



NEWSLETTER

SMU SAILING

AUG/SEP 2016

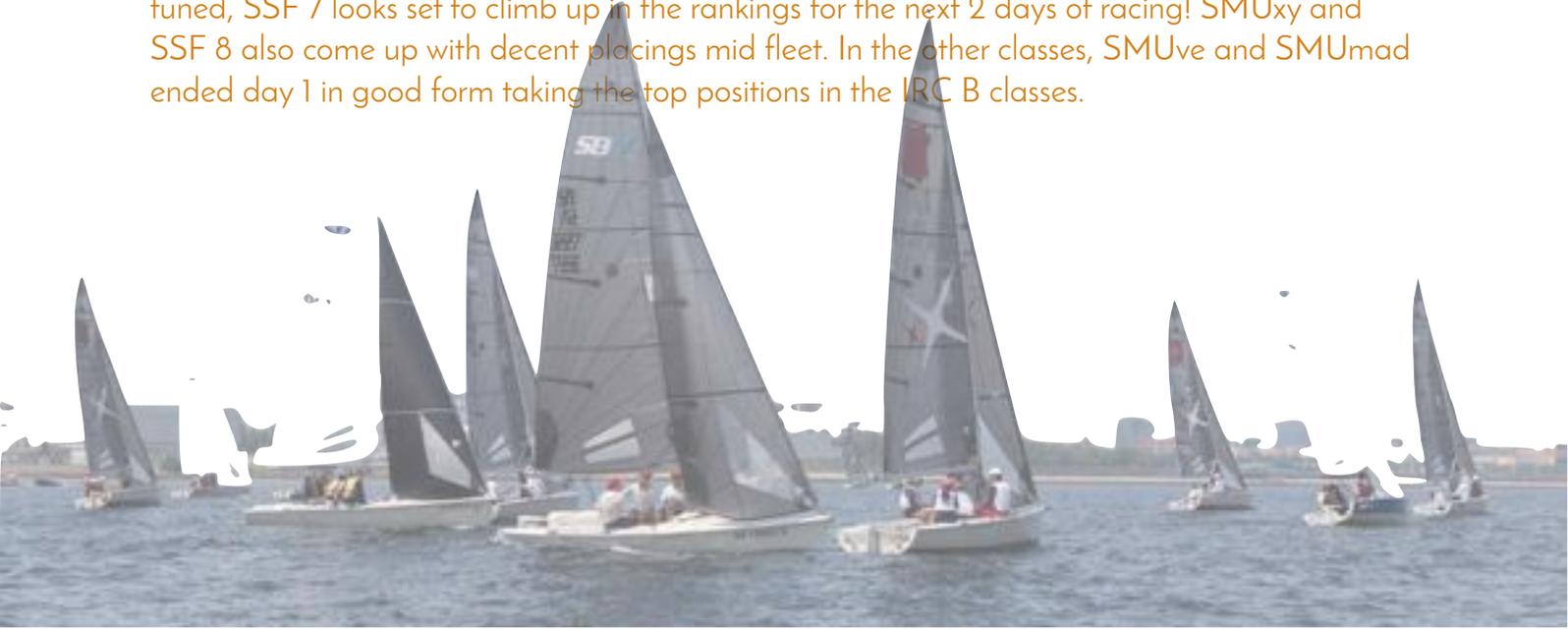
19th Western Circuit Sailing Regatta

DAY 1

By Brian D. James

Down at the docks early in the first day of western, it seemed like the winds were shaping up well to provide a day of thrilling racing for all 5 SMU crews competing in various classes. After a quick tuning of the boat and rigging up, the SSF 7 crew headed out for a test sail to check not only our settings but also run through our crew work. A quick routine of hoists and drops followed by a some upwind and downwind pacing rounded off the morning and we were ready for a great day of racing spot on at 12 sharp.

The first race saw the Race committee send us off on one of our longer routes, course 6. The long distance, coupled with the rather constant condition around the course saw the first boat finishing slightly over 2 hours. The next few races were 2 short windward leeward courses which capped off the first day of racing. We finished day 1 with a decent result, ending up in the middle of the fleet. Having all our kinks in crew work ironed out and the boat settings fine tuned, SSF 7 looks set to climb up in the rankings for the next 2 days of racing! SMUxy and SSF 8 also come up with decent placings mid fleet. In the other classes, SMUve and SMUmad ended day 1 in good form taking the top positions in the IRC B classes.



Day 2 Wilson Cai

The day started out bright and breezy for the sailors, with gusty winds as early as 8am in the morning. Trees were swaying amidst the unusually clean waters of RM, promising a good day of racing for all classes. By 11am, the gentle morning southwesterly breeze had built up to winds gusting 12-15 knots, accompanied by small swells, perfect conditions for a good day of racing.

