

TN SAILS

The monthly newsletter of Tamil Nadu Sailing Association



JANUARY 2008

VOLUME : 6 ISSUE : 1

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Formatted & Printed at

Pio Printers Pvt. Ltd.

Chennai - 600 013.

www.pioprinters.com



Happy New Year

TN Sails wishes all its readers a Great New Year 2008! A year where dreams become reality. For those who desire it: May fair winds blow over calm waters! For others, who need to adrenalize: May feisty winds part your hair and zesty spray wet your face!

The Annual General Meeting of the Yachting Association of India



Admiral Sureesh Mehta Chairs the AGM of the YAI with Exec VPs Commodore Mongia to his right and Lt. Gen RR Goswami to his left

The AGM of the YAI was held at the INS Jawahar on 17th Dec 2007 and was attended by our Commodore Ashok Thakkar and committee member Nilma V Shah, for whom it was the first time. The meeting also coincided with an International Match Racing Event that was being held at Mumbai.



Commodore Ashok Thakkar with President YAI Admiral Sureesh Mehta at the AGM

The main point on the agenda after routine passing of accounts was the proposal to restructure the Yachting Association of India to bring it in tune with the constitutional demands of the country while at the same time make issues of sailor's interests paramount to its working. With this in mind, a draft committee had been constituted by the YAI and has been discussing matters from 2004 itself with a number of issues being debated to arrive at fair solutions to deficiencies faced in the working of the YAI.

The debate on accepting the proposals forwarded by the YAI secretariat met with a roadblock as a few members who opposed their induction, complained of insufficient time to study in detail, the ramifications of the changes.

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Enterprise and 470 Nationals

The 2007 Enterprise nationals and the 1st ever 470 national championship were held in Mumbai from the 3rd to 6th of December 2007. The event saw sailors from 11 different clubs from across the country participate in the enterprise event with a total of 36 teams participating. For the very first time there were a couple of teams from Bhopal's National sailing school, including an all women team which eventually won the best lady sailor award! The 470 sailors were all from Mumbai - the INWTC and AYN, which put together had a total of 7 teams in the event.



Murugan Nadar and GL Yadav receiving the Admiral Nanda trophy from Commodore S K Mongia

The championship saw many veteran sailors along with a large number of youngsters including some optimist sailors participate and excel and were sailed in winds varying from 4 to 12 knots, with majority of races being held in 8 to 10 knots of wind along with some strong spring tides in Mumbai harbour. Races were conducted by Cdr. Mahesh as Principal Race officer and this worthy had just won the world military games in the enterprise class. The Jury consisted of Capt. Homi Motiwala and Farokh Tarapore, so all the top yachtsman of the country were involved in this mega event in some way or the other.



Sailors heading home up the slip way after some competitive racing

The opening day races saw some keen competition among the senior sailors due to heavy winds, and also saw many a boat capsize due to testing condition. Murugan Nadar pairing up with G.L. Yadav for the very first time walked away with initial day honours winning the first two races. Also in the

470 Class Pushparajan Muthu and Nijeesh Bhaskaran of the AYN won the first two races in style, once again proving their ability in that class. The third and fourth race on day 2 saw some stiff competition in both classes with some very close racing with nail-biting finishes. Dharmendra of the AYN won the 3rd race in the enterprise class and Chouhan / Balraj from the INWTC won in the 470 class. The fourth race was the most competitive in the series with 4 enterprise boats heading for the finish line simultaneously, the leaders of day One, Murugan Nadar and GL Yadav edge past the world Bronze medallist pair of Naresh Yadav and C. Murugan. This was so far the closest finish witnessed in the event with 4 boats finishing within ten seconds of each other.

The 3rd day saw some strong winds for the 5th and 6th race, which was won comfortably by the leaders in both classes, thereby opening up the lead from their rivals. The last two races were sailed in light wind condition, with a strong ebb tide in the harbour.



Trunal and Suraj who bagged the junior trophy for their excellent performance

The competition was keenly contested with some of the top sailors fighting it out for various position. National optimist coach Ninad mayekar paired up with Gulshan Chunekar, both ex-sea cadets and though was hampered by excessive crew weight, still managed to finish well. The best amongst the youngsters was Trunal Helegaonkar / Suraj singh who walked away with the junior trophy. This pair was in tremendous form after sailing the Ireland worlds and were a real threat to many a senior sailor.

