

# TN SAILS

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## YAI Multi Classes Regatta 2009

Summers are usually extra busy season for sailors with a couple of National events at least. This year was no different, the laser coastal nationals barely got over before the sailors started getting ready for the next event in Mumbai. A Multi Class Regatta was organized by the Yachting Association of India from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> to coincide with their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Hosted by the Indian Naval Watermanship Training Centre, Mumbai the Regatta was held in all the Asian Games classes and was the selection trial for representation in international events. It was a mega event with 224 sailors competing in 7 different classes of boats.



*Multi Class Multi Colour!*

As ever, TNSA had a large contingent of 21 sailors participating in the Optimist, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7 categories. Fourteen Optimist sailors, six laser 4.7 sailors and 1 laser Radial sailor left for Mumbai carrying the hopes of TNSA on their young shoulders and a good number of parents accompanied them besides two of our lascars. A container bearing TNSA's name boldly across its sides filled with boats and spars had already left a couple of days before so as to reach by the time the TNSA tigers arrived in Mumbai.



*Cool dudes from TNSA at the venue*

The event started on the 13<sup>th</sup> with Match Racing in J24s, which has been a favourite

form of racing for the keelboat aficionados of Mumbai. This format of racing is becoming more popular world over and has been included as an Asian games open class and Olympic Class in the women's category. Each race sees two boats pitting their skills against each other and every boat sails against every other before finishing with 2 boats in the finals. Cdr R Mahesh of INWTC Mumbai, gold medallist in the World Military Games, with his team mates Rajesh Dhulaji, Neeraj Sharma and Vipul Meherishi swept to the top brushing aside other contenders establishing his team's supremacy in match racing comprehensively.



*Mrinalini walking the ramp*

While Match Racing has its own charm, for most competitive sailors true excitement lies in Fleet racing. Fleet racing started on the 16<sup>th</sup> in 6 different classes, single-handers Laser Standard, Radial and 4.7 and Optimist, double-handers 420, 470 and the colourful double hulled Hobie 16 and Boards RS-X and Mistral. There were 3 separate courses for the Optimists, Lasers and

the Double-handers along with the Surfboards. The fleets sailed a trapezoid course and a total of 9 races were held in 3 days except for Lasers which sailed 10 races, all with one discard.



*Xerxes and Krish, the winning 420 team*

In the Optimist boys category 44 sailors competed with TNSA and RBYC fielding 8 entries each. The other sailors were made up of INWTC, CESC, KYA, GYA, et al. The surprising element was the lack of Optimist sailors from NSS Bhopal which had just a single entry in the boys and none in the girls. Their Optimist sailors of the last couple of years were sailing other classes but it is a matter of concern that they haven't inducted more Opti sailors. Though one had expected good pre-monsoon winds, Mother Nature pulled one of her tricks and the regatta saw quite mild winds which meant that tides dominated.

TNSA sailors acquitted themselves very well dominating the top positions in no uncertain manner. Drawing on his experience of Mumbai waters in the Mumbai Invitation Regatta held by the



*Praveen, the Opti champion posing with proud dad and Nilma*

Sea Cadet Corps last December where he finished first too, Praveen Prabhakar from TNSA sailed very consistently to finish on top with 15 points with a worst position of 3<sup>rd</sup>! Except of course in a quirky end in the Race no. 4, where every sailor, though having received the whistle at the finish, was awarded a disqualification for not crossing the finish line except the lone INWTC (MB) sailor Danesh Motivala.



*Rufus in last minute consultations with Mayeker*

Other TNSA sailors Rufus Patrick and KC Ganapathy finished second and third with 24 and 28 points respectively. Ravindhar finished 14<sup>th</sup> while Aman Reddy and Ashwin finished mid-fleet at 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> positions while for Kiran and Mahesh, our youngest sailors at 8 years, this was an excellent experience.



*Optis milling at the start line*



*Ganapathy who finished third among the Optimist Boys*



*The Champion with the perfect score*



*Little Red Sailing Hood*

Laser Standard and Radial remained AYN stronghold predictably with Jasvir Singh, BK Rout and Parvinder Singh taking the top three positions in the Standard.