The IRC and PY classes started their passage race slightly after 12pm, beginning a three-hour long marathon on course 6. The course entailed traversing up and down the western end of Singapore, rounding Alert Shoal buoy and the TVE5 marker a couple of times. Zanzibar from IRC A pulled away easily from the rest of the fleet and went on to win the President's Cup by a considerable margin. Much of the action however was between the rest of the fleet and positions were constantly exchanged due to the shifty conditions. Most notably was the exciting duel between SMUMad and SMUve as both boats kept close to each other, maintaining the pressure on each other through out the race. But ultimately SMUve kept its cool and managed to fend off SMUMad's relentless onslaught by a mere 54 seconds.

The boats then headed back to shore for a well-deserved break after an intense day in trying conditions and under the sweltering heat. It was time for another evening of drinks, good food and post race entertainment. What made it more special for the sailing team was the celebration of the club's beloved President, Clement Lim. Spending his 23th birthday as Race Secretariat for the event showed his dedication and commitment to the club, and it is no surprise then that the club saluted his sacrifice with a mandatory round of shots on this special day. With day 2 ending on a high, we look forward to more good racing and fun at the final day of the 19th Western Circuit Regatta!



Day 3 By Annabelle Lam

Day 3 of Western started off with beautiful weather, clear skies and gusty wind. Races flew by with OCS' by our SMU boats not only with SMUve and Mad in the IRC B class but also SSF7 and SMUxy in the SB20 class. Nevertheless we all had an enjoyable time and experience, especially our new baby helm Alison! The highly anticipated closing ceremony started off with the signing of the renewal of Memorandum of Understanding between SMU and RM. We saw some exciting performances by SMU students such as Ardiente and Voix and not to mention the annual Charity Auction, which together with donations, t-shirt sales and car wash, raised more than \$8000 for Sailability!

Congratulations to SMUve and SMUmad for coming in 1st and 2nd in the IRC class respectively and our SB20s!

The highlight of the night was definitely Mr Colin Tan Jia Long's 30th birthday with him drinking out of the IRC B cup and in his birthday 'hat'. The usual drunken ping pong and havoc in the PPCDL and RM gym ended the night off with many sailors on the floor. A big hand to the WCSR Organising Committee for a job well done and I'm sure we all are looking forward for the next WCSR!



XIAMEN REGATTA

By Jade Loh

Day 1

After the long flight delays, Team Flying Tiger Hidden Dragon finally reached their accommodation in Xiamen. The team were asked to send one representative to the protest room to choose their boat. The boat selection was surprisingly different this year as all teams were told that they will be using 3 different boats for all 3 days of racing, this was to ensure fairness because the boats were delivered late and



checks were not done thoroughly for all the flying tigers. So, the teams had to choose the 3 boats they will use at random using poker cards, facilitated by the race committee. Team Flying Tiger Hidden Dragon headed out bright and early to Xiamen University for the regatta opening ceremony. After the team photo taking, teams had to line up in a single file for the opening address by the University (a lil' like school assembly). After the opening ceremony, Team SMU quickly ran like aunties to the buses to catch the first one to the marina. They quickly rigged up and headed out to do some practices. However, they went a little too far out and were late for the first start. There were a total of 4 races that day, winds were pretty strong in the first few races but died down by a few knots by the time the coastal races were going to start due to the rain. It was a pretty interesting coastal race as teams were told that the finishing line was under the bridge near the mouth of the marina. Currents were generally very strong throughout the day and the teams had to overlay the mark by a lot, especially for the coastal race. During the coastal race, the massive wind shift caused all the boats to down their spins immediately. Day 1 races were all in all a lil' rusty for our fresh new crew but the team was glad that they did well for the coastal race (4th place).

Day 2

As usual, the eager Team Flying Tiger Hidden Dragon rushed out early today and their goal for the day was to have clean and on-time starts for all 6 races. During practice, everything went well until... minutes before the start as they were dropping their spin to head to the start line, the spin tore. It was a huge one and near the seams. The foredeck team screamed "NOOOO" in despair and tried frantically to tape the spin up moments before the countdown started. A bad start of the day for team FTHD. Their spin tape wouldn't work as the spin was damp and the tear was too close to the seam, the countdown was already commencing...the foredeck team tried everything, from spin tape to duct tape+spin tape. The team comms over to the race committee requesting for another spin, but it was a negative. So, they decided to go spin-less for the first 2 races. Winds were crazy for the first 2 races, with many boats broaching ahead of us, some sailed without their spins as it was too risky. The trimmers worked really hard during the races, with Belle grunting at the back of the boat calling for BDJ's help to up the heavy traveller and Andrew trimming the jib to his best ability.

