

# TN SAILS

The monthly newsletter of Tamil Nadu Sailing Association



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FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION ONLY

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## New YAI Council elected

It was in Nov 2007 that the restructure of the YAI was first moved. However, due to the request for more deliberations the matter was delayed till end August 2008, when the General Body of the YAI finally passed it unanimously. That opened the path to elections to various posts in the YAI council. There was no contest for the post of the President of the YAI and the Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sureesh Mehta was elected unopposed to it; the Executive Vice-President or the Vice Chairman of the new council will be elected by the new council at its first meeting on Dec 16<sup>th</sup> at Delhi. Two other council seats similarly went unopposed, Chairman National (Asian Games and Olympic) Classes Committee went to Lt. Gen K S Venugopal of EMESA and President Laser Class Association of India and Chairman National Classes Committee went to Vice Admiral JS Bedi - INWTC Mumbai. There were initially contests for the rest of the seats, but with the withdrawal of Farokh Tarapore of Ocean Cruising and Racing Club, Commodore Rabi Ahuja of the Sea Cadet Corps was elected unopposed to the chair of Sailing Performance Development Committee.

There were keen contests for the rest of the seats. TNSA fielded two candidates for the elections: Mr. Ashok Thakkar for Chairman, Sailing and Club Development Committee and Mrs. Shanta Ravikumar, for Chairperson, Women Sailing Committee. There was a third member of the TNSA who contested the elections Mr. Shankar Narayanan but he was proposed by Windsurfing Academy. Having filed their nominations, the TNSA shifted into top gear, putting together an appeal to all the voting members of the YAI. Separate letters canvassing the candidature of the two contestants were posted to each member and also to all their email addresses. This was followed up by phone calls made to the various Clubs and Associations for the personal touch and though our candidates were well qualified for the posts that they contested, one could not possibly be sure of election outcomes in a hurry considering the long drawn out logistic

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## Aban Pleasure arrives

The new 51-foot yacht belonging to Plasma Estates and Developers arrived at the Port of Chennai on board a container ship. For those of you who wish to know how a fifty-one footer is loaded off from the ship and then taken to its berth, the TNSails gives a graphic presentation of the effort.



*Just another piece of luggage*

The center of attention on the water when she is speeding, the boat looks like a piece of luggage tightly packed to minimize damage in transit. At its port of call its owners wait anxiously to offload her from this maze of containers, which are so square, dull and lifeless quite unlike a motor yacht, which is but a butterfly in metamorphosis.



*Hanging in the air*

Lifted out of the deck by the strong steel cables the Sun glints off its stainless steel piping - holding out a promise of an exquisite experience in store.

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## TNSails interviews new YAI council member



Shantha  
Ravikumar

and functioning of the council.

As a first exercise Tnsails congratulates Mrs. Shantha Ravikumar, YAI Chairperson Women's Sailing and sent her an email interview the text of which is being carried in this newsletter.

Dear Mrs. Shantha Ravikumar, thank you for sparing the time and effort of filling in the email interview.

Ed.

Your message to the members of the YAI on your successful election to the YAI council:

I thank you all for choosing me to represent the women sailors in the YAI Council, I consider it a great honour to have been elected to serve in the council. I have derived great pleasure from the sport of sailing and I will be very happy to be of some service to the sailing fraternity. I look forward to my term as a council member and hope to contribute to the growth of sailing in this country.

***What is the significance of this post in the YAI and how can it be a motivational tool to push forward better female participation?***

It is very good that there will be a voice in the council to represent women's interests and being an active sailor myself, I do hope to motivate a lot more women to take to this sport competitively as well as recreationally.

***What is the current status of women's sailing in the country?***

Though there are a fair number of girl children sailing in the Optimist class, most discontinue due to various compulsions. But this is true of the boys as well, adult level participation is minimal and serious sailing is primarily in the forces. Surprisingly, though there are lots of women entering the armed forces now, the handful of women sailors in the country today are all civilians. Perhaps the defense forces could start a women's fleet as well. Sailing itself is a marginal sport today, if sailing is promoted in a big way, women's participation will grow too as it has in any other sport in comparable proportions.

***What are the current working constraints in this area?***

It is a little premature to answer this as the council of the newly reconstituted YAI is yet to have a first meeting, but I am optimistic of a very democratic and forward-thinking council functioning in the best interests of the sport.

***What are the organizational advantages already in place?***

There has been a very clean and transparently conducted election and the members of the council bring in great amount of experience

and represent all the various associations in the country. The term is for four years which I think will give a group of people great cohesiveness and time to function effectively in bringing in radical measures to promote the sport widely in the country.

***As the new council member for women's sailing, what changes can members of the YAI look forward to that did not exist earlier?***

Very definitely increase in the number of competitive women sailors will be top priority to the extent that we should have a large enough fleet in the country to be able to hold an all women regatta. We should have more women sailors participating in international events and perhaps in the Olympics as well one day.

