

## **Web Release**

**16th January 2014**

### **SB20 Asia Pacific Championships 2014 – Pre event writeup**

In just a few moments, a 17-boat fleet of SB20s will converge on the waters off ONE\*15 Marina Club at Sentosa for the inaugural SB20 Asia Pacific Championships 2014. Held in conjunction with the 20th Singapore Straits Regatta, the event will see some of the region's best keelboat sailors vie for honours over three days – 16th, 17th and 18th January 2014.

With the fleet comprising several international elite sailors from all over the world including Hong Kong, Thailand, Great Britain, Belgium, New Zealand, United States of America, and Singapore, the competition is set to be full of fun, action and excitement. The names to look out for include current titleholder Nils Razmilovic, who looms as the man to beat this year, there's also Nik Burfoot – ex Laser World Champion, John Pollard – former UK National Champion in the SB 20 class and active racer on the UK and European circuit; Morten Jakobsen from Thailand – ex Laser Asian Games Champion and one of Thailand's top match racers; Frank van Kempen – ex sports boat National Champion from Hong Kong; and Dominic Johnson and Mike Buchanan – ex Team Racing Champions from the UK.

Locally, there's Anthony Kiong, who just won the Bronze medal at the recent 27th SEA Games in the half rater class, and is fresh, confident and ready to go. Other instantly recognisable names include Xu Yuan Zhen – 2008 Olympian in the 470 class, and Dr Ben Tan – current Singapore Sailing Federation President, 1996 Laser Olympian, and multiple Asian, Southeast Asian Games Gold Medallist.

Apart from the seasoned and experienced bunch, the event will also feature some young talents sailing keelboats for first time, including 2012 Optimist World Champion Yukie Yokoyama and 2013 Optimist Girls World Champion Bertha Han.

With so many big names racing in this class, the competitors can be sure that their mental and physical limits will be tested. The younger ones, on the other hand, will stand to learn invaluable lessons from the veteran sailors.

Stay tune for more exciting updates on how the sailors fared on the first day of racing, which will take place in a few moments!