



# ***ROWING ASSOCIATION OF JAMAICA (RAJ)***



*P.O. Box 121 • Mona Post Office • Kingston 7 • Jamaica W. I.*

Karlsruher Rheinklub Alemannia e.V.  
Herrn Michael Schwan  
Vorsitzender  
Werftstr. 8b  
76189 Karlsruhe  
Germany

E-mail: [info@rheinklub-alemannia.de](mailto:info@rheinklub-alemannia.de)

Kingston, November 15, 2006

Dear Mr. Schwan,

Re: Your donation of the training boats 'Berthold Glaser' and 'Richard Gimbel' to FISA

In 2004 Sheila Stephens and Dr. Kurt Gelbert of FISA have donated your boat as part of their collection of used boats to our rowing development here in Jamaica. It may be of interest for you to see that your club's donation has eventually ended up in Jamaica thus contributing to us being able to implement rowing in this country.

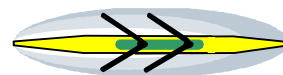
We have established the 'RCJ', which is the 'Rowing Club of Jamaica' and as such the first rowing club in the English-speaking Caribbean. Our rowing grounds are in Port Royal about 5 km west of Kingston airport. The mangroves in this area form natural channels and basins, which are ideal for rowing as they provide wind protection. Because of the nearby opening to the sea in conjunction with the tidal movement we enjoy non-polluted water. As a result of this the wildlife is quite intact as we sometimes row in sight of dolphins and sting rays and certainly crowds of pelicans and other coastal birds. If you 'zoom' Port Royal into Google-Earth you can see our facilities from the satellite perspective, comprised of a U-shaped area made from 40 ft containers.

At present the club is identical with the 'RAJ', the 'Rowing Association of Jamaica', however over the years we hope to establish more rowing clubs in the country.

This year FISA has officially acknowledged Jamaica as new member of the world-wide rowing family. Our ambition is to send two teams to Munich next year with the objective to demonstrate that Jamaicans can row and vice versa to demonstrate our rowers what serious rowing really means. Hence we will develop motivation and experience for the then following CARIFTA games in early 2008, which are the qualifications for Beijing.



*RAJ*



I am proud to see how the German rowing fraternity supports our development:

- All boat donations we use are out of Germany, four through Ingrid Dieterle activities with clubs in the Frankfurt region and five through Sheila Stephens and FISA,
- The boat transport in a 40' container was enabled by the shipping line Hamburg Sued,
- One of our four facility-containers is from Hamburg Sued, the other one from Hapag Lloyd,
- Kurt Gelbert and his friends have packed all nine donated boats plus sculls and oars plus rigs, rudders etc. during a cold and rainy November weekend in a 40' container; is there any better way to demonstrate camaraderie and friendship?
- The Dieterle's and Gelbert's have visited us providing most valuable support in organizational matters,
- So did Iradj El-Qalqili who visited us also to provide detailed information on our development plan,
- Juergen Duese will come in January 2007 to teach us how coach and how to care for boats. This will be sponsored by the German DOSB as part of their development program.

The German generosity was met by the equally generous Jamaican society which again proved its openness to new developments. A standing term was that 'since we have established bob-sleigh we can do rowing with ease'. Our main supporters here in Jamaica are:

- Caribbean Maritime Institute, which provides grounds and infrastructure while we teach their students rowing,
- The Engineer's Regiment of the Jamaica Defence Force set up our facilities,
- The Delegation of the European Union provided rowing shirts and access to the Italian rowing fraternity,
- The private sector such as J. Wray & Nephews, Tank Welds, ZIM Shipping, Perez Shipping, Jamaica Broilers, Sherwin Williams etc.; all provided invaluable support to our development.

We attach photographs to show that our development is certainly basic as we finish our first year of rowing in a more organized manner.

We wish the Karlsruher Rheinklub Alemannia all the best for the future and hopefully we may find the opportunity to exchange personally either in Jamaica or at one of the rowing events in Europe.

Best regards

Dr. Peter Kolbusch  
President RAJ