

TN SAILS

The monthly newsletter of Tamil Nadu Sailing Association



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Hyderabad Nationals 2009



Laser Nationals at Hyderabad

For the third time in six months the TNSA container trundled off but this time only across to the adjacent State of Andhra Pradesh, carrying laser boats for sailors participating in the Inland Laser Nationals held on Hussain Sagar lake, Secunderabad from 12th to the 18th of July 2009. Most of our sailors also had arrived a few days early at the venue so as to be able to take their measure of the local conditions and put in a few days of training. This year saw the highest ever entries in the event with a total of 110 sailors in the three categories, 33 in the Standard, 57 in the Radial and 20 in the 4.7. As usual several youth sailors sailed both the 4.7 and Radial category trying to improve their chances for a medal. Six sailors from TNSA were in the fray this year, Varun Thakkar, Hussain Bhavnagarvala, Shweta Sadanandan and Aishwarya Chezhyan sailing 4.7s while Mrinalini and I sailed Radials. Geetha accompanied the team and mothered everybody including me!



Hussain sails his laser hard upwind

Hussain Sagar in the monsoons provides very interesting conditions for sailors, with winds generally blowing in the range of 15 to 20 knots. It is not so much the average velocity of the wind as the sudden punch from a 10 knot stronger super-gust that knocks out a sailor. The wind also constantly swings 15 to 20 degrees and if one is not agile enough to bear in or away depending on the shift, one is dumped unceremoniously windward or leeward as the case maybe. In the reach

and run the gusts are felt even more powerfully with booms swinging menacingly at you and the boats go over at crazily impossible angles. One has to stay alert to the fickleness of the wind every single moment one is out on water; just returning on a run to the slipway in 20 plus knot wind can be intimidating. One might have expected a little less violence on waters watched over by the benign Buddha, but on the contrary, it is near the Buddha that the wind blew at its furious best!



Mrinalini who won the Women's Radial trophy

Eleventh was a busy day with registration and measurements, press meet and practice race all packed in. The winds were about 14 knots gusting to 18 during the practice race; so far the forenoons saw heavier winds than the afternoons. The course as always was a triangle -loop-triangle-windward finish for the Radials and Standards and two triangles and windward finish for the 4.7. Ten races totally with two back-to-back races every day were held for each category but this year there was a welcome break in the form of a lay day being added to the schedule.

On the 12th, there was a formal inauguration ceremony with the Radials starting the first races in the afternoon. First race of the event saw pretty good winds at about 15 to 17 knots gusting to 22, dropping later in the afternoon. Rajesh Choudhury, who is racing in the radial fleet this year in preparation for the Asian Games next year, sailed impeccably to finish first in both races with a huge lead. Which was bad news for the bottom fleet; only 34 sailors finished the first race while in the second race a more decent number - 44 finished as the conditions calmed down a bit. Mrinalini sailed well to finish 16th and 14th overall and lead the women's table.



Varun gets his under 16 gold in the 4.7

The next morning the Standards and 4.7s started their races and the event started very well for TNSA with Hussain and Varun finishing 1st and 2nd. In the second race the winds picked up considerably gusting up to 30 knots and Aishwarya sailed steadily to finish 4th while the other three TNSA sailors returned after numerous capsizes. The sturdier sailors Sachin Singha of NSS and Gaurav Pikale from Mumbai finished first and second. Predictably, in the Standard category AYN sailors finished on top at the end of the day, with Jasvir leading the pack. In the afternoon the Radials raced in winds that continued to blow with fury. Rajesh once again finished on top in both the races and only 32 or so sailors managed to finish the races.



Shwetha who won the gold in the girls category 4.7

The next day on the lake was a good day for TNSA sailors with Shweta getting guns in both the races. Hussain finished 2nd and 3rd in the 2 races, but Sachin Singha of NSS continued to hold the top position. The fight was keen among the top 5 places in the 4.7 and it wasn't going to be clear till the discards started kicking in who would end up on top. Mrinilaini continued to maintain her 15th position overall well ahead of her competition. Rajesh and Jasvir held sway in their categories, both finishing on top in all the races held so far.

