

SMU SAILING



Bay Challenge 2011

The Marina Bay, located in the pulsing heart of Singapore City, has transformed the skyline of our country and has become an icon for the rest of the world for many reasons. Unfortunately, sailing is not quite one of them. On the 14th & 15th of May, 2 of our SMU Teams as well as 4 of our highly sought after female sailors took part in the inaugural Bay Challenge 2011 as part of this year's Boat Asia. The fabulous settings amongst the skyscrapers of downtown Singapore proved a double edged sword as pockets of wind would appear seemingly from nowhere and just as quickly disappear right in front of you.



Not to be deterred though, Team SMU bravely (and quite gingerly) stepped onto the Laser Bahias, and Capsized. Shaun Toh's crew of Samuel Ong & Bryan Teo dazzled the crowds with their nifty footwork and agile movements as they provided the first casualty of the day, whilst rigging up. This was followed up quickly by a number of other victims during a freak gust of wind which saw Chris Lim and his crew of Calvin Lim and Ang Yong Tat unable to out-roll the roll tack and Lim Peimun's Raffles Marina team wow spectators with a spectacular wipe-out.



This would be as exciting as the regatta got. After which we had 2 days of floating around, slow motion action and incessant swearing. After day 1, and some intense debating over the rules with the Chief Umpire, both teams from SMU made it through to the quarter-finals joined by Catherine Chua and her Match Race Thailand Team, Alina Chia and her Finnish Thai

Team, and Fidelis Tan and her Royal Selangor Yacht Club team. Ultimately, neither SMU Team made it through to the next round but our flag was still kept flying when Fi's team made it to the finals and Alina's team got into the petit finals

Final Results:

- First Place - Kukukerchu (Skipper Jonathan Rankine)
- Second Place - Royal Selangor Yacht Club (Skipper Rolf Heemskerck)
- Third Place - Performance Sails (Skipper Zhang Yong Qiang)
- Fourth Place - Eriksson (Skipper Jon Eriksson)

Post TOGR Gathering 2011

It has been almost a month since SMU Sailing's largest ever contingent came back from Pattaya when we were there for the annual Top of the Gulf Regatta 2011. As far as regattas go, TOGR is right up there in terms of quality of racing, post party events and of course the overall atmosphere.



As the old saying goes, "What happens in Pattaya, appears on Facebook." Many of our adoring fans back home were waiting with bated breath for the latest news, gossip and happenings live and direct from Thailand. For those that had better things to do, the post TOGR gathering was the chance to get together to relive some of the better moments SMU Sailing enjoyed in our little corner of paradise. Held at Shauns house and organized by Gwen & sAm, the gathering saw our alumni, seniors and juniors mingling and enjoying each others company. Master director/producer Eric delivered another fantastic video which helped brought back i'm sure a happy memory or 2.

Mayhem Regatta 2011

We don't have regattas in Raffles Marina often, but when they do, they're long. The Mayhem Regatta was the chance for eager beaver sailors to get a few good races under their belts as well as test out SMU Sailing's latest bit of hardware, the TackTracker.

With some interesting courses scheduled, the race looked promising, that is until the race

committee forgot to indent the wind for the weekend which led to an incredible amount of floating, drifting and swearing. Nevertheless,



the evenly mixed team led by our favourite Winnie Wong Wing On thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Speaking of the TackTracker, this little device is able to plot your course on a race track, calculate speed, angle and a whole host of other measurements. To check out the online races from the Mayhem Regatta, go to www.TackTracker.com or download the free iPhone/iPad app!

Farewell Seniors

At this point in time every year, we are forced to bid farewell to a special group of people. The Sailing Club has always had strong senior-junior bonds, regardless of age, year or faculty. This is one of the reasons why the club has grown like it has. Year after year, we have been fortunate to have had some of the brightest minds in SMU take the club forward, each year laying a new foundation for future development, each year setting new goals for everyone else to achieve. We are still a young club, but our track records at both local and international competitions speak for themselves. Our achievements have earned us recognition from Europe, Australia and China, our standards have been set for the rest of the school to follow. Our philosophy of giving every SMU student the chance to sail has earned us respect and has made us new friends. All of these things would not have been possible if not for the tireless dedication shown by our seniors. Their passion has become our reason, their commitment our goal. Their selfless urge to put the sailing club ahead of themselves can only inspire us to want to do more. Their willingness to help out at trainings, showing up for gym sessions or coming for movie nights. Whatever it may be the seniors have paved the way for us, now it is our turn. Do not take for granted the luxuries granted to us, don't forget that sacrifices were made for all the comforts you now enjoy. As a new cycle begins, let us take it upon ourselves to ensure the efforts of our seniors don't go to waste.

To the seniors, from whichever batch you were from, the sailing club thanks you.

SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH 2 LIMAS

By Calvin & Alexi Lim



Sailing on Windsikher (Sydney 42)

For most of us who have never sailed anything bigger than a Platu, Windsikher looks like a giant coming in at 40 feet. Despite its size, this boat is deceptively mobile, how else can you explain its ability to do a U-turn around the pontoon while being tightly stymied by the space constraints. I'm pretty sure I wouldn't want to be parking this monster any time soon.

So here's how we lined up on the boat:

- Samantha – Pit
- Ziyi & Alexi – Trimmers
- Calvin – Mains trimmer
- Shaun Poh – Navigator cum back stay flipper

Rigging Up

The wet Saturday morning was spent playing around with the contraptions on board the boat and exploring the depths of the pit, not to mention trying our hand at the aqua blue steering wheel which remarkably was almost as wide as the stern. We also had to contend with the important tasks of batoning the 3 jibs and the mains – a menial task which we later found out cannot be underestimated.

