

Rear Commodore - Sailing Report (Jul 2011)

Keel Boats

The Ambassadors' Cup yet again proved to be one of Changi's, if not Singapore's, most successful regattas in the 2010 calendar. With over 40 boats, including catamarans, accompanied by 95 Ambassadors and representatives of their respective countries, the regatta had the makings for yet another record-breaking turnout. We were able to again show the sailing communities in Singapore that when it comes to large scale sailing-cum-social events, CSC is certainly able to score full marks. Many thanks to the sponsors for supporting this event!

The Twilight series has been building momentum, and the official series has built into one of the most hard-fought sailing series the club has seen in years. "Awesome" Kelvin has done a great job in steering this activity in the right direction, and with Choy taking over from him, the series will no doubt continue to grow and grow.

Sunday's IRC/PY Series promises to offer the more serious racing enthusiasts the platform in which to show their mettle; please note that to enter the IRC division, a Valid IRC rating is required.

The level of cruising activity, however, needs some Tender Loving Care in the form of a new cruising sub-committee. I encourage any of you members wishing to participate in cruising to come forward and help organize some events. I have had several discussions with members who would like to see some regular cruising activities, even if it just means visiting other clubs and marinas in Singapore or close by, so please step forward if you would like to participate or - better still - help organize.

Cats

The Cat Fleet has grown considerably in size over the last year. During the monsoon season activities, events such as the Cat Nationals, Monsoon Regatta and Cat Attack, were very successful, and we are seeing more and more cats out on the water to participate in the Sunday racing series and also the Twilight races. With plans to bring back several of the old Changi day-races there should be plenty of variety in all forms of racing. I am sure many cat sailors were sad to see Kelvin depart CSC; his contribution towards sailing as a whole has been Awesome indeed. In particular, the encouragement he gave to Cat sailing was fantastic. We shall all miss his very special way of communicating, although I might add that with his absence CSC has become quite a quiet place these days!

Dinghies

I am proud to note that several of CSC's junior members have represented the Club at some of the national events. It's really great to see these young sailors come up through the different sailing programs the Club has to offer. Then, to see them achieve a standard where they can start competing is fantastic! Many of these young sailors have come to CSC through our grass roots schools sailing programs which are run during the week. Awesome Kelvin started up a coaching program on Saturday morning for the more enthusiastic young sailors which covered all aspects of dinghy racing as well as a

series of races to really test their skills. With Choy and our resident coach, these sailing sessions for the schools and members will continue to thrive. Also, I must mention that Changi will host a Singapore national ranking dinghy event towards the end of the year. We must remember that these young sailors are the future of Changi Sailing Club, so any encouragement you can give would be great.

Regattas

Besides having the individual classes of sailing activities, we are mindful that we are one club. In this spirit of one family, we endeavor to organize events to include all the classes of boats ie.keelboats, catamarans and dinghies.

On this score, we have successfully organized the **Acclaim Monsoon Regatta**, and the revived **Commodore's Cup** in the last 12 months. These two events were able to bring all our sailors together for a time of serious racings as well as lots of fun, mirth and plenty of beer!!!

Something new

I am pleased to announce that for the first time in Changi Sailing Club's history we are able to offer haul-out facilities for larger keel boats. This all started some time ago, with a big crane squeezing its way through the boat park to the far end of the Club in order to lift Bella Rosa and Power Partners out of the water for maintenance. Ideas sprang to life and the end result is that we now have a very well organized hard standing maintenance area with new static cradles and a capacity to have around 8 large keel boats out of the water at one time. Recently, four keelboats were lifted in one session. The whole operation went like clockwork, thanks to Edwin for his organizational skills and to the staff of CSC for their hard work. So, you may well be saying, "What's new about lifting boats out? That's been done before." Well, what has not been done before is the co-operation between several boat owners and crew to work collectively to pool skills, share knowledge and carry out all the annual maintenance required to put the boats back to a good, fit state to do battle for another year. The camaraderie was fantastic, a BBQ was organized to celebrate the event and, of course, lots of beer; it's just a coincidence but the four boats in question will be lifted back in the water on the same day as the forthcoming AGM. We have learnt that working together, we not only save money (such as sharing the cost of the crane) but each one of us has learnt new skills in boat maintenance. I am sure many other boat owners will be looking at doing the same in the not-too-distant future; so, if you are interested, please talk to Edwin or myself.

As a new club year approaches, I would like to invite anyone wishing to help promote sailing at Changi to contact me. And to anyone else who has ideas, criticism - or even praise - please also contact me.

Paul Kendall

Rear-Commodore - Sailing