



The Dominica Yacht Club successfully launched its Junior Optimist Sailing Program in August with the aid of an instructors course delivered by Peter Hoad, from Barbados. The course was part of the IODA ongoing programme to train "basic-level" coaches.

Hubert Winston writes: "The Dominica Yacht Club has nine Optimist dinghies and will soon expand its program to include Lasers, Sunfish and a J-24 for older kids and adults. We have been advocating sailing in Dominica for many years and hope by next year, we will invite other kids and boats in the region to join us in Dominica to enjoy our first regatta."



The St Kitts and Nevis Optimist Dinghy Association had their first local races on Sunday May 31st in St Kitts. They had a beginner race and then a larger triangular course for the more advanced students. They have been operating for less than a year and everyone was so excited about the turnout.

The boats have been supplied through the IODA "6 for 5" scheme.



The sailors of El Salvador (above), where IODA have supplied both spars and sails, enjoy a training session.

Free boats - the "6 for 5" scheme

Countries seeking to start or enlarge Optimist fleets can apply for one free boat for every five bought.

The boats must be owned by an association, club or other 'not for profit' organisation and available to the children of non-sailors. Alternatively countries which build wood/epoxy Optimists can receive free spars, sails and fittings. Where there is a national class association, applications must be made through that authority.

Over the last seven years more than 300 Optimists in over thirty countries have been acquired under this scheme.

Grants are also available for training instructors and the first visit of a team to a regional regatta.



12 boats have just arrived in Sudan. We welcome them as new IODA members this year. They will start their fleet with 12 boats and we hope that this will grow and develop as with so many other IODA members.