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## 16th SMU-RM Western Circuit Sailing Regatta: Superb conditions to end the regatta

Saturday, 24 August 2013

By the high noon showdown, the wind had already reached the 10 knot prediction and continued on with puffy gusts throughout the afternoon. On occasions, it swung from South West to South, which kept the race committee busy relaying courses and start lines to suit the changes. This made the course configuration, diagonally across the Johor Strait and the changing tidal current came into play, especially at the crowded SB20 start line. Full of great expectations, most the boats and crews were back out on the water to improve their standings or win the series. The superb conditions allowed the race committee to complete three races for all classes and finish the regatta in grand style.

In the first race today, Sarab Jeet Singh's Sydney 40 MOD *Windsikher* gained the upper hand, to lead around the course but could not get enough separation from Bill Bremner's Mills King 40 *Foxy Lady 6* to secure the handicap win. When Bremner's *Foxy Lady 6* crossed the finish line, a quick look at the stop watch and a fist pump in the air, signaled they had won the race and secured the IRC A title. It didn't end there, as the fully cranked up *Foxy* crew went on to secure two more bullets and make it three regatta wins in as many years. Simon Piff's Ker 32 *Rekering Dream* has improved with every race and enjoys being in the mix with the big boys, to slot into third overall and in doing so, relegated Jon Cray's Swan 42 *Sea Bass* down to fourth place.

It was a different story in the IRC B Class. Coming into the final day, Lim Han's Platu 25 *SMUmad* held a two point lead but two 2nds and a 3rd place dropped them down to second overall. With two wins and 2nd place, Kurt Metzger's Nelson 10 *Waka Tere* with the SMU Alumni sailors onboard, became the big mover and shakers, to end up tied with Han's *SMUmad* on points and claim the title on countback. Taking a win in the last race, lifted the defending champion Gordon Maxted's Young 840 *Shoon Fung Too* into third overall and relegated Alexi Lim's Platu 25 *SMUve* down to fourth place.

Although the winner of last weekends SMU SB20 International Cup, Jeremy Chase's *Glasgow Kiss* opened the day with DNF and scored maximum points, they quickly rebounded with two 2nd places to wrap up the SB20 title for the second year in a row. Anthony Kiong's *SSF 6* started the day in third overall, but they pulled out all the stops and triumphed in all three races, to take away second overall from Michael Buchanan's *Pocapena*, that could only manage two 8th and one 5th place but still secured third overall.

After piling the pressure on last weekend, David Stanton's *M23* continued with the onslaught by winning all three races today and run away with the Multihull title on their first attempt. Although Scott McCook's defending champion Corsair 750 *The Dash* was only trailing by one point, they could not improve their standing and had to settle on a string of



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second places for second overall. Clive Van Onselend's Corsair 750 *Dash Boot* managed to get the better of Stuart Birkbeck's Corsair F31 *Tri to Fly* to end up third and fourth respectively.

Although the other boats were determined to get the better of Calvin Lim's *Shengli*, forcing them over the start line and luffing them heavily at every opportunity, they added one more win making it 8 in a row and secure the J24 title in fine style. By winning the second race today Daniella Ng from the NTU Yachting Club on *RSYC Dua* confirmed second overall, despite Winfrid Wong's *Jangan Main Main* from SMU putting in a late charge but stays in third overall.

Jeremy Perrier's *Viper* continued on their winning form and by claiming two more bullets sealed the deal in the Beach Catamaran Class. Two second places for Andras Torok's Nacra 20 *Red Rocket* is not enough to topple John Simpson's Nacra 20 *Molly's Inheritance* for second overall but certainly a relief to get the better of their sistership before the regatta ended.

The constantly changing wind speed caused the Moth Class to have an up and down sort of a regatta. Will Berney's Mana Mana *Muc Dhoo* and Paul Runyan's Mana Mana *Slingshot* shared the wins today but as Berney's *Muc Dhoo* has finished all races they take the trophy home. Leaving Runyan's *Slingshot* in second overall and Will Ellison's *Bladerider* trailing in third place in the three boat fleet.

### Summary

Regatta advisor Gordon Maxted hit the nail on the head, during his keynote speech with "This is as good as it gets in Asia". Each year the SMU have impressed with their organisational skills and are often the driving force in keel boat racing in Singapore. "They have got character and worked hard in attracting International participation this year" added Maxted. Over the seven years they have run the regatta in association with Raffles Marina, it has gone from strength to strength and persuaded other universities to take up sailing pursuits in Singapore. This is an important growth area and many yachts are now crewed by SMU Alumni sailors that keep coming back for more.

For the first time the Singapore Sailing SB 20 fleet have combined with the Raffles Marina fleet and 19 one design yachts on the startline is a record in these parts. Andrew Tam has been the inspiration behind the SMU Sailing fraternity and ably assisted this year by newly appointed Raffles Marina Race Director James Kang have successfully concluded Singapore's biggest and most popular regatta.

Raising urgently needed funds for Sailability Singapore while being entertained by the SMU musicians has become a tradition at the gala prize presentation in the Raffles Ballroom. This year S\$12,863 was raised at the charity auction and another S\$25,000 came from donations by Changi Sailing Club, HVS Engineering and a private donor. To ensure the ongoing success of the regatta the SMU and Raffles Marina signed up for another 3 years and long may it continue.

**By AsianYachting MultiMedia**