***While it is a matter of collective council decision, do you have any preference for how YAI funds should be utilized?***

I think the most urgent need of the hour is to spend on increasing awareness of the sport and make the number of sailors in the country grow exponentially. Training at various levels, entry and a separate intensive and rigorous coaching for the best sailors should be given priority. We need trained dedicated coaches running a fulltime active program instead of people who have to juggle home, work and take time off to coach out of a passion for the sport, particularly in the civilian clubs.

***Have you identified your committee members? Which are the areas that should receive the major thrust in your committee's efforts?***

Not yet, this is part of the agenda of our first meeting. It will be our endeavour to encourage older women to take up recreational sailing if not competitive, convince overprotective mothers on the safety of the sport, infect young girls with an enthusiasm for the sport, basically get them out on boats.

***As far as management of the YAI is concerned, how much of the budget should be earmarked for International participation?***

Being in the council for the first time, I am unaware of the current situation on funds availability and their application. I am unable to make a comment on this as yet.

***What do you feel should be the policy of the YAI as far as coaching camps for International events are concerned?***

We should have intensive coaching camps before international events and we should invite reputed coaches to come and conduct training camps for the sailors as well as for our coaches.

***Any special note of interest:***

If perhaps we can combine this with tourism I think it will be a great boost to the sport as well as tourism, let's say adventure tourism. Improving infrastructure and creating good marinas in the fashion of other coastal countries will attract more foreign tourism which will as a result boost sailing in the country. Increasing recreational sailing will definitely draw more young to the competitive sailing world and improve our chances of creating champions. Ultimately champions are our raison d'être, we need to put personal differences/interests aside and work single-mindedly towards creating a steady stream of champions, whose needs are taken care of and whose only focus will be to excel in sailing.

Readers are requested to respond to Mrs. Shantha Ravikumar at her email address: shantha.ravikumar@gmail.com or call her on her phone +91 9444493437 or write to [tansail@gmail.com](mailto:tansail@gmail.com)

## ...Aban Pleasure arrives



*One last tease before the drop*

She hangs in the air one last teasing moment before she is finally dropped.



*Bottom gets wet*

And her bottom gets wet! Once in the water, there is no time for dillydallying.



*Revving up the motors and reversing from the luggage van*

Motors rev up and she backs off from the luggage van to find her own steam and thrust her streamlined body over the aquamarine expanse with a lively wave and fast receding wake.



*motors humming and a neat wake announce her intentions*



*Inside the boat basin, getting ready for mooring*

Back at the boat basin, she gets ready for mooring.



*Home in the boat basin*

Once moored, she is quiet, content to be ... home!

The TNSails will give you more information on this beauty and carry an interview with its owner, who is none other than Mr. Reji Abraham, Chairman and Managing Director, Aban India Ltd and TNSA member.

## ...New YAI Council elected

effort of the postal ballot. Finally when the results were announced it turned out that our efforts had not been in vain. Ashok who had seen Suheim's impressive campaign was apprehensive of his outcome. However Suheim, the gentleman that he is, was the first to call and congratulate Ashok on his successful campaign. And we also came to know that Shanta Ravikumar and Shankar Narayanan were also successful at the hustings. While this could be very cheerful news, the sobering fact is that it reveals the trust reposed in the TNSA by the community of sailors and their implicit request to carry our dedication and commitment to the sport in the new council. The TNSA hopes to strive hard to validate this faith through concerted action.

As part of the drive to familiarize our fraternity with the elected chairpersons, the TNSails will run special features on these functionaries so that the new council will be ushered into an environment of interested stakeholders all over the country.

The final council as of date is constituted by

**President:** Admiral Sureesh Mehta

**Executive Vice President:** to be elected by the new council

**Treasurer:** Cmde A.S. Bajwa

**Chairman Sailing and Club Development Committee:** Ashok Thakkar

**Chairman Youth Classes Committee:** Lt. Gen U S P Sinha

**Chairman National (Asian Games and Olympic) Classes Committee:** Lt. Gen K S Venugopal; SSC

**Chairman National Classes Committee:** Vice Admiral JS Bedi.

**Chairman Offshore and Motor Boating Committee:** Vice Admiral S K Damle

**Chairman Sailing Performance Development Committee:** Cmde Rabi Ahuja

**Chairman Events Committee:** Lt. Gen K. S. Rao

**Chairman Fund Raising and Publicity Committee:** Shankar Narayanan

**Chairperson Women Sailing Committee:** Shanta Ravikumar

Now that this chapter is over a new dawn is beginning in our country that will usher in greater transparency, be more inclusive for all players - sailors, YAI members, Clubs, Class Associations.

## Sailing Quiz



Boat A (PW), after crossing ahead of Boat B (PL), tacked to port and established an overlap on PL to windward. Neither PW nor PL was able to cross Boat C (S), rapidly converging on starboard tack. PW hailed for room to go below S and began to bear away. PL, not hearing the hail and only just aware of PW on her windward side, hailed loudly for room to tack and put her helm down immediately.