The final standings:

Enterprise class;

Winner: Murugan Nadar / GL Yadav

Silver: Naresh Yadav / C. Murugan

Bronze: Yuvraj / Rajesh Dulaji

470 class;

Winner: Pushparajan Muthu / Nijeesh Bhaskaran

Runner up: Sanjeev Chouhan / Balraj

At the prize distribution function which was held at the Naval sailing club, Vice President of the YAI and President of the National Enterprise Association, Commodore Mongia,

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...The Annual General Meeting of the Yachting Association of India



Well attended AGM of the YAI

Though the Secretariat defended its proposal stating that the matter was conveyed to the General Body well in advance of the meeting so as to ensure a constructive debate and invite suggestions from the General Body, the President YAI graciously agreed to hold a Special General Body meeting at a later date to grant those opposing the proposals more time to satisfy themselves on the changes proposed and to make positive suggestions at that time. There were a few members who tried to project the changes as being in tune with the Services/Civilian divide but many more members were of the opinion that there was no justification for such sentiment and were in fact thankful that the Services were there to look out for the greater interests of sailing.

YAI Awards



Mr. Pradipak receives the Life term Achievement award from YAI President Adm Sureesh Mehta

At the YAI Awards Committee which was attended by our Commodore Ashok Thakkar, as member, the proposals for annual YAI awards were considered. The TNSA, which had proposed the names of two of its members for the Admiral Kohli Award decided to withdraw their nomination this year.



Cyrus Heerjee Ayesha Lobo and Comm Mahesh who received YAI awards

The following persons received the YAI awards for the year 2006:

| | |
|---|---|
| AL RH TAHILIANI TROPHY for the Yachtsman of the Year | MATCH RACING TEAM skipped by CDR R Mahesh, and comprising SH. N. Mongia, GI Yadav, and SS Chauhan |
| ADMIRAL NADKARNI TROPHY for Most Promising Yachtsman of the Year | Mas. Xerxes Bamboat |
| E-IN-C TROPHY for the Most Promising Lady sailor of the Year | Ms. Ayesha Lobo |
| ADMIRAL KOHLI TROPHY for promoting the sport of Yachting | Mr. Cyrus Heerjee |
| LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD | Mr. CS Pradipak |
| ADMIRAL RAMDAS TROPHY for Offshore Adventure | CESC TEAM for Mumbao -Kavaratti - Mumbai Sailing Expedition |

...Enterprise and 470 Nationals



Murugan Nadar and GL Yadav with the Salgaocar bowl

gave away the prizes to the winners. The winners received the Admiral Nanda trophy and the runners-up received the Chougule trophy in the Enterprise class, whereas in the 470 class, the winners took the 470 National championship trophy. The trophies in the Enterprise class for each race were as follows:

Race 1 Godrej salver trophy; race 2 Dempo trophy; race 3 Sesa goa cup, race 4 Vazir Sultan gold cup; race 5 Sethi gold cup; race 6 Salgaocar bowl; race 7 Lipton cup;

race 8 Currimbhoy trophy.

The team of Murugan Nadar and G L Yadav won 6 individual trophies as well as the Admiral Nanda Trophy while G L Yadav also won the Secunderabad club centenary trophy for Best Crew.

- Murugan Nadar

South Asian Yachting Regatta 2007



Tropical paradise

The venue

Glistening blue water, floating hyacinth, a rock here and there, lush green mountains around, the comfortable coolness of a tropical winter, innumerable birds, crocodiles, water monitors and snakes for company. Sounds like a dream tourist destination? Think again. This was the venue for the South Asian Yachting Regatta 2007 held from 27th to 30th of December. Bolgoda lake, situated in the South-West coast of the island nation of Sri Lanka is about an hour's drive from the capital, Colombo. The lake is immense, really speaking they are two distinct lakes, North and South, connected by the channel called Bolgoda Ganga. Both water bodies drain into the Indian Ocean and the lakes and the estuaries support diverse aquatic flora and fauna. Ceylon Motor Yachting Club, the convener of the event, has a beautiful colonial clubhouse located on the shores of the North Bolgoda Lake. The homes of a number of the local sailors dot the shores of the lake and they commute to and from the club on motorboats.



Start of a Race

The event

The South Asian Yachting Regatta is mainly a team racing event in various classes and this year races were conducted for Enterprise, Laser 4.7 and Optimist classes. There was just one individual race on the last day of the races in which the Sri Lankans also raced their GP14s. In the Enterprise class, India

had G L Yadav, N K Yadav, Yuvraj Singh, M.Nadar, C.Murugan and R S Dhulaji participating and in the Optimist Class, the sailors who finished in the top four positions in the Inland Nationals held in Bhopal were selected to represent the country. Nishanth Chandrashekar, Hussain Bhavnagarwala and K C Ganapathy of TNSA and Aman Vyas of Bhopal Sailing School were the chosen four and TNSA coach Hav Durai Raj accompanied the team. Sri Lanka fielded two optimist teams I and II and Pakistan had one team. All boats, reportedly in excellent condition, were provided by the hosting country. In the Enterprise class 3 boats per country sailed and in the Optimist and Laser 4.7 four per country sailed in the team races. It is a pity that India did not participate in the 4.7 class, surely TNSA with its strong fleet of 4.7 sailors could have put up a good show.

