

# AC the 'people's monarch'

Adrian AC Clarke was the people's monarch long before the judges tallied the score at the **Courtesy Garage Pic O de Crop Finals** last night.

Cindy Maynard, who is an avid calypso lover and makes it a point to go to different tent nights, scored her top three as **"AC, Kid Site and Billboard"**.

A veteran calypsonian, who did not get the judges' favour for the final 17, scored it the same, only replacing **Billboard** with Chrystal Cummins Beckles-Holder.

The crowd that stayed behind for the announcement of the results – which came at 3:30 a.m. – only wanted to hear one name called in the top spot – AC.

A group of nine friends, who said they have been coming to the finals for the past 30 years, all had dissenting views on who would win or even place in the top three.

"I only missed the finals when they changed the format to one song. I was not too pleased and my friends said I missed a good show, so I came back. So AC, iWeb and Biggie," said Chris.

iWeb is my man," said Tim.

"iWeb, AC and Colin Spencer!" shouted one from the back.

"Big man, you mekking sport", was the retort from one who gave his top three as **"Kid Site, AC and anybody else could come third"** – to much laughter.

One was brave enough to say: **"Sir Ruel, iWeb, AC,"** which brought out more laughter. The men then asked for a group photo.

## Good sales

But it wasn't only AC who did well at the **National Botanical Gardens, Waterford, St Michael**, as some vendors who spoke to the **Sunday Sun** reported good sales.

Jermaine Murray, who had a drinks bar, said he was late coming into the venue but still made good sales "after we finished our set-up."

He and his team of

three had "a good spot", to the right of the stage, he said, adding he "had some challenges getting stock because of how the bank holiday fell.

"I was selling at the Finals before COVID-19 and was glad to come back last year," he said.

"The mature crowd here give me good sales. They come and stay and buy drinks."

## Faithful

Cou Cou Village is a staple of the season and while they are at a different spot this year because of the shift from the amphitheatre, dean of the Cathedral Church of Jerusalem, David Estwick, said faithful patrons were flocking to buy food.

"We adapted to the change. At **Pandemonium**, we had a completely different set-up but we made it work. We are going to be out this weekend for the last lap and will be here for **Soca 5.0** tomorrow [today], at The Mighty Grynner Highway for **Bridgetown Market** and also for the culmination of **Crop Over at Grand Kadooment**.

"Tonight, I cannot complain about sales. We had a slight hiccup with no electricity initially that gave us a slow start but the crowd built steadily and we expect to see that continue



This group of friends try not to miss any Pic O de Crop Finals night. (Pictures by Reco Moore.)



Cou Cou Village, a staple of the season, attracted a line of patrons at the Courtesy Garage Pic O de Crop Finals.

throughout the end of the night. It is a huge operation, so about 25-plus make it work."

Finey Pop Corn, a family set-up, had a long line that stretched around the stall. They offered two choices – caramel and regular with a secret ingredient – and a representative said sales were very good and they could not make the popcorn quick enough for eager buyers.

A mobile Creamery truck was overwhelmed with customers as the driver was also the salesman. Business was "very good", he said. (NS)



People flocked to various food and drinks stalls all through the night.