

## For Immediate Release

### **Drama, Excitement and Sportsmanship highlight the Start of 20<sup>th</sup> Singapore Straits Regatta**

(15 January 2014) They came to race and that's what they did. The 20<sup>th</sup> Singapore Straits Regatta started today at precisely 11 am Batam, Indonesia time.

#### **Less than Ideal Conditions**

The 10 boats that took part in today's race were met with sea conditions that were, in the words of *Waka Tere's* skipper Kurt Metzger, "extremely choppy." Seas were confused and swells were at times close to two meters high. What made the swells nerve racking was their short frequency. They weren't a gentle roll but came relentlessly, one after the other. Even the wind, pushed along by the seasonal Northeast Monsoon tipped to over 27 knots at one point. The race's average wind speed was put at about 22-24 knots. While sailors loved the wind, the bumpy, confused sea made for some tough sailing.

At one point, during the first leg of the race, two of the bigger keelboat contenders suffered



**Crew from *Blue Note* repairing their head sail**

problems with their headsails and forced one of them to retire. Competitor *Blue Note* suffered from a ripped jib and while the crew made a valiant effort to repair it, she finally withdrew from the race.

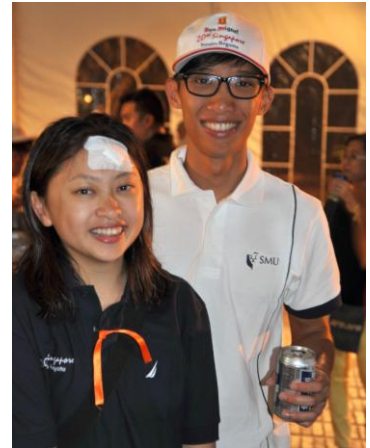
*Rekering Dream* had problems with her forward sail but still managed to complete the first race using only her aft mainsail. It was a testament to seamanship how the crew managed to keep the vessel in the race. The crew's efforts paid off and the boat came in first in the IRC B Class with a corrected time of 1:40:22.



## Sheets to the Wind

While mechanical problems may have plagued a few of the entries, two other boats experienced high drama on the course. It was crewmember Andrew Fong aboard *SMUmad* who had the ultimate scare. This was his first regatta and while conditions were rough he still felt in control. It wasn't until the boat did a jibe that Andrew found himself knocked overboard into the foaming water. Fong explained what happened, "We did a jibe the sheet hit me and the next thing I knew I was in the water. I managed to hang on to the sheet and my crewmembers pulled me in. Of his ordeal he recalled, "Every second out there was an experience."

But Andrew Fong wasn't the only young sailor to meet with mainsheet problems. Justina Sim aboard the *Waka Tere* also had another close call. "We were doing a jibe when the main sheet smacked me in the head," she recalled. That whack on the head cost Justina a trip to the hospital and five stitches. She explained, "I didn't know I was hurt. It was after that I saw all the blood that I knew something was wrong." The impact was so hard, "that it even made my nose bleed." Her only regret was that because she was injured she couldn't help her teammates as they raced towards the finish. When asked if she'll continue to sail, she beamed a big smile and said, "Yes, of course, I love sailing."



Justina Sim and Andrew Fong

## Unsung Heroes

While sailing can be unpredictable for contestants it's easy to forget about the other boats that help coordinate and assist with the regatta. They experience the same conditions as those taking part in the race. While rough seas were hammering the contestants of this year's Singapore Straits Regatta, *Lady O*, the race committee vessel, stoically rode her anchor in the tough conditions to keep score and observe the race. It wasn't until her captain, Steven Leong, went to put up the hook at the end of the day that things got a bit harrowing. "We went to pull anchor and noticed that the whole bow pulpit on our Grand Banks motor yacht was gone, torn off by the rough sea conditions and heavy swell." Not being able to pull up the anchor safely, they let go and lost their hook and chain. Which just goes to show that regattas can be tough not only on participants but officials as well.



## 15 JANUARY, WEDNESDAY- RACE RESULTS DAY 1

### IRC Open Class

S/N	Yacht	Sail No.	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Overall	Position
1	Rekering Dreams	SIN 3683	1	1	2	4	1
2	Blue Note	SIN 2000	3	2	1	6	2
3	Haiyi 1		2	3	3	8	3

### IRC C Class

S/N	Yacht	Sail No.	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Overall	Position
1	Shoon Fung Too	SIN 852	2	1	1	4	1
2	Waka Tere	SIN 333	1	2	2	5	2
3	SMUmad	SIN 104	3	3	3	9	3
4	SMUve	SIN 105	4	4	4	12	4
5	Born In Fire Too		DNC, 6	DNC, 6	DNC, 6	18	5

### One Design - J24

S/N	Yacht	Sail No.	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Overall	Position
1	Jangan Main Main	SIN 18	1	2	2	5	1
2	Quarterdeck		3	3	3	9	2
3	Shengli	SIN 93	2	1	1	4	3



## About Singapore Straits Regatta

The idea of a yachting regatta of international standing in Singapore waters was mooted in 1994 by a handful of local enthusiasts to entrench Singapore's position as a yachting hub in Asia and catalyse the growth of the local keelboat sailing scene. The annual fixture in the Asian Yachting circuit has since come to be famed for its blend of Singaporean and Indonesian flavour, being the only regatta that brings the yachts and sailors to clubs on both sides of the Straits. A truly unique regatta that presents a myriad of sailing conditions and experiences. The Straits Regatta has been constantly evolved over the past 19 years and the upcoming 20th edition will present itself in a format closer to the roots of the original editions in the early 1990s. A time-tested formula that has attracted sailors and yachts from all over the world!

In 1995, the inaugural Singapore Straits Regatta was held. A brainchild of pioneers of sailing in Singapore, this event saw Raffles Marina, Nongsa Point Marina, and Changi Sailing Club coming together with the Singapore Sailing Federation to organise this landmark event.

The Regatta is organised through a unique organising chair rotation system amongst the Singapore clubs and Nongsa Point Marina. The coming together of all stakeholders in Singapore sailing clubs through a Memorandum of Understanding signals the strong camaraderie and collective drive to promote the sport.

## About the Perpetual Cup Series

Inaugurated in 1997, the Perpetual Cup Series crowns the top performing yacht in the elite racing class across three key sailing events in Southeast Asia, namely The Raja Muda International Regatta, Phuket King's Cup and Singapore Straits Regatta, and awards the winning team with the prestigious Sir Thomas Lipton Trophy from the treasure trove of historical trophies from the Republic of Singapore Yacht Club. Over the years, the Series has been awarded to several elite sailors, earning itself a prestigious reputation throughout the sailing community.

For media enquiries, please contact:

**Nicolette Goh** ONE°15 Marina Club  
Corporate Communication Executive  
Email : [nicolettegoh@one15marina.com](mailto:nicolettegoh@one15marina.com)  
Tel : (65) 6305 6988



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