

TN SAILS

The monthly newsletter of Tamil Nadu Sailing Association



APRIL 2006

VOLUME : 4

ISSUE : 4

FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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Formatted & Edited by

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Printed at

Pio Printers Pvt. Ltd.,
Chennai - 600 013.
www.pioprinters.com



Mahesh Wins Dubai Qualifier

Dubai, UAE, 7th April, 2006: Asian champions India booked their passage to the grand final of the ISAF Nations Cup today (Friday) by edging out Turkey to win the regional qualifying round in Dubai. The two crews finished tied at 2-2 in the regional final after the wind died for a second day in succession at Dubai International Marine Club, forcing race officials to abandon the decisive leg in the best-of-five showdown.

Skipped by Mahesh Ramchandran, the Indians won their place in the Nations Cup grand final at the Royal Cork Yacht Club in Ireland in September as they had topped the three-day round robin series leading up to the knockout stages. "The wind was up and down so it wasn't easy, and the other boat was a little faster in light winds," said Ramchandran. "But as long as there was enough sailing breeze we were always confident we could win."

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Nishanth goes East



The Training programme for Nishanth in the optimist class of boats was conducted from 11th February to 10th March 2006, at the National Sailing Centre (NSC), Singapore under the aegis of the Singapore Sailing Federation. NSC is a quasi government body totally dedicated towards the cause of sailing in Singapore. There are about 4 to 5 private sailing clubs in Singapore, all of whom have to affiliate themselves to NSC. All these clubs have their own private launch sites. NSC has

approximately 350 to 400 boats of different classes in its premises, part of which belong to the Singapore Government which are berthed at NSC for use by the sailors.

How the system works : Sailing is a very sought after sport in Singapore and there are approx. 200 children in the opti class, at various proficiency levels. The Singapore government is supporting the development of sport with financial grants and other resources. The excellent performance of the Singapore teams at the Asian level has motivated the government to further strengthen their support and commitment



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...Nishanth

to the sport. I understand that the government, in recent times, has granted in multiple tens of millions of dollars towards promoting the sport.

The top 40 sailors constitute the National teams A and B - 20 in each team. Each team has a separate coach who are permanent employees of NSC. My assessment is that the average age of the sailors in team A is about 14 years. In team B it could be 12 years. These 40 sailors are identified based on a ranking system, which is computed every 6 months. There are about 8 to 10 ranking regattas in a year. Both the teams sail five days in a week, for about three hours every day.

Apart from this they have gym sessions every Sunday for 2 hours.

Teams from different schools also undergo training in sailing at NSC, guided by a coach hired by them. It is mandatory that the coaches have cleared level 1 at the least, which includes license to drive the Gemini. All coaches are trained and the national level coaches are of level 3, which signifies their proficiency. The higher the number, higher the proficiency.

Overall it is a very well laid out step by step approach to improve sailor proficiency.

Nishanth was attached to team A and B. Typically he would reach the centre by 1.30 pm, rig his boat, and set out sailing everyday at around 2.30pm along with the team he is assigned to and their coach. The coach decides what the sailors would do that day which may include, team sailing, individual races, capsized drills etc. During the course

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12th Asian Sailing Championships, Doha

The 12th Asian Sailing Championships 2006 were held at the Qatar Sailing & Rowing Federation, Doha, Qatar. Formed in May 2003, the main aim of the Federation was to ensure implementation of Olympic Charter and promotion of sports of Sailing & Rowing in the State of Qatar. The QSRF receives an annual grant from Qatar National Olympic Committee (QNOC). QNOC is also responsible for providing funds for training of all sailors & underwriting the expenses of participation of Qatar National Teams at National and International events.

The QSRF is controlled by an Executive Committee under the President ship of Mr. Abdulla Y. Al-Sulaiti. QSRF conducts all its activities from the platform of Doha Sailing Club (DSC). DSC is a private club having 110 members. All residents of Doha including expats and visitors can become members.

The federation organizes regular National & International Events. Sail the Gulf & Gulf Trophy are 2 major events, which are conducted every year and attended with great enthusiasm by all International Sailors.