On the fifteenth, the Radials raced in the forenoon and during the first race of the day disaster struck Mrinalini in the form of a sailor who lost control of his boat. He torpedoed into her near the leeward mark and damaged her boat so badly it had a huge hole of about a foot in diameter. A tearful Mrinalini returned to race the next one in Varun's boat but perhaps was too agitated and failed to finish the race. However the 4.7 races went well for TNSA with Varun and Aishwarya taking the gun in the 2 races. The Chief of Naval Staff and President Yachting Association of India, Admiral Sureesh Mehta visited the venue, met the sailors and also went out on the water for a while to see the Standard and 4.7 race that was going on.



Aishwarya 4.7 bronze winner girls category

The next day was a lay day for radials and the other two fleets raced in the morning. For the first time in the championship the day ended dry for TNSA with no guns though both Hussain and Varun remained within the top four positions. Top positions were still fluid and close and the last day's races would determine the winner though Sachin Singha was leading the table by now. Shweta who was suffering from a stomach ache retired from the second race after finishing 2nd in the first race. Perhaps it was the green and foamy Hussain Sagar water, which sprayed into our faces copiously, particularly while planing on the reaches. For the first time since I started sailing there I fell a victim to it too and several others complained of sickness including Choudhury. A Secunderabad sailor narrated to me some gruesome stories like how a girl gave up sailing after finding a body caught in her centreboard and that the water contained not just sewage but industrial effluents as well. The sailing clubs do

their best fighting for the lake to be cleaned up, and I have heard the visiting Government dignitaries unfailingly promising every year that it will be done, while status quo remains.

An incredible feeling of relief is the first emotion that hits you when you cross the finish line of the last race of a championship. Mentally and physically exhausted, you lazily sail back and slowly euphoria sets in no matter how the championship has gone for you. 17th July was the last day of races for the radials and 'Chou' had wrapped the entire series with blemish free firsts. The 9th race was a lesson to everyone how a champion fights; after a messed up start in a collision with Xerxes Bamboat, he rounded the first windward mark just ahead of me with about 30 boats ahead of him. And that was the last I saw of him, while I remained in the position I was then, he planed beautifully past several boats and was gone far ahead before the next mark. He went on to pip Gajender at the finish line with a well-timed tack and nosed ahead to finish first much to Gajender's disappointment. In that same race another top sailor decided to retire because he was behind too many

boats; not surprising why the champions succeed, is it? The final positions in the Radial fleet were Rajesh first, Gajendar Singh second and Dhermendar Singh third.



Shantha who won the bronze in the Laser Radial women's fleet

On 18th morning the Standards and 4.7s finished their last 2 races and Jasvir Singh had emerged the champion though B K Rout had wrested 2 of the guns from him. He also won the Kelly Rao Trophy which is awarded to the best Standard sailor without discards. Finishing third was Sukhvair Singh. Sachin Singha won the 4.7 Boys title while TNSA's Hussain took the silver and Gaurav Pikale, the bronze. TNSA sailor Shweta claimed the Girls Gold while Aparya Mahule from NSS carried

away the Silver while Aishwarya from TNSA won the bronze. Varun Thakkar from TNSA finished 4th overall and won the Under-16 Boys Gold while Ajay Singh Bhagel of NSS walked away with the silver and Ankit Rastogi took the bronze. Mrinalini won the Women's Gold in the Radial Class while the Silver went to Alekhya Sudam of SSC and I managed a Bronze.

For TNSA it was a perfect treasure hunt; six sailors went and all six won a medal, in all 3 Golds, 1 Silver and 2 Bronzes. All the four 4.7 sailors had managed to get at least one gun. From an overall 25th in the Radial open fleet last year Mrinalini had improved considerably to finish 17th this year in much stronger wind conditions.