The races

Our team reached Colombo on the 26th afternoon and were picked up at the airport and put up at one of the members' home. On the 27th, after allotment of boats four races of one round robin were held in the afternoon. The course for the Optis was a triangle and loop to finish upwind while the Enterprises and Laser 4.7s sailed a trapezoidal course. Two sets of round robins were held totally, there were no deciding rounds or final playoff. The mornings were still and winds as a rule picked up only in the afternoons. The winds were quite light on the first day at about 6 knots and the waters flat. Nishanth was elected to be the captain of the Indian team and their first race was against Pakistan. Our sailors were initially in winning positions with 2,3,5 and 6, but a wind shift caught Nishanth on the wrong tack who slipped from 2nd position to finish eighth giving the Pakistan their first win. In their second race for the day India won against Sri Lanka I with a 1,2,3 and 4 positions, however this was their weaker team. Pakistan had a mixed bag too with the Srilankans, winning against their Team I and losing against their Team II.



Mark rounding in progress

On 28th the winds picked up and blew at about 10 to 12 knots and team racing was completed this day. The remaining 2 races from the first round robin, India vs Sri Lanka II and Sri Lanka I vs II, and the six races of the reverse round robin, in all 8 races were held. In the race with Sri Lanka II which

they nearly bagged, India fought strongly with 1, 2, 6 and 7 positions for most part, but once again a wind shift caught the unwary Indian sailors who dropped from 6 and 8 to 7 and 8 tying with Sri Lanka II at 18 points. With the quirky team racing rule 'team getting gun loses in a tie', India lost the tie. However Indian sailors avenged their defeat in the hands of Pakistan, beating them with 1,2,3 and 6 positions and repeated their comprehensive win over Sri Lanka I with 1,2,3 and 4 once again. In the final count, Sri Lanka II had won all their races, emerging a clear winner, while India and Pakistan had 3 wins each. The gold slipped through India's fingers, but we landed the silver thanks to better finishes than Pakistan.

What they said...

The 29th was declared a lay day and while the other teams went shopping to Colombo, our sailors were perfectly content to stay back and play. On the 30th, the last day of the races, one individual race was held for each of the classes. In the optimist class, there were two races, one for the under 12s and another for the under 16s. Sri Lanka had five of their sailors sailing in the under 12 category, however our under 12 champion Ganapathy, who surely could have walked away with the under 12 gold, opted to fight it out with the seniors. The Gold in the individual Optimist event went to Sri Lankan Dimitri Goonewardana, Silver to Maria, Pakistan and Bronze to Maleena Awn, Sri Lanka. Nishanth finished 4th, Aman Vyas 5th, Ganapathy 8th and Hussain 10th. In the Enterprise class Pakistan emerged winners, while India lost out on some penalty points though they finished second on water, thus giving the silver to the hosts. In the individual event too, the Indians lost out and finished towards the tail end.



Team India Optimist

Hav Durairaj who accompanied as the coach says that our sailors fought well, but the Sri Lankans were also very good and their races were hard won. He is of the opinion that it was the wind shifts that caught our sailors unwary as a lift suddenly turned into a header and our sailors were not able to predict it and react quickly enough. The floating water hyacinth also posed difficulties getting caught in the

rudders of some of the Enterprises. Sometimes they moved onto a mark and made mark rounding an interesting if difficult task.

Nishanth, who captained the team says, "We had no practice in these waters to learn the wind conditions and be able to predict the wind shifts accurately. We had to race on the very first day of sailing here whereas the Sri Lankans had the advantage of sailing in home waters. Secondly, we were unable to rig our boats and adjust mast rakes to suit our requirements which led to sailing below our optimum". Lightweight Hussain agrees with him and says he and Ganapathy were overpowered in the strong winds as they were rigged by sailors who were a lot heavier than them. Hussain also candidly admits, "We mucked up a bit too. Nishanth and I were sailing in the 8th and 6th positions in our race with Sri Lanka II, when I made a wrong decision to 'mark trap' Maleena and let Nishanth get ahead, in the process we slipped to 7th and 8th. I should have just sailed and maintained my position since it would have given us the win".

As for the individual event all the sailors concurred that the optimist course was not very long, under 15 minutes and just a single race, so there was nothing much one could do catching up if one did not have a good start. After all those medals in the Inland Nationals at Bhopal, the children are a little chastened with this experience and hopefully wiser. They have now seen that every single race, every start, what you do every single minute on water is what makes champions. Fitness, Focus and Feel of the wind make the winning combination. And when you have been chosen to represent the country, it is even more important to stay focused and sail to win. In Ganapathy's words, "To represent India is a very difficult job. There are many things you have to do right. You have to make India proud by winning medals, you need to stay fit, you need to eat well and eat the correct food. You need to be well-mannered and correct in your behaviour. You should be able to handle shouting and still be strong mentally and remain focused. Lastly you need to be happy to do all this." Well, from the mouths of babes! You may not have brought us back the gold, but we are proud of your attitude, and are sure that it will take you a long way in the future.