In the welcome address by Mr. Abdullah Y. Al Sulaiti President, Asian Sailing Federation and Qatar Sailing & Rowing Federation welcomed the H. E. Sh. Saud bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, distinguished guests, over 300 sailors and officials from 18 countries all over Asia.

The winds were variable and light in the mornings but the full complement of ten races was completed in each of the categories. 12th Asian Sailing Championship 2006 concluded in a graceful prize distribution ceremony followed by farewell dinner. Due to low wind only one race in all the classes were made possible in the finals of Match Racing (in the new Beneteau 7.5)

Sailors from Singapore proved their skills on water with low and high winds. Wind surfers (Mistral) of Hong Kong China were on top in women & men too, however China, Korea and Malaysia also shared their gold. In Hobie Cat - 16 Thailand emerged victorious. In keel boats (Beneteau 7.5) Match Racing India won the gold and later as the front page says went on to project India on to the ISAF map. Great show Mahesh!

Medals Tally at the ASC, Doha

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Singapore	4	4	3	11
Hong Kong	3	1	1	5
China	2	5	6	13
Korea	2	3	3	8
Malaysia	1	-	-	1
Thailand	1	-	-	1
India	1	-	-	1
Indonesia	-	1	-	1
Pakistan	-	-	1	1

Medals Tally Classwise

BOAT CLASS	GOLD	SILVER	BRONZE
Optimist (G)	Malaysia	Singapore	Singapore
Optimist (B)	Singapore	Singapore	China
Mistral (W)	Hong Kong	China	China
Mistral (H)	Hong Kong	Indonesia	China
Mistral (L)	Hong Kong	Hong Kong	China
Laser 4.7	Singapore	Korea	Korea
Laser STD	China	China	Korea
Laser Radial	Korea	China	Korea
420 (W)	Singapore	Singapore	China
420 (M)	Singapore	Korea	China
470 (W)	China	China	Singapore
470 (M)	Korea	China	Singapore
HOBIE	Thailand	Singapore	Hong Kong
Beneteau	India	Korea	Pakistan

How our Sailors Fared

The results in detail and the position of the Indian sailors in their respective fleets is as follows: Optimists: Girls sailed 11, discard

1, total 10; fleet of eighteen sailors: Malaysia came first with Singapore coming in 2nd and 3rd. Our sailors:

IND 1034	Tricia Silveira	F	12	15	9	9	10	12	9	12	(17)	13	16	117	14th
IND 1031	Ayesha Lobo	F	14	14	16	16	12	14	(18)	15	14	15	12	142	15th

...Nishanth

of sailing he would suggest, correct whichever sailor needs to be advised. This includes Nishanth as well. There would be a briefing session everyday and a debriefing on some days. Mondays and Fridays were off days. Tuesday was only gym/special exercises for an hour and half conducted by a member of their Sports Council.

Apart from Nishanth there were no sailors from any other country, except during the last week viz., 28th Feb to 10th March, Arisudan from RBYC, Mumbai, joined the training and the regattas.

The coaches were Sommai for Team A and Jeff for Team B. The coaches have to qualify themselves. Minimum is Level 1 which includes license to ride the Gemini. Highest is level 3 or 4. Each coach has to oversee their respective team members. They are on the payroll of NSC. There are some private coaches, who are generally appointed by the schools. The coaches accompany the team whenever they go for any international regattas.

Regarding equipment, once an opti sailor reaches the level of Racer (a classification based on proficiency of the sailor), he has to have his own boat and equipment. Others use the boats of NSC on hire basis. They have separate hulls and sails for training purpose alone especially for the beginners.

Nishanth had the opportunity to participate in two of their ranking regattas.

1. SAFYC(Singapore Armed Forces Yacht Club) Regatta 2006.(11th and 12th March)

2. Singapore National Youth Championships. (15th to 19th March).

There were about 141-142 opti sailors competing in each of these regattas of different age groups. The races would go on from 11am to 5pm everyday, with lunch on the water. They have to carry their own lunch, water etc. Three races would be scheduled daily but finally it would depend on the wind. There was heavy wind shifts and currents experienced during the regattas. I was told it was a common feature there.

Looking back, **in my view**, what Nishanth gained most was just being there, daily sailing and above all the regattas. What is missing is one to one coaching. The coaches are excellent people, but handicapped. They have to oversee 20 sailors at a time. There was no separate training programme scheduled for Nishanth. Being part of their teams in itself is a significant aspect according to them.

