

## SMU SB20 International Cup - Singapore's Largest Keelboat Race Starts

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'Downwind chaos! - 16th SMU-RM Western Circuit' LiuYuHong

**Raffles Marina is all abuzz as ardent Racers, Cruisers, Catamarans and Dinghies arrive and prepare to come together for two weekends in August to compete in the 16th SMU-RM Western Circuit Sailing Regatta, the biggest keelboat racing event in Singapore.**

Held on the 17th, 18th and 24th of August at Raffles Marina, this regatta which coincides with the notorious Southwest Monsoon will see the usually calm and serene waters of Northern Singapore come alive as local and international sailors pit their skills and wits against each other and the weather on vessels of various sizes. With a brand new SMU SB20 International Cup being awarded this year, the regatta welcomes a whopping fleet of 20 SB20s—the largest one design keelboat racing fleet of local and international participants Singapore has ever seen.

This same fleet promises more than just sheer numbers. With entries from the likes of Singapore-based Brit Nils Razmilovic who holds podium finishes in multiple Etchells Worlds and European events, and Nik Burfoot, a former Laser world champion with experience across a number of Olympic classes, the fight for the title will no doubt be fierce.



And the fleet is off! - 16th SMU-RM Western Circuit - Liu Yu Hong

Continuing a tradition upheld in the past five years, up for grabs once again will also be the SMU President's Cup! A splendid trophy donated by a former Singapore Management University President in conjunction with the 11th edition of this regatta, the Cup has since become one of the regatta's major highlights, and is reserved for the winner of the long distance passage race in the combined IRC class.

In all, the regatta, with its astounding 79 entries, will see a good mix of youth and experience with teams from the Singapore Management University, Singapore Polytechnic and United World College battling it out against each other and former Olympian and Asian and Southeast Asian games winners alike.

This regatta, co-organized by the energetic students from the Singapore Management University (SMU) and the hardworking professionals from Raffles Marina (RM), leaves no one out as it also accommodates for the skilled racers of Access 2.3 dinghies from Sailability Singapore, an organization dedicated to bettering the lives of the disabled by sharing the joys of sailing.

Besides providing an avenue for such sailors to race competitively, the 16th SMU-RM Western Circuit Sailing Regatta has also once again adopted Sailability Singapore as its sole beneficiary, and through fund-raising efforts such as a charity auction hopes to support their cause both financially and by spreading the word about their vision. Last year the amount garnered hit the \$8,000 mark, and students and staff hope that this year's participants will help them better the record.



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If you want to know more, head down to Western circuit website to check out pictures from last year

by Bryan Chan