Our warm gratitude goes to Lt Col Anil Das, Hon Sec, LCAI who besides making sure the event ran smoothly, smilingly took care of every one of our needs including organising breakfast for us at 6.30 AM! Staying at the MCEME and dining in their imposingly beautiful mess is a much cherished experience, very much part of the charm of sailing in the Hyderabad Nationals.

President YAI to inaugurate the 29er class

The YAI President Admiral Sureesh Mehta will inaugurate the new 29er class of dinghy in India at Chennai on August 13th, 2009. Part of the consignment that the YAI has been able to procure with the help of the MoYaS support for building sporting infrastructure, the twenty 29er dinghies will accompany 150 Optimist ready-to-sail boats to be disbursed to the various Clubs and Associations that had given a wish list to the YAI in response to their demand survey almost a couple of years ago to the day - August 2007! This process though slow has been followed up and seen through by the new energized secretariat, which maintains an interest only on issues that pertain to promotion of sailing.

Processes have been put in place whereby issues can be raised, problems discussed and possible solutions proposed to address them. Members of the YAI should consider it their right to build this body with their positive inputs and help make it serve the needs of the community of sailors better if they feel some areas need further improvement.

The 29er is being provided as an alternate platform for youth who superannuate from the Optimist class and it is hoped that this will promote healthy competition

amongst the youth classes to make their product more attractive to this segment of sailors. There is bound to be overall improvement in service to these sailors with class associations tuning up their administration in areas of boats, spares, equipment on one hand and drafting calendars and running events on the other. This increased activity will hopefully spur growth in the dormant boating industry in the country while at the same time attract youth to more fun filled activities on the water. In the end this is bound to put pressure on governments to clean up their act on maintaining unpolluted water bodies close to urban conglomerations for such activities. A win-win for all!

The new 29er class association of India has already got into the act of providing assistance to sailors and a seven day coaching camp under Mr Clynton Wade Lehman, the builders representative and renowned 29er/49er sailor from Australia has been arranged by the 29er Class Association of India at Chennai during 04 -11 September 2009.

Interested sailors should contact Chennai Sailing Academy at tansail@gmail.com or the President, 29er Class Association of India at rsanthanam@vsnl.com for further details.

Pio Trophy races on 26th



Dotter Ashwini and Fodder Nedu in an enterprise

Nothing churns up TNSA members like a notice of race for a club Trophy. Every Sunday there is a whole lot of activity happening with the different fleets crisscrossing the undulating aqua. But tell members that the following Sunday would be a trophy race then you have people making sure that they arrive early; rig up their boats and then fix their sights on their rivals with a resolve that suicide squads will learn to respect. So, when our Official Handicapper and Measurer Mr. Ashish Mehta, who is now twice blessed – er meaning his daughter Shloka now has a *kutty* brother – Vedant, took a break from the nappy routine to announce the Pio Trophy to be sailed on Sunday July 26th, there was furious activity on the slipway right from late in the morning.



Siva hikes out as Deepak helms another enterprise

Capt Ravikumar our Captain of Boats, who qualifies for the crown of Mr. Fastidious – a sort of portmanteau word that combines fastidious and meticulous in easy marriage, took out his hailer and bawled his plans to the sailors, busy pulling ropes and stretching sails, like many seamstresses at a Clothing factory. Later on he was to prove that he was indeed a contemporary Ceasar who could not countenance even the shadow of a blemish on his actions by disqualifying his spouse in the second race of the day for being OCS. One can very well imagine the argument at home after the action.



Praveen Prabhakar winner of the Pio Trophy in the Optimist class

Fortified by some C2H5OH and mollified by short eats, which topped the easy banter around a table at some verdant spot in a prestigious Chennai Social establishment, one can just about imagine the closed confines of the automobile playing host to rumblings of a storm to come. Snide greetings of Hail Ceasar get flung at him and whatever the weakness our Captain of Boats may have, he sure does not succumb to the Mamta-type barb. It does not ruffle his hair and believe me, this is not because there is not much left of it. He is just made of sterner stuff that a weaker mortal like you or me might need to buttress with stuff from the hip flask. Back at home when the issue of love and marriage crops up he makes a sincere defence of impartiality of the official while trying to explain the concept of interested party in this parboiled situation. He finds himself in a classic Catch 22 situation, where to be in a marriage you had to be an interested party but if you are an interested party then you cannot act by the norms of a wedded relationship at an official event.