What was most memorable for me as a parent was the comment of their team A coach, Sommai. It was on the third day of the Youth Championships, when he came to Nishanth and said, "Nishanth, I am impressed by you. You have not capsized even once. During training you were unsteady. What did you do now?" He came to me and said, " You know the winds were really heavy. ...I like this boy."

The expenses part - I am still to compute the actual expenditure. The idea of getting trained elsewhere other than TNSA originated only after Nishanth became part of the SDAT's Future Champion Programme. Otherwise we never thought about it. It is a significant step for Nishanth in the area of sailing. If not for Munna, Ashok, and a few others, this wouldn't have been possible. This is not a formal vote of thanks it is rather genuine sharing of my feelings.

Sharada Chandrashekar

...ASC Results contd.

Optimists: boys: sailed 11, Discard 1, total 10; fleet of 25 sailors; Singapore came in 1st and

2nd with China coming in third.

Note Xerxes' position in Race 2 & 3

IND 1033	Xerxes Bamboat	M	12	9	2	3	16	(18)	6	8	10	9	14	89	7th
IND 1035	Viraf Cyrus Heerjee	M	20	16	7	19	19	(24)	23	17	18	22	180	21st	

In the Mistral Heavy India's Derek Menezes, finished 10th in the fleet of ten windsurfers. And in the Mistral light, Puthoor Joseph Thomas finished 13th in a fleet of thirteen. There were no female contestants.

In the Laser 4.7 there were no Indian Participants. In the Laser Standard, where 11 races were sailed with one discard and a total of twelve entries, National Champion Rajesh Choudhary came in the middle of a fleet of twelve.

IND 183054	Rajesh Choudhary	M	6	7	6	7	5	6	(8)	2	8	8	2	57	6th
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In the Laser Radial too there was disappointment as Harihara, last year's Coastal National Laser Champion could muster in a fleet of nineteen sailors only a eighth position.

IND 183064	Vupputuri Harihara	M	4	4	12	(16)	6	5	8	12	3	5	15	74	8th
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In the 420 fleet the final position of India girls in a fleet six teams was sixth. The 7 points are for DNS.

IND 50915	Snehal N Desai	Shraddha S Hadkar	F	5	6	6	6	(7)	6	6	7	7	7	6	62	6th
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In the 420 Men's section our sailors came in tenth out of a fleet of eleven. The 12 points are for DNS.

IND 50914	Dilip Nalla	Asif Shaikh	M	10	9	10	6	10	10	10	(12)	12	12	12	101	10th
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With no entries in the 470 women's group, in the men's group our sailors had mixed luck and finished sixth in a fleet of eleven teams.

IND 17	Farokh Tarapore	Vikas Kapila	M	6	(9)	3	4	7	8	2	9	9	6	2	56	6th
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NOIC visits TNSA



Naval Officer in Command, Commodore T. Hari, drove in to the Association as he was surprised to see a number of sailboats in the water when he came to see his destroyer off. Overwhelmed by the enthusiasm of the sailors at the TNSA he has promised all help to sailors at the TNSA. This being the year of the Sailor in Indian Navy parlance, he was very keen on establishing something where all sailors could benefit. We thank you sir, for your words of assurance and look forward to the realization of your dream for us.

...Mahesh Wins at Dubai

Looking ahead to the grand final in Ireland, he said: "They're using J24s there and we sail those in Bombay regularly, although the level of competition will be higher so we'll have to step things up a bit." Currently 73rd in the ISAF world rankings, Ramchandran and his crew justified their billing as the pre-event favourites, although they were made to fight all the way by 160th-ranked Orkun Soyer and his Turkish challengers.

Nations Cup 2

On a day when the lightest of winds put the emphasis on patience and guile, Soyer won the opening match to suggest that the Turks could halt the Indians' winning run after their national title in January and an Asian match racing gold medal in February. But Ramchandran hit back immediately to level the final and then went 2-1 ahead, despite having to make an urgent adjustment in the third match when his spinnaker's halyard broke. The Turks came back again to win the fourth match before the wind deserted the decisive leg to bring the final to a halt.

