



Banks Holdings Limited

PRESS RELEASE

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BANKS ESPERANZA WINS SHANE ATWELL MEMORIAL TROPHY

Following an exceptional year of racing, the crew of Banks Esperanza has been named as the Most Improved Team in J-24 yachting.

Skipper Ian Mayers and crew sailed away with the Shane Atwell Memorial Trophy when the curtain fell on the 2014 Jaguar/Range Rover Championship Series last weekend at the Barbados Yacht Club.

Though losing the overall title by just one point to Williams Industries' Hawkeye, Banks Esperanza enjoyed an outstanding season on the high seas, winning several regattas on both the west and south coasts of the island.

"It is an absolute honour for us to be awarded Shane's trophy. It has been an incredible experience for the entire crew," said Mayers, who also noted it had been a pleasure sailing with such a committed and talented team.

He also thanked Banks Beer for its unwavering support of Esperanza.

"Despite not winning the overall title, we are certainly pleased with our performances this year. We are now looking forward to getting back out on the water for some match racing where we will continue to represent the *'Beer of Barbados'*; hopefully we will be at the sharp end of the pack again."

Banks Esperanza will next compete in the United Insurance Match Racing Championships scheduled for November 23-24 in Carlisle Bay.

A brief recap of the year's achievements:

Winning the overall title at the Consumers' Guarantee Insurance (CGI) Regatta in March, Mayers skippered his crew to a third place finish at the Mount Gay Regatta in May, before finishing fourth overall – with a race win – at the Lucky Horseshoe Regatta in June.

With the proverbial ‘wind in their sails’, Banks Esperanza then went on to claim four race victories and the overall title at the First Citizens Investment Services Regatta in June, which doubled as the local J-24 Open Championships.

The national champions then claimed their second victory in as many months, winning the Harris Paints Regatta in late July.

“With stellar results all year long, Esperanza has established itself as one of the top J-24’s on the island,” said Bernard Frost, group marketing manager of Banks Holdings Limited.

“Without doubt, Ian and his crew are some of the most keen, perceptive and reliable sailors out there. They always represent the ‘*Beer of Barbados*’ with distinction and we wish them continued success with even more wind in their sails!”



CAP. 1 Success for Banks Esperanza!: Ian Mayers (right), skipper of Banks Esperanza, along with crew member Andre Gibson pose with the Shane Atwell Memorial Trophy during last weekend’s annual awards ceremony at the Barbados Yacht Club.

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