

SPORTS

Grand Bahama Homecoming and Regatta dates set

SHAYNE STUBBS
FN Sports Reporter
shayne@nasguard.com

Despite a dip in terms of sponsorship for the event, the Grand Bahama Homecoming and Regatta is expected to continue to make waves.

Slated for July 20 - 22 at Taino Beach under the theme, "Build your dream ... Sail the Sea," the yearly cultural tradition aims to please local residents with a weekend filled with onshore and offshore activities.

Each year, the GB Homecoming and Regatta Committee selects an honoree to acknowledge, for his or her selfless support to the regatta and sailing in general. This year, the committee chose to honor long-time Committee Member, Janice Elizabeth Grant.

Grant spoke in brief about the recognition and expressed her gratitude for the selection.

"First of all, I say to God be the glory and I thank Him for the honor," said Grant. "Also, I'd like to thank Chervita Campbell (Committee Chairman) and the Grand Bahama Regatta Committee for giving me the opportunity to be the honoree for this year."

Grant was invited to join the Regatta Committee over 20 years ago and since then, she's had no regrets in rendering her services.

"I started over 20 years ago by invitation from Mr. Carnard Bethel and I haven't regretted a day. I'm happy, and it's good working with Chervita and all the other Committee Members."

This year's regatta will feature 10 E-Class Sloops from throughout the Family Islands. They include defending champion, *Sacrifice* out of Long Island, *Dream Girl* (Exuma), *Uncle John* (Acklins), *Crazy Partner* (Black Point, Exuma), *H2O* (Black



SAILING ON - The 23rd Grand Bahama Homecoming and Regatta is set for July 20-22. Committee member and honoree, Janice Elizabeth Grant, left, Committee Chairman Chervita Campbell, center, and the Ministry of Tourism's Nuvolari Chotoosingh (Niche Markets Manager), right met at the Regatta's host site, Taino Beach to announce the upcoming event. (PHOTO: SHAYNE STUBBS)

Point, Exuma), *Revelation 3:19* (Black Point, Exuma), *Golden Girl* (Stuart Manor, Exuma), *Sweet Island Gal* (Stuart Manor, Exuma), *Jacob's Ladder* (Mayaguana) and *Termite* (Exuma).

The Committee Chairman explained that this year's regatta had to be "down scaled" due to the lack of funding; however, she outlined the contingency plan to keep the event as lively as possible for residents.

"Due to lack of funding we have down scaled our regatta, a bit. We will host, again, one of the best sailing events in our culture," she stated. "Over the years we have had a lack of public support, but nonetheless, we pressed in hosting this cultural event."

"This year we have engaged several other partners in kind and in services. Overall, our budget has been reduced due to

funding. However, we have outsourced some of our events."

On Friday, July 20 the Regatta's Official Opening and Skipper's Party will take place at Out Da Sea at 7:00 p.m. "Rock The Bahamas" will be Saturday night's live entertainment and Sunday night will feature the "Intoxicated Rum Fest In Da Sand" at Pirate's Cove.

The Ministry of Tourism will continue to lend its support to the

island's cultural race and festival. Manager of Niche Markets, Nuvolari Chotoosingh expressed the ministry's enthusiasm as a continued sponsor.

"The Ministry of Tourism is certainly pleased to be able to support and assist the Regatta Committee. As Campbell stated these are trying times and the committee has done its best to try and pull this event off once again this year.

"Domestic Tourism is always good as well as our visitors who would come out and see, for the first-time perhaps, this fantastic event at Taino Beach. And we look forward to the general public being a part of it once again."

On-shore activities will include Beach Volleyball, Sack Races, Watermelon Eating Contests, "Float your Boat," Regatta Tug-gin' and a Regatta Scavenger Hunt.

Croatia in World Cup final for 1st time, beats England 2-1

RONALD BLUM
AP Sports Writer

MOSCOW (AP) — When the final whistle blew and they knew they were going to their first World Cup final, the Croatians ran to their jumping and cheering fans in their iconic red-and-white checkered jerseys.

Mario Mandzukic scored the winning goal in the 109th minute and Croatia shocked England, rallying for a 2-1 victory Wednesday.

Defender Sime Vrsaljko kept the score even in extra time by heading a shot off the goal line about 10 minutes before Mandzukic scored for Croatia, which is the first team in 28 years to come from behind to win a World Cup semifinal match.

"Mentally strong team," midfielder Ivan Rakitic said. "It's just unbelievable to get back in the game in this way."

The Croats will play France for the title on Sunday in its biggest sporting moment since becoming an independent nation in 1991.

France, which won its only title at home in 1998, will have an extra day of rest after beating Belgium 1-0 on Tuesday. Croatia played three straight extra-time matches — two ended in penalty kicks.

Football will not be coming home to England, and there will be no title to match the 1966 triumph at Wembley Stadium. Harry Kane & Co. will deal with the same disappointment that felled Shearer and Platt, Gazza and Wazza, Beckham and Gerrard.

Croatia's legs at the start seemed to carry the weight of so many minutes in the knockout stage, and a pressing England went up quickly. Kevin Trippier curled in a free kick in the fifth minute.

But Croatia found energy after the break when the game opened up, making England's missed



Croatia's Mario Mandzukic, center, celebrates after scoring his side's second goal during the semifinal match between Croatia and England at the 2018 soccer World Cup in the Luzhniki Stadium in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, July 11, 2018. (AP PHOTO/FRANK AUGSTEIN)

first-half opportunities seem all-the-more significant.

Ivan Perisic tied the score in the 68th minute with his fourth goal of the tournament.

Rakitic switched the ball from left flank to right, where Vrsaljko crossed. Walker attempted to clear a diving header but Perisic jumped and from behind raised his left boot over Walker's head to poke the ball past goalkeeper Jordan Pickford from about eight yards.

Four minutes later, Perisic hit Pickford's near post.

Mandzukic scored after Walk-

er stuck out a leg to block Josip Pivacic's cross. The ball popped up and Perisic out-jumped Trippier to head the ball behind the defense.

Mandzukic alertly reacted to the unexpected ball in the penalty area, splitting defenders John Stones and Harry Maguire, who had taken four short steps up. The ball bounced twice, Mandzukic ran onto it and one-timed a low, left-footed shot to Pickford's left.

Mandzukic was mobbed by teammates, who jumped on him in the corner and trapped pho-

tographers under them in the crush.

England went ahead with its ninth set-piece goal of the tournament, after Luca Modric tripped Dele Alli, giving England a free kick about 25 yards out in the center of the field.

Trippier struck the ball with his right foot and it rose above leaping Dejan Lovren and Mandzukic to the left of the desperate dive of goalkeeper Danijel Subasic, who turned his head and watched the ball land in the upper corner.

With his first international

goal, just over a year after his England debut, the 27-year-old Trippier joined David Beckham as the only English players since 1966 to score on free kicks at the World Cup. Choruses of "God Save the Queen" began in England's end.

Kane had a chance to double the lead in the 30th minute when Subasic made a sliding save on his short-range shot and Kane's follow-up effort from the end line hit the post and bounced off the keeper and up as the flag went up. Jesse Lingard sent an open 18-yard shot just wide in

the 35th.

England had its moments to come back but could not finish its chances. Lingard failed to connect with a Kane through ball in 78th, Kane miss-hit a header off a free kick in stoppage time, and Stones' header from a corner was cleared off the line by Vrsaljko in the 99th.

As the action went end to end, Croatia had its chances, too. Pickford rushed off his line and stuck out his right leg to block Mandzukic's poke-in attempt of Perisic's cross near the end of the first extra-time period.