

ERNEST BRIN

NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE PORT OF GUSTAVIA

BY ELLEN LAMPERT-GRÉAUX

A native son of St Barth, Ernest Brin took over the captain's seat at the Port of Gustavia in December 2009. At that time, Brin had worked at the port for 20 years and had become one of two harbormasters working alongside former port director Bruno Gréaux. Brin's first season was tumultuous as well as extremely busy.

"The 2009/2010 season had a good start," says Brin. "The docks were full as of December 20. Unfortunately, the arrival of a tropical depression with high swells caused me to evacuate the port on December 28 and keep it closed until January 2, 2010." Brin realized the risk he was taking as well as the risk to the boats if they stayed at the docks. As a result, on New Year's Eve the docks were eerily empty rather than the center of the big annual party in the Port of Gustavia. "It was important to ensure optimal security for the boats in spite of everyone's general disappointment. It was reassuring when all of the owners and skippers congratulated us on our efficiency."

Brin joined the port in May, 1989, just as the transatlantic regatta 'Le Point-Europe 1' was about to arrive in Gustavia from Lorient, France, with a fleet of 23 multi and mono-hulls. "The port was under the direction of Claude Bruneteau at that time," recalls Brin. "I started working for him at the bottom of the ladder and worked my way up."

At that time the port staff comprised of only four people, and Brin arrived with a diploma in the hotel sector, where he had been working for five years. "When one of the port staff left, I received a call from Daniel Blanchard, mayor of Saint Barth at the time, asking if I would like to work at the port. I learned on the job." In July 1994, Brin went to France for a training course at the port of La Rochelle.

Today, Brin is the director of two busy ports: the main Port of Gustavia, where some of the world's most magnificent motor yachts



PHOTO BY ROSEMOND GRÉAUX

and sailboats anchor during the winter season, and the commercial port. The latter plays a vital roll in the island's economy as everything from food to building materials is imported, and subject to an import duty. This provides a major revenue stream for Saint Barth.

Brin and his staff make sure all boats come and go safely during a very busy nautical calendar which runs from the New

Year's Eve Regatta and through the spring with a variety of events from the St. Barth Bucket to Les Voiles de Saint Barth, as well as the biennial Transat Ag2r, and smaller races such as the West Indies Regatta. For Brin and his staff, it's all in a day's work and hopefully the coming season will be smooth sailing from start to finish! 

Ellen Lampert-Gréaux lives in Saint Barthélemy where she is editor-in-chief of Harbour Magazine, and has been a regular contributor to All At Sea since 2000. She also writes regularly about entertainment design and technology for Live Design magazine, and about Caribbean architecture for MACO, a Trinidad-based lifestyle magazine.

ST. BARTH CATA-CUP

FULL ROSTER FOR 2010

BY ELLEN LAMPERT-GRÉAUX

When the 2010 St Barth Cata-Cup sets sail on November 19-21, a full roster of 43 teams of two, from around the world, will compete in this increasingly popular event.

Re-launched in 2008, after a hiatus since 1994, the Cata-Cup is now run by a non-profit association, Saint Barth Multi-Hulls, in collaboration with the Nautical Center of Saint Barth and the

Saint Barth Yacht Club, with support from the Collectivity of Saint Barthélemy. Everyone involved in the organization works on a volunteer basis, and the event is affiliated with the French Sailing Federation.

"We were overwhelmed with inquiries and had to close the list. We wanted to stop at 40 but ultimately took 43," says H elene Guilbaud, one of the Cata-Cup organizers along with Jeff Led ee, Thierry Lhinares, and Vincent Jordil. "We didn't just want competitors from France, so we put quotas on geographical areas," Guilbaud adds, noting that there are boats coming from France, Finland, Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Barth, Switzerland, Italy, Belgium, Puerto Rico, Sweden, Poland, and St. Martin.

Although last year's winners will not be on hand to defend their title, leading catamaran racers will ply the waters of the Bay of St Jean. These include Enrique Figueroa, the four-time champion from Puerto Rico, Patrick Demesmaeker, from the Royal Belgium Sailing Club, and Emmanuel Boulogne, the French F18 world champion and winner of the 2008 Cata-Cup. Miguel Danet, a local St Barth sailor who has competed twice in the Ag2r, will also participate with St Barth resident Julien Darmon.

The Cata-Cup covers the costs of bringing the competing boats to St Barth in 40-foot containers, and provides lodging and meals for the participants. In addition to the pro racing, the event also involves local sailors and kids, with St Barth Yacht Club's Optimist races, and windsurfing competitions from the Nautical Center of Saint Barth. Since its re-launch in 2008, the St Barth Cata-Cup has made great strides in becoming one of the leading multi-hull events in the region.

For information visit: stbarthcatacup.com



Multi-hulls in action at the Cata-Cup



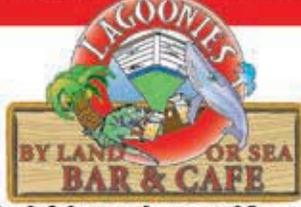
Relax or ready-up in an old fashioned friendly atmosphere.



Up to 9' Draft | Cable TV | 110/220 Electric | Water Showers/Toilets | Laundromat | Security | Storage Lockers

ALL WITHIN A STONE'S THROW OF THE MAJOR COLE BAY MARINE SUPPLIERS.

Reasonable Dock Rates www.lagoon-marina.com
 FREE Internet Access info@lagoon-marina.com
 Full Compliment of Marine Services +599-544-2611



BY LAND OR SEA
BAR & CAFE



Back & better than ever! Lagoonies is your home away from home. Open for lunch and dinner. Live music every Friday! Poolroom!



WOODSTOCK
Est. 1990
BOATBUILDERS

THE CARIBBEAN'S MOST DYNAMIC REFIT COMPANY



Photos: Lucy Tansack

We know you demand peak performance from your boat...
...as well as your service companies

FINE JOINERY

TEAK DECKING

METAL FABRICATION

COMPOSITE CONSTRUCTION

MARINE DIESEL ENGINEERING

AIR CONDITIONING

REFRIGERATION

PAINT REFINISHING



Dockyard Drive, English Harbour, Antigua WI
 T: +1 268 463 6359 office@woodstockboats.com
www.woodstockboats.com