Poseidon's Wrath

It's become a SMU Sailing tradition for sailors to make an offering to Poseidon before every race day. Poseidon has been known to accept blood, dunked sailors and most definitely jellies. But what we do know from the weekend is that Poseidon does not accept sail batons! Whoever thought that sail batons could replace jellies was clearly mistaken and it resulted in the crew having to cut and re-fix the batons in the punishing rain much to the chagrin of the SMU sailors who unsurprisingly were the only ones on board without wet-weather attire, undoubtedly convinced after the return trip from SSR that jackets are BURDENS.

Starts

Planning and timing the approach to the start are key ingredients for any start and more so for larger boats which are less maneuverable.

The pre-start sequence also sees your jib trimmer and your mains trimmer working their socks off to give the boat best sail trim. In the case of the mains, the mast may also be required to 'bounce' the mainsheet because the system is too far-flung and long which makes winching or pulling it in inefficient.

One to remember: By some minor miracle, we managed to squeeze all 40 feet of our boat through what must have been an impossible gap considering that we practically half the fleet was trying to luff us into the start boat.

Beaching

Sorry to disappoint all the fans of boat-beaching, but no it did not happen this time. But we did come worryingly close, some 5-6m from the shoreline. However, with the depth meter on board serving as our insurance against running aground, the closest we came was 3m from the bottom. Evidently, this anti-beaching tool would definitely come in handy for next year's SSR!

Post Race

Truly, one of the tangible perks of big boat sailing is getting back first especially in passage races. Who knows how many beers had been emptied from the stash while reading Zixian's live on-race commentary on Twitter. Special mention has to go out to Alexi Lim for having TEABAGS OF STEEL for steering Windsikher under the link bridge with (what Shaun and I believe) less than a of meter separation.

Calvin Lim is a first year Business Student who enjoys a good game of soccer, breaking keys and long walks on the beach with his team mates. He grew up through the Singapore Sailing system and is best known for being the Republics first ever Byte World Champion in Cork, Canada, where he beat the 2nd place opponent by an astonishing 60 points before 1 discard. Since then he has also been crowned Byte CII Euro Champion in 2004 as well as the 2004 Male Sailor of the Year by the North American Byte Association. More recently though, Calvin has excelled in keelboat sailing with a podium finish at the 16th Singapore Straits Regatta. Much more can be expected from this self-confessed Subway freak in the near future.

Upcoming Regattas

SSF Match Race 2011 (June)

Match Racing is back with the 2nd edition of the Barrage Match Race. Held on the 25th & 26th of June at the Marina Barrage, expect thrills, spills and lots of action.

SMU Sailing will be sending 2 teams in this regatta. So if you are free that weekend, come by to show your support!

SMU Team 1:

Renfred Tay - Helm

Calvin Lim - Mains

Koh Ziyi - Trimmer

Brandon Heng - Bowman

SMU Team 2

Chris Lim - Helm

Catherine Chua - Mains

Eric Loh - Trimmer

Alexi Lim - Bowman



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SPECIAL INTERVIEW WITH 2 LIMAS

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Sailing on board WindSikher

Sailing on Windsikher as Jib trimmer during the Mayhem regatta was absolute fun and a real positive experience for me. Being the biggest boat I have sailed on, the initial excitement itself was already hard to contain. As our team orientated ourselves with the boat, I was fascinated simply by the amount of space there was on board. The pit was also impressive as it had beds, a stove, and another room within the pit itself where the spinnaker and other sails were kept. All the cool stuff aside, I was also intimidated by the new systems on board that we had to master shortly.

Communication Impact

Sailing with a new crew and skipper, we could not rely on our usual comfort terms like “blue” and “red” (spin sheets) as that would just be shameful, so we were forced to use the proper terms. Crew communication too was even more critical on a big boat like Windsikher and I learn that it is important to give concise and precise request or orders because talking must be kept at a minimal with so many people on board.

Teamwork

It was relatively easy working with the new crew as we all had a common objective- to win. A bigger boat meant that more people were needed for seemingly simple operations like raising the sails and gibing the spin, so teamwork was paramount. There is plenty to learn when sailing with new people as each one of them have new knowledge that you can feed on. Just listening to the advice that boat tactician Richard gave to Sarab during our races was enough for me to learn something new. Of course, I also picked up some valuable trimming skills from master Kohzy too.

Care for sailors

Sarab Singh took great care of the us, he fed us, and hydrated us with beer and water. It was a great experience for me and I would encourage anyone to sail on board a bigger boat like Windsikher if they ever had the

chance to. Just remember: be helpful, and be professional.

Alexi Lim is a first year Business Student who takes gourmet to a new level. He enjoys drinking tea, serving tea and bowwomen. With more than 6 years of sailing experience in dinghies during his days in Victoria School & Victoria Junior College, Alexi has stepped up into the world up keelboat sailing with ease with a first place at the 16th Singapore Straits Regatta 2011. A qualified master chef, Alexi can make anything taste good. Watch him in action on the 25th & 26th of June at the SSF Match Race held in the Marina Barrage!



Upcoming Events

SMU Match Race Clinic 2011:

11th & 12th June @ Raffles Marina
Organised by the SMU Sailing Club, this clinic aims to bring match racing to the masses. Guest coaches Maxi & Justin Wong will be on hand to offer their expert tips and tricks.

