

**Sailing, Gotta Love it**

Time and time again I've been amazed by the wonders of the sport of sailing. The feeling of a great big boat moving so effortlessly through the sea with nothing but the gentle breeze to help it along is something I will never take for granted. Without sails, the great explorers like Sir Francis Drake, Christopher Columbus and Admiral Cheng Ho would never have been able to leave their shores to discover the rest of the unknown world. Without sails, they would have to use pure strength to propel themselves crudely through the water, following the drum like a slave to the beat, grunting and screaming and sweating just to move a few metres....oh wait..that has happened..



Whatever the case, the architectural marvels of the Singapore city provide an excellent backdrop for water activities of all forms on the Marina Bay. With the magnificent sky bridge of the Marina Bay Sands looming over you and the iconic Singapore flyer directly in your view, it's hard not to simply stop and gaze.

I had the privilege of hosting some members from the URA planning division one morning and it made me realize how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to go sailing in a place like the Marina Bay. For these few individuals, the chance to be on a sailboat was already a once in a lifetime chance. They were amazed by the simplest of things. The mere heel of the boat and the boom snapping above heads was enough to get them excited.



Everyone loves sailing for their own reasons, whatever those reasons are, always appreciate the luxury of having boats at our disposal, a

school that reaches deep into its pockets to give us the best equipment and the chance to sail alongside some of the best looking people in SMU.

**SSF Keelboat Match Racing Circuit**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of SSF Keelboat Match Racing League was held at the end of June once again on the iconic Marina Barrage and this time, 8 skippers with 6 completely new names in the hat signed up for what was promised to be a real shootout. The biggest criticism of the last Match Race was the wind, but the SSF made sure they ordered the right kind this time as a comfortable 8-10 knots of breeze filled in at around 1045, just nice for the first start of the day. Team SMU was represented by 2 relatively new teams with regard to match racing but that wasn't dampening the spirits or the expectations. Asian Games gold medalist Renfred Tay returned to the helm of a keelboat and with his team made up of Calvin Lim, Koh Ziyi, Samuel Ong and Brandon Heng, they promised fireworks and lots of 1, 2 pushing..In SMU Team 2, Chris Lim teamed up with Catherine Chua, Eric Loh, Gwendolyn Quek and Alexi Lim.



The first day saw lots of close action, tight races and all in all, good match racing. At the end of the day, with 10 flights completed, it was Frenchmen Fabrice Piard who was taking time off his usual SB3 that led the round robins winning all 5 races. Topper Champion Justin Wong was skippering his team this time round and proved bowmen can steer with a 4-1 score to lie in 2<sup>nd</sup>. SMU's team 2 finished the day with a 3-2 score which left them in a dicey 3<sup>rd</sup> place with all to do the next day. With 4 teams with 2 wins under their belts the round robins were far from over.

Day 2 at the Barrage once again saw the same breeze fill in from the South. Renfred's Team SMU 1 needed to win at least 1 of their remaining 2 matches to give them a chance at the Semis and they duly obliged with a comfortable win over Joe Howe. However it was not to be as the team of NSC coaches

pulled off 2 wins out of 2 to take their tally to 4-3 which effectively sealed 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Semis.

For Chris and his team SMU 2, they started the day against table topping Fabrice with a win guaranteeing his team a place in the semis. It wasn't all plain sailing though with a massive problem with the spinnaker hoist gave Fabrice the lead on the first downwind but after a bottom mark shouting match, Team SMU 2 sailed away with the lead leaving their opponents with a penalty and a lot to do in the final leg. It was to be SMU's day though as they handed Fabrice with his first loss of his regatta and the comfort of being through to the next round.

It was to get better for the SMU sailors as Fabrice lost his next race which meant that they would qualify 2<sup>nd</sup> out of the round robin stage with Justin's merry men topping the first round. Fabrice finished 3<sup>rd</sup> with the NSC coaches bringing up the rear in 4<sup>th</sup>. In the Semi's it was a first to 2 wins format and after 2 flights both semi-finals were locked at 1 apiece. After a short delay in which pleasant discussions occurred on board the umpire boats, the racing continued but it was to be the end of the regatta for Team SMU 2 as they went out 1-2 to Fabrice. In the other semi-final the NSC coaches trumped Justin Wong and Co to enter the finals and leave the defending champions wondering what went wrong.

Fabrice went on to win the event after a 2-1 victory over Team NSC Coaches to claim the title of the "King of the Barrage".

Final results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Fabrice Piard – Team Alidade
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sommai Nilju – Team NSC Coaches
- Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> Team SMU 2 & Team Send it Sideways
- 5<sup>th</sup> Renfred Tay - Team SMU 1
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ignatius Thiam - NOSS Centre
- 7<sup>th</sup> John Priestly - Raffles Marina
- 8<sup>th</sup> Joe Howe - SAFYC

# SMU'S FIRST EVER MATCH RACE CLINIC

## We took pictures!!!!

### SMU's Match Racing Clinic

Match Racing is a discipline of sailing which has been around a long time. In recent years however, with the increased publicity of the World Match Racing Tour, the revolutionary changes in the America's Cup and the sadistic desire to see boats damaged, Match-Racing has taken the sport of sailing to new heights with its emphasis on close quarters sailing and bringing the action closer to the public. SMU's Sailing first foray into match racing came in 2009 at the Indian Rim Asian University Games in Perth. With a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at that event, it provided the proverbial kick we needed to ensure our club would not be destined as a 1-dimensional fleet racing club.

As part of the club's efforts to align ourselves with the momentum of the sailing world, the inaugural Match Racing Clinic was organized for SMU sailors. Conducted by the recently dethroned "Kings of the Barrage", Maximilian Soh and Justin Wong, the clinic was sent sideways and was launched with a comprehensive 3 hour theory session which left even the most enthusiastic of class-part whores dizzy and weak. After deciding that the participants were thoroughly drenched in thick terminology and rules, we went out for a bit of practical.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> day, it was much more of the same with pre-start after pre-start run to give each sailor the maximum learning opportunity as they found themselves in new scenarios each time. The action was thick and fast and the tension was quickly rising as was the afternoon sun. Just before the clinic was called to a close, a few proper races were run to provide the full experience for the participants and I'm sure no one was left disappointed by the end of the day.

SMU will be holding their 2nd ever SMU Match Race in July and with 4 teams already confirmed, it promises to be a real spectacle. This years competition presents 4 teams representing the different batches in SMU Sailing all hoping to be crowned champions and to attain bragging rights for their respective year. Action starts on the 9th of July so if you're bored and free that day, come down to enjoy a day of fun, excitement and some super friendly match racing.



## Upcoming Regattas

### 2nd SMU Match Race:

Watch 5 SMU teams battle it out on the barrage. Pride and glory go on the line as we pit some of the best skippers and crews against each other in this thrilling spectacle.

Date: 9th July (Saturday)

Time: 1030 - 1800 hrs

Place: Marina Barrage

### RSYC Regatta 2011: 17th, 23rd & 24th July

3 teams will head South to take on the tricky winds and tough competition in this annual regatta. The perfect warm up for Western Circuit, will SMU continue its good form at this event?

