And when it comes to the regatta, you can hear their coverage everywhere you go. As Dr. Soc states, “We have lots of folks, who for some reason can’t be here, who will tune in to listen and watch from around the world.”

The Regatta Radio covers all of the starts and finishes, mark rounding and various classes throughout the regatta live on Island 92. They start every day at 7 in the morning, and discuss the bridge openings from out on the water and on land, all the starts and finishes, and anything else that might happen out there on the water.

The team has a series of webcams stationed strategically around the island so you can follow on island92.com by clicking on watch and chat. Or you can listen by going to the website and clicking listen live. Of course, you can also tune in to 91.9 or 105.1 FM as both the Island 92 radio stations will broadcast the Regatta Radio. In addition, there is also a social media stream on Facebook – a great way to see and hear what’s happening.

According to Dr. Soc, “Commenting on sailing is often like commenting on paint drying – it’s a hard thing to do. But it really becomes about the people and the stories that all go with it.” He argues, “People want to know what is going on: who had the best position, who had the best start, who screwed up and who didn’t. There are all important things. Even non-sailors get it. We get tons of people that just listen and watch all day long; it’s pretty amazing.”

Back on land, Mr. S and Rebecca Low take a different tack, the one that most of us can relate to, and that is, to follow the race on land, finding out of the way locations and special vantage points that provide the best view of all of the action out on the water. This poses a great challenge because the race course changes every day and locations for certain marks and races are time sensitive. It’s really vital for listeners to know where and when they can connect with the race, and the class of boat they are following. S and Rebecca speed from location to location, starting and ending each day at St. Maarten Yacht Club to cover the bridge openings and all the raucous pageantry that occur as the boats come back to the lagoon for the night.

ERB sits in the anchor chair playing music, coordinating commentary between the water and the land, interviewing headline musical performers and just keeping everything running on time and on target. He also constructs the remote broadcast studio that becomes the team’s home away from home at the Regatta Village, where Heather Court manages the social media.

Dr. Soc has many favourite Regatta moments, but Regatta Radio’s “yachtskee” (yacht karaoke) moment in 2018 is on the top of his list as his favourite moment about comradery and the people coming to participate in the St. Maarten Heineken Regatta year after year after year. There was a complete hull as the wind became very calm and flat, so everyone had to wait for the committee to make the decision whether to race or not. The media boat asked the sailors which songs they wanted to hear on the radio and everyone started singing and dancing on their boats.

Mr. S mostly loves the rush that comes with racing – and winning of course. His favourite moment had to be in 2006, when his team heard their last race was cancelled and won instantly. “It was mayhem on the boat,” he says. “People were jumping up and down, popping champagne corks, going crazy, screaming. We found a nice place off Mullet Bay somewhere and anchored, went for a swim and celebrated all the hard work over the week.”

Their advice to the sailors: Take it easy. According to Mr. S., “When you first go into the regatta, it’s really important to pace yourself. Don’t go zero to 60 in two seconds, but work your way up to the top.” He believes all the partying can really impact racing capabilities, so “have fun but don’t blow the top off till Sunday.” Dr. Soc agrees and adds that the legendary party on Sunday “will be crazy as usual.”

According to Dr. Soc, “This is not just any regatta; this is St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. It is synonymous with our island for many people around the world and it really does take a whole island to throw a regatta this big.” He concludes that it really is about the team, the competitors, the island and the hard-working volunteers as “everyone comes together to have what is now I think is being coined for the 40th anniversary some fantastic, serious fun.”

Regatta Radio begins on Monday, March 2, with daily coverage at 7:00am. The race coverage will start on Thursday and will conclude with the live coverage of the awards ceremony on Sunday night. Tune in on air at 91.1 FM or 105.1 FM or listen live on www.island92.com or www.1051.com by clicking on the play button.
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ST. MAARTEN HEINEKEN REGATTA SPECIAL 2020

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH
GRANDMASTER FLASH, DJ EM,
DJ KING KEMBE,
DJ SIW’ROO & DJ EAGLE
AFTER PARTY @ LOTUS NIGHTCLUB

FRIDAY, MARCH 6TH
BITTI V, ASHER OTTO & ITCHY FEET, KING RUMER
& DE BAN, DJ PRINCE
AFTER PARTY @ LOTUS NIGHTCLUB
SPONSORED BY PORT ST. MAARTEN

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH
TESELLATED, INNER CIRCLE, MIXMASTER PAULY, YOUTH WAVES BAND
AFTER PARTY @ SOGGY DOLLAR BAR

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH
FLO RIDA, TANYA MICHELLE & WHAT THE FUNK, THE CUT CREATOR DJ OUTKAST
AFTER PARTY @ LOTUS NIGHTCLUB

General admission VIP tickets
Thursday - Free $75.00
Friday - Free $75.00
Saturday - $20.00 $100.00
Sunday - $30.00

Tickets are now available at:
Adolfus Richardson Office Supplies, Dominos,
Van Drop, Island 92, the St. Maarten Yacht Club,
Levi’s in Marigot and online at www.eventbrite.com