

Variable Conditions Make for Challenging Day at the Asia Pacific Student Cup 2014

PUBLISHED ON SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

Day one of the Asia Pacific Student Cup 2014 was an exciting one that tested sailors' ability to perform under a wide range of weather conditions. In the end, flexibility would prove to be key to a good showing on the water.

The day began with a detailed umpires' brief which many of the used match racers were glad to have to assist their learning. And soon after, six SB20s donning brand used sails (courtesy of event sponsors Seiko and Hotel Jen) were out on the water—ready to race. The sun beat down hard on Marina Bay most of the day, and the only respite for competitors was a brief shower of rain which left them wet and uncomfortable afterwards. With it, the storm brought pressure from the back end of the course, causing the wind to die somewhat as used breeze filled in only to settle for its original heading once the storm had passed. In all, wind strength was in the pretty variable range of five to twelve knots, and gusts across the bay created patches that made sailing fast a game of 'connect-the-puffs'. A total of ten flights of twenty-two were conducted, and all but the last match of the tenth flight was completed today.

Clear leaders emerge from the first day of racing, with Team LIMitless skippered by Collin Lim from the Singapore Management University (SMU) ahead of the pack with a lossless clean sheet (5-0). Collin defending his home ground with his experience in various local match racing events including last year's edition of this same regatta. Team France skippered by Pauline Courtois sits on a comfortable four wins (4-0), and has the chance to match him when she finishes her fifth match tomorrow. Low Wen Chun (SMU Student) and his Team YPYP round up the leaders with a strong score dirtied only by his own match against Courtois (4-1).

Interestingly enough, the top spots today have all been secured by match racers who have already met and competed against each other at the World University Match Racing Championships recently held on Lake Ledro in Trentino, Italy, while experienced dinghy sailors Darren Choy (two time Byte World Champion) and Natasha Yokoyama (Singapore Youth Olympic Games representative) sit mid-fleet with three wins apiece—tied with Team Malaysia.

However, with just more than half matches in the round robin yet to be completed, it is still very much anyone's game, and we look forward to more great racing here at the Asia Pacific Student Cup 2014 jointly organized by SMU and the Singapore Sailing Federation!

Here is the full list of skippers:

- Bryan Chan (Singapore, Singapore Management University)
- Chen Lin Hsiao (Taiwan, National Penghu University)
- Collin Lim (Singapore, Singapore Management University)
- Darren Choy (Singapore)
- James Harayda (Great Britain, United World College- Southeast Asia)

Publication: BYM News

Date: 19 September 2014

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- Low Wen Chun (Singapore)
- Megat Ahmad Aslam (Malaysia)
- Natasha Yokoyama (Singapore)
- Pauline Courtois (France)
- Jevyn Ong (Singapore, Singapore Poly)
- Victoria Koh (Singapore, Singapore Management University)
- Will Boulden (Australia, University of Western Australia)

About the Asia Pacific Student Cup

Organised by the members of the Singapore Management University (SMU) Sailing Club and sanctioned by Singapore Sailing Federation (SSF), the Asia Pacific Student Cup was started in 2012 following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SMU and SSF in March of the same year to promote keelboat sailing and sailing related initiatives among the tertiary youth in Singapore. This event is held from the 17th – 20th of September and is held exclusively for sailors who are full-time students, which through a high-level of match racing aims to:

- i) Develop the level of match racing within the region
- ii) To promote the interaction of students who share the same passion of sailing from different countries and cultures.

Held on the iconic Marina Bay in Singapore, situated in the heart of the city, this venue provides the perfect arena for spectators to watch the close match racing action. The APSC 2014 is sailed on the Laser SB20 class of yachts; a 3 to 4 person keel boat, with a spinnaker