Before the 3rd race started, the team comms over to the race committee once again, desperate to find a fix for their spin. Then, the race comm gave them the most magical blue spin tape in the world. The foredeck team went straight to work and patched the sh*t out of the spin and managed to do so moments before the 3rd start. As they continued to sail on, the foredeck team (Jiaping and Jade) were just praying that the tape stays on through the strong winds, which it did. In the words of the incoming logistics IC, Sng Jia Ping, "We are so going to bring home this magical China blue spin tape!"

The upwinds were good but the downwind felt pretty sluggish. The team did well for the subsequent races, with squeaky clean hoist and drops and scoring 3/4th placing on average. On the last race, the RC raised the U flag at the start line. Team SMU had a dramatic start as their boat caught onto the comm boat's anchor line 1 min before the start, but recovered fast enough to enter the start line on time and finished that race splendidly with 3rd placing... or so they thought...

When the team returned to the hotel, they were shocked to see that they got a UFD for the last race. They were firm on the fact that they started on time and on the line. The other Korean team who started below them also got a UFD. Feeling





puzzled, both teams decided to approach the RC for a protest. However, the protest was unsuccessful as the RC had a voice recording of the situation when it happened, and both teams couldn't win against the RC's decision. Feeling a little enraged, team FTTHD were filled with fire and were super motivated to own the races for the last day. The team had the BEST Korean food in Xiamen and quickly cheered up after, knowing that tomorrow will be a better day of races.

Day 3

At the start of the day, the RC told the skippers during the briefing that there will be a special medal race for the top 8 teams at the end of official races today.

Day 3 races were BANGING, like literally. During the first 3 races, boats kept banging into each other and onto team SMU's boat as well. It was pretty obvious that competition was high and the China teams were either getting aggressive or really love getting close to team SMU's boat. On the first race, the team killed the spin too fast and could not bear around the mark, causing their boat to get hooked onto the mark. The team had no choice but to reverse to get out of it. While trying to back the jib, BDJ almost lost his nuts as one of the oncoming boats crashed into the team's boat head on with their pole ramming onto the bow. The nimble BDJ managed to avoid it, protecting his precious family jewels, phew!

On the second race, the boat on port side didn't bear and SMU's boat was already so close to the mark. Hence, the team had to crash tack and they collided. After the crash tack, the team tried to tacked over and hit them with our pole. It was pretty frustrating during races as this other China team kept screaming "STARBOARD" to team SMU, when both boats were clearly on port. The team's brave helms-woman, Alison Chia, had enough and decided to set things straight. The sassy helm decided to shout over in perfect english, "We are both on port, so stop shouting starboard. There are rules...RULE BOOK, READ IT!" With much sass, the other boat backed off, not sure if it was because they fully understood what Ali was saying or because they were intimidated by her boss of demeanour. And that line became the team's inside joke for the rest of the trip.

After all the races, the SMU crew were just chilling with jello when the RC announced the top 8 teams moving on to the medal race. Annddd, despite all the banging of boats for today, team SMU got into the TOP 8 teams!!! The team was so shocked, everyone started to cheer and scream! They put their jello away and put their game face on for the medal race. With perfect crew work and currents on their side, the team did well and came in 4th for the medal race!

On their way back to the hotel, the team was informed that another boat wishes to protest against them. Everyone in the team were just cracking their heads, trying to recall what they could possibly be protested against for. Apparently, on the third race, there was another boat that refused to tack off at the rounding. And when they tacked, the team tacked and SMU's boat hit the protesting boat. The opposing team didn't see that SMU did a penalty, but team SMU did and the RC confirmed that they saw SMU perform the penalty as well and SMU won the protest!

Overall, Team SMU came in 7th out of the 16 boats in the Flying Tiger class and 4th for the coastal races! Good job team!

The Xiamen regatta was a blast and the team can't wait to go back next year again.



13th Exco Elections



And the votes are in...introducing to you the new incoming 13th Executive Committee of SMU Sailing!

President - Ko Yumei

Vice-President - Germaine Lim

Honorary General Secretary - Lee Cheryl

Training and Development Officer - Alison Chia

Finance Secretary - Tan Dexun

Logistics Officer - Sng Jia Ping

Marketing and Corporate communications Officer - Cherise Lei

Congratulations to all candidates! Do SMU Sailing proud!



It's that time of the year again, to whip out our lanterns, light em' sparklers up and release wish lanterns into the air. Sailor moon was such a blast, the sailors celebrated the mid-autumn festival with a huge BBQ spread and their traditional lantern fight. In the midst of all the festivities, the team took the chance to initiate the incoming freshmen and not to forget the FISU team who were flying off to Perth for the WUG the next week. A huge shoutout to Annabelle for opening up her lovely home for the party and to the exco for organising this event! Can't wait for the next one!

