



Banks Holdings Limited

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NEWS RELEASE

Banks Esperanza sails to first place in Harris Paints Regatta

Banks Esperanza took home the top prize in the Harris Paints Regatta on Saturday, July 5th and Sunday, July 6th, when the event took place off Carlisle Bay and the South Coast on each respective day.

The 5-member crew battled strong winds in some instances to finish ahead of eleven other teams also competing for the J-24 National Championship Perpetual trophy and the 1st place Harris Paints Trophy.

The Regatta, which formed part of the National Championship series, featured two races on each day.

The team's win was clinched when they were able to take a commanding lead in the 3rd race on Sunday morning, which saw them sailing up the South Coast and back down to finish in Carlisle Bay.

Skipper **Ian Mayers** said the team had a clear strategy allowing them to finish ahead of their greatest competitor **Impulse**.

"As always, we set out to be consistent and start the regatta on the right foot in order to put the pressure on our competitors. 3rd and 1st places on the Saturday afternoon, racing in Carlisle Bay put us in a great position before the Sunday racing and took a lot of pressure off of the crew."

Commenting on the team's camaraderie, the captain noted that the crew's ability to bounce back after disappointing results in the First Citizens Regatta, helped to inspire and motivate them to perform.

"The team spirit was great. The racing has been very close and competitive all year long so it creates a lot of pressure moments and it hasn't been smooth sailing for us in every event so it

was great for the guys to bounce back from those difficult results and pressure situations over the course of the season.”

This win automatically earns the crew which has won the regatta on three previous occasions, the right to represent Barbados at the 2015 J-24 World Championship in Germany – a right which they aim to exercise, with sights also set on competing at the Pan Am Games in Toronto.

Charles Walcott, Category Manager, Banks Holdings Limited was proud of the team which Banks has supported for the past 5 years.

“It is a great partnership between Banks and Esperanza. They are doing extremely well and I am very proud to be working with them and ecstatic about the wins they continue to secure.”

The Harris Paints Regatta is one of the longest running on the island and attracts international teams. It is the last of nine regattas which take place between January and July.



CAP1: The Banks Esperanza team celebrating their win during the prize-giving ceremony at the Barbados Yacht Club

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