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CLUBS & CLASSES

Many classes at home have blown away the cobwebs with their start-of-season championships, and are now well into their grand prix, traveller and national championship events. **PAULA IRISH** reports



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Antigua Sailing Week success

Antigua Sailing Week is the climax of the Caribbean racing season, this year attracting over 1,000 sailors from 21 countries in boats as diverse as the outrageously fast Gunboat G4 foiling cat to charter boats from Sunsail and the like.

In this 48th year, eight races were sailed in 15-20 knot tradewinds on south Antigua's boisterous blue waters, giving crews exhilarating downwind speeds. Upwind legs took the fleets close to the dramatic shoreline of steep cliffs and white-sand bays.

Biggest boat was Jean-Paul Riviere's Finot Conq 100 Nomad IV and smallest a 1720 chartered by a crew from the Isle of Man.

Ross Applebey's Scarlet Oyster, chartered by Guernsey YC with Tim Thubron calling tactics, was on a mission. The Oyster 48 was already the star of the 2015 Caribbean season with a clutch of top places and she completed her scoreline at Antigua with a full set of bullets to win her class.

She also scooped the inaugural Royal Southern Inter-Yacht Challenge trophy contested by 12 teams of which at least half the crew are from a single sailing club. The Royal Southern's own entry scored second place in the 47.7 EH01 owned by Global Yacht Racing, helmed by Andy Middleton.

A successful week for British boats continued with 40.7s Profile Logic, and Caipirinha chartered by Patrick Holloran,

taking first and second place in their class.

In the multihull racing class the G4 Gunboat Timbalero III scorched around the courses hitting 30 knots at times, winning from another Gunboat, 55 Toccata.

The overall Sailing Week winner, also Best Antiguan and Caribbean Boat, was Jonty Layfield's CS40, Sleeper/U-Go sailed by a crew of family and friends.

On the lay day crews relaxed on Pigeon Beach with rum punches and beach-side viewing of match-racing in Nonsuch Bay Resort's RS Elites. Famous for its rum-fuelled parties, this year's Sailing Week kept up the tradition with entertainment by local reggae artists and the international stars Steel Pulse.

BUCS-BUSA Team Racing

At the BUCS-BUSA Team Racing Championship at Notts County SC, Cambridge Blue took the trophy in a shoot-out with Oxford Blue, following three days of intense competition during which 28 university teams sailed 258 races. Cambridge Blue (Arthur Henderson/Tom Maxwell, Tim Gratton/Hannah Bibby, Josh Flack/Francine Counsell) were taken to the full five races in the finals by Oxford Blue (Tom Steavenson/Edward Scallan, Ben Gratton/Benjamin Rahemtulla, Sam Jenkins/Charlotte Rapson).

Wanderer Nationals

Breezy conditions for the first two days of the Wanderer Nationals, hosted by Tudor SC as part of Langstone Harbour Race Weekend, saw Paul Yeadon and Liz North secure the title. With much lighter conditions on the final day and everything to play for in filling the other podium slots, Philip Meadowcroft/Adam Wickenden took second and Adam and Lucy Hart third.

GP14 Inlands

The GP14 Craftinsure Grand Prix Inland Championship at Carsington SC greeted competitors with windy conditions, the light winds on day two then fulfilling the forecast to build for another breezy outing; after six hard-fought races Shane McCarthy and Andy Thompson were worthy winners.