



The Royal BVI Yacht Club

**Pete Sheals 10th Memorial Match Race
Tortola, British Virgin Islands
12-13 November 2011**

In perfect sailing conditions, the tenth Pete Sheals Memorial Match race was won by the team led by America's Cup sailor Mr Peter Holmberg from the USVI. Mr Colin Rathbun of the BVI was second, with Mr Andrew Waters, also representing the BVI, in third place.

The conditions made for highly competitive racing, which was held in Road Harbor for the benefit of spectators in the RBVIYC Club House. With all teams racing in one-design IC-24's, on Saturday a total of 30 races were held, after which Mr Holmberg held a clear, but not unassailable lead. On Sunday the breeze picked up, so the course was lengthened to allow for the increased speed that the racers were achieving. Nonetheless, Mr Holmberg and his team maintained their form to emerge as clear winners after the third and final set of 15 races.

After the regatta finished on Sunday lunchtime, every boat sailed in a fleet race to Nanny Cay, presenting a magnificent spectacle of every boat flying their Spinnakers between Road Harbor and Nanny Cay.

Since this was the tenth regatta to be held in commemoration of Mr Sheal's memory, his parents Norman and Yvonne requested that an additional "Spirit of Sailing" award be introduced. This was awarded to the only all-women's team in the regatta, skippered by miss Nikki Barnes of the USVI.

At the prize giving, Mr Andrew Water's, a close friend of Mr Sheal's, spoke warmly of his contribution to sailing in the BVI. Mr Holmberg praised the organisation and spirit of the event, and stated how much he had enjoyed it.

This year's event required support from numerous sponsors and volunteers, and the Royal BVI Yacht Club would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the event such a success. In particular thanks go to our sponsors: Primary sponsor Conch Charters, Tricor, Norman and Yvonne Sheals, Golden Hind Chandlery, and Mr Sheal's close friend Dawn.

Pictures of the event are available at the Royal BVI Yacht Club Facebook page and website www.royalbviyc.org. The next event will be the Peg Leg's Round Tortola race on Saturday 19th November.

Full results of the 10th Pete Sheals memorial Match Race regatta:

1st: Peter Holmberg (USVI), 2nd Colin Rathbun (BVI), 3rd Andrew Waters (BVI), 4th Chris Haycraft (BVI), 5th Nikki Barnes (USVI), 6th Frits Bus (St Maarten).

Spirit Award: Nikki Barnes (USVI)