Rajesh Chaudhary, who sailed the Radial in preparation for the Asian Games 2010 finished first with his compatriots from AYN Dharmendra and Gajendar Singh taking the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> positions.



*Varsha, the under-12 champion*

In the Optimist girls, there were a total of 16 participants of which six were from TNSA. Niveditha Ravi Varman from TNSA was unstoppable and sailed a magnificent race finishing first in every single race of the nine held, with a considerable lead.



*A wee bit too old for Opti perhaps?*

Eventually experience won the day with Ekta finishing 2<sup>nd</sup>, Zephra 3<sup>rd</sup> and Varsha 4<sup>th</sup>. Three other girls from TNSA, Ruqayya, Keerthana and Janaki finished among the top 9, while youngest sailor Zahabia finished in the 11<sup>th</sup> position.



*Rajesh Chaudhury beating up to the windward mark*

TNSA lady Radial sailor Mrinalini who finished 9<sup>th</sup> overall in a fleet of 17 is beginning to mature as an adult sailor and has been consistently improving her position and narrowing the gap between her and Rohini Rau



*Hussain casts off*

However there was a keen tussle for the second place between Ekta Yadav from INWTC (MB), Zephra from RMYC and Varsha, TNSA's under 12 champion.



*Mrinalini ahead of Rohini in Race 2*

who had no competition to speak of until now.

In laser 4.7 boys, the first day started very poorly for TNSA with NSS sailors dominating the top positions.



*Varun who finished second*

However, Varun Thakkar from TNSA subsequently clawed his way up to the 2<sup>nd</sup> position while NSS sailor Sachin Singha held on to his lead and finished first. Ajay Singh from NSS finished 3<sup>rd</sup> while Hussain Bhavnagarvala from TNSA finished 4<sup>th</sup>.



*I'm almost there, declares Aishwarya*



*Naresh Yadav and Ayesha Lobo, the winning Hobie team*



*Shweta, the 4.7 Girls champion*

Among the girls Shweta from TNSA finished first but her dominance in the 4.7 Girls category is weakening as another TNSA sailor Aishwarya is already nipping at her heels finishing just a point behind her though with more guns than Shweta! While the Optimist always daunted her, Aishwarya is blossoming into an excellent Laser sailor.

The Olympic Class 470 was comprised of entirely AYN teams while the Hobie 16 was dominated by the INWTC.

Veteran INWTC sailor Naresh Yadav pairing up with young Ayesha Lobo from RBYC finished on top while two other INWTC teams finished 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. Goa Yachting



*Our girls at the Prize-Giving Ceremony*

## The French Connection



*In the classroom*

For quite a few Wednesdays in the last few months, TNSA premises was filled with the chatter of young children in mellifluous French. Half a dozen children from the Renault French School in Chennai started for the benefit of the children of the expatriate employees of the Renault Chennai plant, started taking sailing lessons at TNSA. Fred Girot, Director of this school started sailing along with his daughter Emma in late 2008 and has been a regular at TNSA ever since. Very soon after, he started bringing a few children from the school regularly on Wednesdays to learn sailing. A merry band of children, all nine years or under, Matthis Natan Szczepanski, Alexis Schipman, Caroline Picon and sisters Chiara and Camilla Cerruti started their acquaintance with sailing under the diligent guidance of Captain Ravikumar. Emma who had become a Sunday regular by then too joined in whenever Barathanatyam classes did not claim her.



*Alexis and Matthis*

There would be ten minutes of classroom session, followed by a warm up and tacking practice on land. Initially Caroline and Matthis were a little hampered by their inability to comprehend English, but they picked up the essential sailing jingo quickly enough and were soon able to handle the Opti reasonably comfortably.

When they needed help, it was charming to watch the other children translate for them obligingly. After a few Wednesdays went by, all of them were able to do reaches comfortably and after a few knocks on their heads they had



*Emma helping Matthis learn the ropes*

learnt the importance of bringing the tiller back to the centre after a tack so that they did not go into a spin with the menacing boom swinging at their heads.



*Camilla, the pint-sized firebrand*

Tiny Camilla had to actually run across the boat to the other side after a tack but she made up in spirit what she lacked in size. After a few weeks all of them had become proficient enough to be able to handle the boat reasonably comfortably and had started working on mark rounding.



