



Banks Holdings Limited

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**NEWS RELEASE**

***Esperanza captures J-24 title at Round Barbados Series***

The year couldn't have started any better for ***Banks Esperanza***.

Following a superlative season of yachting, skipper Ian Mayers and crew continued their impressive run of form by capturing the coveted J-24 title in the recent 2014 Mount Gay Round Barbados Race Series.

Showing consistent pace in high winds and big seas, the Banks Beer ambassadors were determined and steadfast as they battled nine other crews in close proximity during the January 15<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> Race Series.

Esperanza's triumph was made even more impressive after the crew finished the last race of the series in second place with a broken boom.

"We had a worrying last run in the final because of our broken boom. It failed just before the windward mark and it was a marathon run after that. But we managed to hold our position to the finish," said Mayers.

"The racing throughout the series was great and extremely competitive, so we hope to encourage and attract more J-24s from other islands next year. If we could have a charter fleet for the best sailors from Europe to use in the future too, that would be amazing."

In congratulating the team, Bernard Frost, group marketing manager of Banks Holdings Limited, said the result was a fitting tribute to the '*Beer of Barbados*'.

"Every time our guys hit the water, they ooze commitment to the task at hand," he said.

"After a stellar season of racing last year, we couldn't be more thrilled with their victory, especially in such a prestigious regatta. Following this result, I certainly expect to see the Esperanza team on several more podiums in the near future, and as Ian continues to preach: "the taste of victory is that much sweeter with the '*Beer of Barbados*'."

Staying in the J-24 Class, Neil Burke and his team on *Impulse* took second place overall, while the Robert Povey-skippered *Hawkeye* - the boat with the most number of wins in the series - finished third. Winning the final race, *Bunga Bunga*, with Cyril Lecrenay at the helm, finished fourth.

Other class winners included local boat *Rapajam* (Racing Class), the United States-based *Renegade* (Cruising Class), and the British Virgin Islands-based *Lenora* (Non-Rated Class).

In the Mount Gay Round Barbados Race proper, which was held on Errol Barrow Day (January 21<sup>st</sup>), *Team Monster Project* of Great Britain completed the course in 4 hours 42 minutes 28 seconds, knocking 21 minutes off the previous record established in 2012 by *Idea*.

*Idea*, however, broke the CSA record for corrected time.

Andy Budgen, owner and crew boss of *Monster Project*, said he was absolutely delighted with the team's performance.

"To be honest it was a bit of a shock to have broken the record. The team sailed exceptionally well, which, of course, was the key to our amazing achievement. Hopefully we'll be able to return next year and defend our title," he said.



**CAP.1**

Banks Esperanza, with captain Ian Mayers at the helm, showed consistent pace in high winds and big seas to capture the J-24 title in the 2014 Mount Gay Round Barbados Race Series.

(ENDS)