Anikhet in a pensive mood

Friends who are normally dependable were out coaching floundering ambition that was languishing in the wake of the lone lady sailor who took out a rain check at the start line and did not realize that the persistently raised individual recall flag of the Officer on Duty was indeed the come hither signal of her lovelorn husband.

Continued on page 6

The Mitsubishi Irish National and Open Optimist championship 2009

Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire

The Irish National and Open Optimist Championships 2009 are to be held at Dun Laoghaire near Dublin from August 19th to 22nd. Ireland is where yacht racing is supposed to have started and everybody knows that the Optimist is *the* boat for starters. Combine the two and you have an interesting mix of place and event not to mention the fact that this venue will host the 2011 Youth Worlds!



The Dun Laoghaire sailors with their coach

A cursory review of the entry list shows up some interesting facts in this championship, which is supposed to be sailed in three distinct fleets - the seniors, junior and the Regatta fleet. A number of entries seem to be amongst those born after 2000, thereby ensuring a very young fleet in the junior category.

Readers might wonder of what interest the Irish International Open is to this newsletter. We are happy to tell you that three Optimist sailors from India will be attending the championship and they are Praveen Prabhakar, Rufus Patrick and Niveditha Ravi Varman, the first two boys and the first amongst the girl's fleet in the YAI Multiclass regatta.

The YAI President has informed the TNSA that in response to our appeal for representation for the winners of the Multiclass regatta these sailors participate at the championships in

Dublin in August and Hong Kong in Oct 2009.



Niveditha, Patrick, Rufus and praveen prabhakar the Irish cream er team

The next issue will hopefully provide you with interesting stories of the Indian team's exploits at the Mitsubishi Open championships at the Royal St George Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire.

But for now, here's to wishing them a great competition with lots of fun!

Sailing in Malaysia

Most of us at TNSA have at one time or other heard our Chief Coach admonishing young sailors when they don't turn up for sailing, suggesting, jokingly one presumes, that they leave school if it clashes with their sailing. One actually did! Because his school will not let him take off more than 10 days in a year, Ganapathy with his parents' support pulled out from school and decided to do home schooling so he will be able to sail regularly for the next year and a half during which he will continue to be in the Optimist Class. The young sailor kicked off his serious sailing career with a 3-week training followed by a regatta in Malaysia. Leaving on the 9th of July accompanied by his mother, he spent most of July sailing in different parts of Malaysia. A 3-day Regatta in Putrajaya, an 11 day coaching clinic in Langkawi and another 3 day regatta at Port Dickson to round off his itinerary. The Regattas and coaching clinics are a regular annual feature organised by the Malaysian Yachting Association. But let me not tell his story...

We arrived in Kuala Lumpur early one morning from Chennai. We were collected at the airport by Mr. Tun Syaromi. We were then taken to the club at Putrajaya and later that evening to our hotel. What impressed me most was that the country was extremely clean. Everybody obeys the law.

The second day was the Regatta at Putrajaya. The first race at Putrajaya had a fleet of 90 optis. I started 90th and

finished 16th in the first race. I finished Day 1 26th overall. Sailing in Putrajaya was not a nice experience, because of the tides, a river, large buildings on one side that created wind shadows and a bridge with massive pillars that created large repelling chops.

From there we moved to Langkawi in Mr. Afendy's bus. Mr. Mohammed Afendy is the General Manager of Malaysian Yachting Association. He

takes his team all over Malaysia in a bus. In Langkawi we had a Training Clinic under Coach Marek Nostipz-Jakowski. There were 40 students there from 9 countries. The daily Program in the camp involved running, stretching, push-ups, hiking and pull-ups. We had 6 hours of sailing every day. The coaches took videos of our sailing and during de-briefing he corrected our mistakes. As a rule every sailor had to clean his own boat after sailing.