*Chiara singing into the megaphone*

They had also established an excellent rapport with their coach, whom they addressed by his name without the 'Uncle' that is customary in India. It is amazing how sensitive children are to social customs for Emma would call him Ravi while with her French school mates but would revert to Ravi uncle when sailing on Sundays with the rest of TNSA children.

*Continued on page 6*

## Al Bareh International Regatta 2009

The 17<sup>th</sup> edition of the Al Bareh International Regatta 2009 is being organized by The Bahrain Sailing Club in co-operation with Bahrain Maritime Sports Association. The event will be held in the waters off Al Jazayir Beach, Bahrain from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Sailors from 13 countries will be participating in the event which is being conducted in the Optimist, Laser 4.7, Laser Radial for Girls / Boys and Laser Standard classes of boats. In 2008 our sailor Hussain Bhavnagarvala had won the Gold in this event, thus bringing the first international gold in an individual event for the country. Carrying fond hopes of a repeat performance a few of our best sailors will be leaving next month to participate in this regatta.

The weather during the same period in 2008 was hazy and windy just before the start of the Regatta but dropped after the start of the races. The winds further dropped so badly that the last 2 days of races were abandoned. One hopes for a better treatment from the wind gods this year

### ...The French Connection



*Caroline, Emma and Camilla enjoying a dip*

The sailing programme came to a close on the 6<sup>th</sup> of May with the proud parents of the children visiting TNSA to watch their 'little tadpoles' in action. The school has closed for a couple of months' vacation and the Director Fred has taken the opportunity to go off on an Enfield bike ride to the Himalayas! It is hoped that the children will return in force once they are back from the vacation, to continue their sailing lessons.

### ...YAI Multi Classes Regatta 2009

Altogether it turned out to be a good event for TNSA with our sailors sweeping top positions in all the youth classes except for Laser 4.7 Boys where we had to be content with a second position. Praveen and Niveditha were awarded a ready to sail Optimist boat each, while Rufus and Ganapathy came home with a brand new Optimist sail. Varun, Shweta and Aishwarya won some Gift Vouchers for marine products which unfortunately turned out to be for scuba diving and of not much use to the young sailors. Besides that Varun, Shweta, Aishwarya and Rufus also won domestic round trip air tickets from Spicejet. Admiral Sureesh Mehta, Chief of Naval Staff and President, YAI was present at the closing ceremony on the 19<sup>th</sup> of May to give away the prizes to the top achievers.

Last year we had sailors only in the Optimist class, this year we will have Mrinalini Santhanam participating in the Laser Radial Girls, Varun Thakkar in Laser 4.7 and Rufus Patrick, Praveen Prabhakar and Varsha Gautham in the Optimist class. Patrick will be accompanying the sailors as the team manager along with Deepa, Varsha's mother while Bala has been working on all the paperwork required. This is surely the biggest reason for TNSA for flourishing the way it is, the dedication of the sailor families to the sport. While most sailors in the country take part in international events only with the aid of Government or a Sponsor, it seems to have become a unique tradition in TNSA for its members to participate in as many events as possible whether they get Government aid or not. Keen on improving performance, even before one event is over the sailors (and their parents!) start thinking about the next one.

We wish the Al Bareh team good luck and fair winds.

### Bonne Bouche



As if you did not know

Teacher: What are some products of the West Indies?

Student: I don't know.

Teacher: Of course, you do. Where do you get sugar from?

Student: We borrow it from our neighbor.

For the time being...

"Doctor, please hurry. My son swallowed a razor-blade."

"Don't panic, I'm coming immediately. Have you done anything yet?"

"Yea, I shaved with the electric razor."

Wrong each time...

Annoyed Teacher to student : Look at your face I know what you had for breakfast

Saucy Student: What was it?

Teacher: Eggs.

Student: No, that was yesterday.

For love or money...

Man: I could go to the end of the world for you.

Woman: Yes, but would you stay there?

Man: I offer you myself.

Woman: I am sorry I never accept cheap gifts.

Man: I want to share everything with you.

Woman: Let's start from your bank account.