Turkey had survived a big scare before reaching the final. The Jebel Ali Sailing Club team skippered by 23-year-old Christopher Graham had been on the verge of victory in their semi-final clash on Thursday evening when the wind dropped, resulting in the decisive leg being abandoned with the Dubai crew holding a winning position. When the contest resumed in the morning, the Turks took control after inflicting a crucial penalty on Graham who was unable to recover. "We were a bit lucky when the wind died on us last night, but these things happen" said Graham, who has lived in Dubai for 20 years. "We had only a day and a half getting to know the boat before the

event and the first day was pretty much a learning curve for us, which is why we lost all our races. But the second day was better and we were improving all the time."

India had beaten the host club's crew skippered by Cedric Le Rest 2-0 in their best-of-three semi-final. Le Rest, the marina manager at DIMC, had two of the event's youngest competitors in his crew, with 16-year-old Josie Walsh and 15-year-old Max Buerger stepping up to join three members of his Maktoum Sailing Trophy team. "We certainly had more time together than Chris (Graham) had with his crew," said Le Rest. "The crew worked very hard. We had some good races and some bad ones."

Nations 3

Dubai International Marine Club is already looking forward to a new season of top-class match race sailing next year. As opposed to fleet racing, in which fleets of boats compete at the same time, match racing features head-to-head encounters between two teams who fight out a battle of tactics to gain an advantage. The popularity of match racing in the UAE has been boosted by Emirates Airline's sponsorship of Team New Zealand, one of the leading challengers for the America's Cup, the most famous match racing event in the world.

DIMC is working with the ISAF, the world governing body of sailing, to establish the emirate as one of the world's leading match race venues, and the ISAF Nations Cup qualifier was part of this process. Sid Bensalah, sailing director at DIMC, said: "We're committed to taking sailing to a new level in the UAE and the Gulf region as a whole, and we're working closely with

ISAF to make this happen. We're putting a big emphasis on match racing because there is a strong local demand for this kind of racing and it's a very exciting form of sailing."

Next year's Dubai Junior Regatta in January will include a match racing event while a UAE match racing championship will be launched and the emirate will also stage at least two world-ranking match race regattas. The Dubai qualifying round of the ISAF Nations Cup will be followed by other qualifiers in Finland, Portugal, Slovenia, Great Britain, Ecuador, the US Virgin Islands and New Zealand over the next four months.

*Tony Lewis / Jennie Brown
Total Communications*

Bonne Bouche

The Genie and The Prince

Prince Charles was driving around his mother's estate when he accidentally ran over her favourite dog, a Corgi, crushing it to a pulp. He got out of his Range Rover and sat down on the grass totally distraught. The whole world was against him and now his mother would go ballistic.

Suddenly he noticed a lamp half-buried in the ground. He dug it up, polished it and immediately a genie appeared. "You have freed me from thousands of years of imprisonment," said the genie. "As a reward I shall grant you one wish."

"Well," said the Prince, "I have all the material things I need, but let me show you this dog."

They walk over to the splattered remains of the dog. "Do you think you could bring this dog back to life for me?" the Prince asked.

The genie carefully looked at the remains and shook his head. "This body is too far gone for even me to bring it back to life. Is there something else you would like?"

The Prince thought for a minute, reached into his pocket and pulled out two photos. "I was married to this beautiful woman called Diana," said Prince Charles, showing the genie the first photo. "But now I love this woman called Camilla," and he showed the genie the second photo.

"You see Camilla isn't beautiful at all, so do you think you can make Camilla as beautiful as Diana?"

The genie studied the two photographs and after a few minutes said, "Let's have a look at that dog again."

Air Force One

George Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld are flying on Air Force One.

The President looks at the Vice President, chuckles, and says, "You know, I could throw a \$1,000 bill out the window right now and make somebody very happy."

The Vice President shrugs and says, "Well, I could throw 10 \$100 bills out the window and make 10 people very happy."

Not to be outdone, the Secretary of Defense says, "Of course, then, I could throw 100 \$10 bills out the window and make a hundred people very happy."

The pilot rolls his eyes and says to his copilot, "Such arrogant asses back there. Hell, I could throw the three of them out the window and make 56 million people unbelievably happy."