Sri Lankan Hospitality

Lastly a few words on Sri Lankan hospitality: Every single sailor has been enthusiastically eulogizing the warmth and hospitality of the hosts, the comfort of their rooms, the excellent food, the friendliness of the other sailors, the professional handling of the event and the picturesque beauty of the place itself. In fact, Reshma Chengappa, the mother who accompanied the children hasn't since stopped singing paeans of praise of their experience in Sri Lanka. Thank you Sri Lanka, thank you Ceylon Motor Yachting Club, as Indian sailors we would like to express our gratitude and as TNSA, we hope to return the hospitality sometime, maybe we could give you a taste of sailing in the Bay of Bengal.

Lt. Gen R.R. Goswami elected VP, YAI

Lt Gen RR Goswami has been elected unopposed as the Vice President of the federation on 17 December 2007. Lt Gen RR Goswami was Commodore of the Corps of Engineers Sailing Club for almost one and a half years and had been instrumental in giving a fillip to sailing in Corps of Engineers.



Gen Goswami

Lt. Gen Goswami takes his responsibility very seriously and was instrumental in sending CESC sailors on five cruises to various ports of the country. Under his stewardship, the CESC has been organized and conducted regular coaching camps in sailing both in CME and in Mumbai to prepare CESC sailors for National Regattas. To encourage sailing amongst the officers and their families of the College of Mil

Engineering, he activated sailing in the middle lake. This led to an increase in the number of officers and sailing taking up sailing. As President of the National Optimist Association of India he ensured broad basing of sailing amongst the children of the country. It was due to his efforts that NOAI could arrange more number of coaching camps at different venues for the children to pick up the intricacies of sailing and improve their performances at national and international events.

To promote blue water sailing in the Indian Army he helped establishment of Army Aqua Nodal Centre (Sailing) at Marve, which was funded by the Indian Army. A pilot course and a Basic Course in blue water sailing at the centre have already been conducted and the second Basic Course is underway. As a result of this personnel from other arms and services have started benefiting from the experience of Sappers, in the art of Ocean cruising. As General Officer Commanding, 101 Area he mooted the idea of establishing of an Aqua Centre at Barapani, Shillong to promote sailing, rowing and other water sports. The same has since taken a shape and very soon Barapani will become a major centre for water sports in the eastern part of the Country.

Lt Gen RR Goswami has always been at the forefront promoting adventure sports being an adventure sport enthusiast himself. At a personal meeting with the General in Pune, he mentioned how he loved to para-jump and firmly believed that equipment was key as far as safety were concerned. He convened a meeting of the General Body of the NOAI and after a democratic debate found that a majority shared his belief on equipment standardization and quality thereby ensuring that Optimist sailing does not suffer because of the shortsightedness of a few people. In an age of liberalization and public accountability, antediluvian protectionism was shown its rightful place thanks to the progressive views of the erstwhile President NOAI.

The TNSA congratulates Lt. Gen RR Goswami on his election as Exec VP YAI!

Bonne Bouche



Pest Control – Divinely inspired

There were four country churches in a small Texas town: The Presbyterian Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church and the Catholic Church. Each church was overrun with pesky squirrels.

One day, the Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about the squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined that the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

In the Baptist Church the squirrels had taken up habitation in the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a cover on the baptistery and drown the squirrels in it. The squirrels escaped somehow and there were twice as many there the next week.

The Methodist Church got together and decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creation. So, they humanely trapped the Squirrels and set them free a few miles outside of town. Three days later, the squirrels were back.

But — The Catholic Church came up with the best and most effective solution. They baptized the squirrels and registered them as members of the church. Now they only see them on Christmas and Easter.

Mistaken Identity

Once a Blonde was traveling on a train. He felt sleepy so he gave the guy sitting opposite him on the train 20 rupees to wake him up when the station arrived. This guy was a barber, and he felt that for 20 rupees, the Blonde deserved more service. So, when the Blonde fell asleep, the barber quietly shaved off his beard.

When the station arrived, the Blonde was woken up, and he went home.

Reaching home, he went to wash his face, and suddenly screamed when he saw the mirror.

"What is the matter?" Says his wife.

He replied, "The cheat on the train has taken my 20 rupees and woken up someone else."

Good Company

One day, God calls Satan up on the telephone and says with a sneer, "So, how's it going down there in hell?"

Satan replies, "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning and flush toilets and escalators, and there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

God replies, "What??? You've got an engineer? That's a mistake — he should never have gotten down there; send him up here."

Satan says, "No way. I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him."

God says, "Send him back up here or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers, "Yeah, right. And just where are YOU going to get a lawyer?"