



Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club

Dear Fellow Cowes Sailors

Saturday 21st September - Cowes Corinthian, Fundraising for the Grand Bahama Children's Home

On Saturday 21st September the Cowes Corinthian Yacht Club will be fundraising to support the restoration of the Grand Bahamas Children's Home which was ravaged by Hurricane Dorian at the start of September. Why are we doing this? Many of you will know Dave and Sarah Ross who are long standing CCYC members and well known sailors of Cowes. Dave and Sarah relocated to Grand Bahama 18 months ago when Dave's work led him that way. What probably sounded like a dream opportunity recently turned to a nightmare when Dorian swept through the Bahamas. Dave and Sarah rode out the storm in their apartment in a "hurricane proof" building but as I am sure you have read thousands were less fortunate. Dave and Sarah said the experience was terrifying so goodness knows what it must have been like for those in low lying less structurally sound buildings.

Now that things have settled a bit the immense task of rebuilding the Island needs to start. A project close to the hearts of Dave and Sarah is the local children's home which provides a safe environment for 32 children who for whatever reason cannot live with their families. The structure of the Children's Home buildings is sound but the contents are a total loss. The entirety will need to be gutted. The children have lost everything. The Home itself lost all its contents as well, everything is gone. Quote from Dave on Facebook: *"Today we have been at the children's home. Everything, and I mean everything, is lost. It is heart breaking pulling these young people's lives out of the buildings. These are kids that had very little to start off with. Now they have nothing. Words can't describe it."*

How bad it is out there? After the storm had passed through Dave and Sarah were without power and water. Some days later limited services were restored but not enough to shower or run air conditioning and the daytime temperatures are in excess of 40 degrees C. Washing is done in the sea rinsed off with swimming pool water. Also Dave and Sarah have been volunteering in a temporary kitchen set up by a charity to supply hot meals to those in need and thousands of meals are served each day.

As Saturday 21st September is part of our CCA Keelboat Championship weekend CCYC would like to encourage the sailors of Cowes to come along for afternoon drinks after racing on Saturday. We will donate the takings from 4:30 to 6:30 pm on that day towards the Grand Bahama Children's Home restoration. As well as the regular bar we will have a Pop-Up Rum Cocktail bar and the barbecue will be fired up because everyone needs a burger after sailing (cash only for pop-up bar and burgers). So please come along whether or not you have been racing to support this very worthwhile cause. Please pass on to crew and friends.

Mike Dixon, Commodore