

Article published in The Daily Herald, St Maarten, on December 10, 2012

Team Dangerous wins first Bathtub Derby

By Robert Luckock

SIMPSON BAY—Hardware stores may have been mysteriously short of duct tape Monday morning after miles of the sticky stuff disappeared off the shelves in the days leading up to Sunday for use in the first annual Bathtub Derby held on Kim Sha Beach.



It was all for a charitable cause of course. A Bathtub Derby is one of those mad fun events where eccentric people get together to construct flimsy boats made of cardboard, dubiously held together by tape, then make complete fools of themselves by trying to paddle them a few metres. The result, as Sunday's event can attest, was hilarious.

Organisers of the Bathtub Derby, D'Event, deserve a pat on the back for attracting no less than 22 entries for the first time, a large appreciative crowd, while raising funds to buy computers for the Sister Regina School. Clearly this will become an eagerly anticipated annual event.



All sorts of creative craft were lined up on the beach, an exhibition in itself. Among the designs was the Coastguard entry with an automatic rifle mounted on their boat and a Hawaiian-style outrigger canoe. The rules were simple...four crew to a boat that must be constructed of cardboard, tape, and finished of with an environmentally friendly paint. Five heats were run with the winner of each heat going into the final.

The objective was to paddle the craft, after a Le Mans start, from a point at one end of the beach, round some buoys, and finish at the other end, about 50 metres. The better designs made it to the finish intact, or fell apart when they were carried out of the water. Others sank immediately, sort of an aquatic version of a house of cards collapsing,

before reaching the first buoy. This misfortune befell Team Cerveza who at least consoled themselves with the Titanic Award for the Most Dramatic Sinking.

The grand prize of \$1,000 at the end of the day went to Team Dangerous (Jolyon Ferron, Nathan Smith, Luke Bacon, and Martin Fitch).

The secret according to Luke's Dad, Michael Bacon, was "keep it simple stupid."



"All we did was get two big cardboard tubes, seal them so they were watertight and then lashed them together and it was as fast as could be," explained Michael. "The fancier boats missed the point but we tried to keep it as simple as possible. The crew are used to sailing in close quarters and I think that helped them too."

The craft was still in one piece on Monday after it was paddled through the bridge to the yacht club.

Second place went to Power Rafting Adventures, and third place to Dominator.

In the bonus race, first place went to Learning Unlimited, second place to Overboard, and third to Sister Regina Christmas Sunshine. Best Overall Design prize went to Philipino Typhoon.

The Budget Marine paddle board race was won by Star Peterson from Drunken Clan.



All the prizes were donated by sponsors that included Liccom, Budget Marine, Terra Management and Development, Kooyman, Dominos Pizza, Buccaneer Beach Bar, Island 92, Laser 101, Power Rafting, La Bamba Beach Bar, B&C Beverages, Antillean Liquors, Tri-Sport, Office World, Collaborative, and Le Grand Marché.

Photos of the event can be viewed on "D'Event" Facebook page or "Bathtub Derby 2012".