We went to Port Dickson, again in Mr. Afendy's bus. It was a 700 km drive. In Port Dickson we were given brand-new boats. The Opti fleet consisted of 142 boats with all Asian countries participating except China and Sri Lanka. I finished 36th overall. The wind in Port Dickson never went above 13 knots and the tide movement was very strong. I loved sailing in Port Dickson because it was a very good learning experience and I had a lot of fun. I liked the trip and made many new friends.

- K C Ganapathy

Capt Bunty's message

Hon Sec General of the YAI Capt Bunty Sethi has relinquished charge at the YAI Secretariat in favour of taking command of a ship. This is a prestigious posting for a naval officer and is an important step in his career. On the eve of his departure he writes:

As I hand over the duties of the Secretary General and proceed to bluer pastures (Blue Water Navy!!), let me take this opportunity to thank you and all members of TNSA for the whole hearted support and cooperation provided to the secretariat. In fact one only needs to see the selfless dedication and zeal of your members to realise why the TNSA is growing from strength-to-strength, so rapidly. Please convey my best wishes to all your members and let it be known that just because I have handed over the duties of Secretary General does not mean that it is the end of our association.

All we can say in response: We will miss your style, energy and responsiveness, friend. Fair winds!

IIR 09

The **India International Regatta 2009** will be hosted by the TNSA for the YAI this November. The website of the event is already up and running. Please check out details of this event at www.iiregatta.in. Due to paucity of space, we are unable to provide you with more details of this event in this issue. Readers can look forward to more news on this event in subsequent issues.

...Pio Trophy races on 26th



Krishna reflecting on deeper issues

Getting back to the Pio Trophy Races, the PYI was applied to the fleet of Enterprises and Lasers while the Optimist sailors fought it out amongst themselves for supremacy. Apart from the shouting, grunting, hissing and spitting there was some exhibition of fine sailing that helped winners establish their supremacy. And at the end of the day the winners were. In the Optimist fleet it was Praveen Prabhakar Niveditha Varman; Rufus Patrick; Nicholas Patrick in that order with Praveen Prabhakar getting all three guns.



Balachander who won the Pio trophy by the PYI handicap

By the Portsmouth Yardstick Index the winners were Balachander and Aishwarya Nedu were tied on points but because of one win position, Bala wins the cup. Aishwarya comes in second and Shantha because of her OCS gets pushed to third.

Bonne Bouche



ALL PUNS INTENDED.....

Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

A set of jump leads walk into a bar. The bartender says, 'I'll serve you, but don't start anything.'

Two peanuts walk into a bar, and one was a salted.

A man walks into a bar with a slab of asphalt under his arm, and says: 'A beer please, and one for the road.'

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: 'Does this taste funny to you?'

Two cows are standing next to each other in a field. Daisy says to Dolly, 'I was artificially inseminated this morning.'

'I don't believe you,' says Dolly.

'It's true; no bull!' exclaims Daisy.

An invisible man marries an invisible woman. The kids were nothing to look at either.

Deja Moo: The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day, but I couldn't find any.

A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, 'Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!'

The doctor replied, 'I know you can't - I've cut off your arms!'

I went to a seafood disco last week...and pulled a mussel.

What do you call a fish with no eyes?

A fish.

Two fish swim into a concrete wall.

One turns to the other and says, 'Dam!'

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were a bit cold, so they lit a fire in the craft. It sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel, And were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office, and asked them to Disperse. 'But why,' they asked, as they moved off. 'Because,' he said, 'I can't stand chess-nuts boasting in an open foyer.'

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named 'Ahmal.'

The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him 'Juan.' Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother.

Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, 'They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal.'

And finally, there was the person who sent twenty different puns to his friends, with the hope that at least ten of the puns would make them laugh.

No pun in ten did