Shortly thereafter, PL and PW collided, barely avoiding contact with S. There was no damage or injury. PL testified that by the time she became aware of PW bearing away on port tack, PL was too close to S to bear away and take her stern. Her only option was to tack. PL protested PW under rule 15 for tacking too close to permit her to keep clear.

PW protested PL under rule 19.1 for not giving her time to respond before tacking. In addition, PW felt that, having properly established her overlap, she was entitled to room under rule 18.2(a) in order to pass astern of S. The protest committee disqualified PL for breaking rule 19.1 and dismissed the protest against PW.

Would you agree with this decision?

## Taking sailing to schools

Those of you who wish to see the program that Deepak has helped TNSA put together are requested to go to the following URL to see its three parts.

<http://www.veoh.com/videos/v16743547ggK3fgPn> - Part 1

<http://www.veoh.com/videos/v16743469Jp7SCfw3> - Part 2

<http://www.veoh.com/videos/v16743543CbK3rB6P> - Part 3

The TNSA is viewing ideas that will present the sport more imaginatively to students and constitute nodes that will feed committed sailors to the sport. Members are requested to come forward and actively participate in this effort.

### Quiz Answer

The protest committee requested confirmation or correction of its decision from the appeals committee under rule 70.2 (Right of Appeal and Requests for Interpretations).

#### DECISION OF THE APPEALS COMMITTEE

Rule 15 applies only when a boat tacking acquires right of way over another boat. Since PW tacked to windward of PL, she did not acquire right of way; therefore rule 15 did not apply.

PL and PW collided. However, since there was no damage or injury, PL, as the right-of-way boat, cannot be penalized under rule 14. Also, since PL gave PW no time to respond when she changed course toward her, it was not reasonably possible for PW to avoid the collision. Therefore PW did not break rule 14. PW established an inside overlap on PL when the two boats were more than two lengths from the obstruction.

However, this fact alone did not give PW right to room under rule 18.2(a) because at that point the two boats were not necessarily about to pass the obstruction on the same side. Therefore, PL was under no obligation to give PW room to pass astern of the obstruction if in fact PL desired to tack. Moreover, rule 19.2 provides that when rule 19.1 applies, rule 18 does not. Although PL was entitled under rule 19.1 to call for room to tack to clear the obstruction, that rule specifically provides that a boat hailing for room shall give the hailed boat time to respond. The fact that PL was not aware of PW bearing away until it was too late does not absolve PL of her duty to hail before tacking and then tack.

Accordingly, the decision of the protest committee disqualifying PL is confirmed.

This case covers the following rules and readers are requested to refer to the Rule book to refresh their memories.

Rule 14, Avoiding Contact

Rule 15, Acquiring Right of Way

Rule 18.2(a), Rounding and Passing Marks and Obstructions: Overlapped – Basic Rule

Rule 19, Room to Tack at an Obstruction

#### The final word...

When PL and PW are approaching an obstruction, and when rule 19 applies, the decision as to whether PL will pass astern of the obstruction or tack is PL's to make. If PL decides to tack she must hail and give PW time to respond.

## Bonne Bouche

### How to tell the sex of the fly

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

'What are you doing?' she asked.

'Hunting Flies', he responded.

'Oh, killing any?' She asked.

'Yep, 3 males, 2 females', he replied.

Intrigued, she asked:

How can you tell them apart?'

He responded, '3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone'



### A naughtical suggestion

A guy is going on an ocean cruise, and he tells his doctor that he's worried about getting seasick. The doctor suggests, "Eat two pounds of stewed tomatoes before you leave the dock." The guy replies, "would that keep me from getting sick, Doc?" The doctor says, "No, but it'll look real pretty in the water.'

### Medical logic

Doctor: You're in good health. You'll live to be eighty.

Patient: But, doctor, I am 80 right now.

Doctor: See, what did I tell you.

### Just a moment...

The patient shook his doctor's hand in gratitude and said, "Since we are the best of friends, I would not want to insult you by offering payment. But I would like for you to know that I had mentioned you in my will."

"That is very kind of you," said the doctor emotionally, and then added, "Can I see that prescription I just gave you? I'd like to make a little change."

### Just can't understand

A: I'm in a big trouble!

B: Why is that?

A: I saw a mouse in my house!

B: Oh, well, all you need to do is use a trap.

A: I don't have one.

B: Well then, buy one.

A: Can't afford one.

B: I can give you mine if you want.

A: That sounds good.

B: All you need to do is just use some cheese in order to make the mouse come to the trap.

A: I don't have any cheese.

B: Okay then, take a piece of bread and put a bit of oil in it and put it in the trap.

A: I don't have oil.

B: Well, then put only a small piece of bread.

A: I don't have bread.

B: Then what is the mouse doing in your house?!