



Only few days to go before the 2021 SB20 Grand Slam Week

Singapore, 3 February 2021

The sweet breeze of the North Eastern monsoon has been sweeping the coastline of Singapore for the past three weeks. At this time of year as the palm fronds rattle in the night and temperatures drop to a balmy 27°C, tins of Tiger beer are opened at talk at the yacht club bar inevitable turns to the **SB20 Asian Grand Slam & Asia Pacific Championship**.

The stunning **1st Marina Club on Singapore's Sentosa Island** will play host to **25 SB20 crews competing** in the 2021 APACs from **4 February to 7 February 2021**. Over the course of 3 days, the organisers have scheduled a **tightly packed program of 12 races**. The races will be conducted in the warm waters of the iconic Singapore Strait set against a backdrop of the spectacular Singapore skyline. With the North Eastern monsoon surge well-established by late January, competitors can look forward to **12-15 knots of breeze each day** - conditions which are well suited to the SB20 sports sailboat.

Unfortunately, as a result of the on-going COVID-19 situation, entries were **limited to just 25 boats** for this edition. Limiting numbers means that organisers are able to implement **stringent COVID-19 protocols** which will ensure a safe regatta environment for all participants.



Competitors have been warned that failure to abide by the COVID regulations will result in disqualification from the regatta.

Given global travel restrictions, **no international crews** have been able to make the journey to Singapore to compete in 2021. However, that does not mean the fleet will be short on competition.

During the "off season", boats and crews have traded hands with a ferocity not previously seen in the Singapore fleet. The result is a re-shuffled deck of new owners and new crews. Any one of the 25 entries is capable of winning races on their day and it will be no surprise if we see many different teams taking podium spots in the racing each day.

Early entrant Dean Othman sailing Second Mojo joined the fleet in April and has brought a superbly turned out SB20 that is capable of beating anyone in the fleet. Singapore SB20 Class Chairman and Sailing Stalwart, Nick Cocks and his crew on Zorro are one of the few teams to have sailed together for many years and will surely show good form with polished crew work at

the corners.

The “Petite Admiral”, Agoston Sipos, dressed nattily in white trousers and sporting a navy sportscoat teamed with a red striped shirt commented that he was “very much looking forward to great racing in the largest one design keelboat fleet in Singapore” adding that he was also



looking forward to the warm hospitality of 1915 Marina Club and the safely distanced camaraderie of an icy cold gin and tonic at the bar at the end of each day.

The growth of the Singapore fleet in recent years is in part due to the support of the **Singapore Sailing Federation** which has **acquired 8 boats** and makes them available at very competitive

charter prices for major events. The APAC is no exception with all 8 boats being chartered to local Singapore sailors.

With so much change in the fleet and so many excellent entries to choose from, your humble correspondent will not attempt to pick a winner (at least not until after the Practice Race) but instead wish the fleet and all officials and competitors an excellent regatta.

Day 1 of racing commences at 1300 (Singapore time) on 5 February 2021. Race reports and results to follow.

Jeremy Chase

For more information, please visit: www.sb20worlds21.com one15marina.com sailing.org.sg

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About ONE°15 Marina Sentosa Cove, Singapore

Since its inauguration in 2007, ONE°15 Marina Sentosa Cove, Singapore is the winner of several international accolades including the Outstanding Hospitality Award by the Helm Magazine, eight-time winner of the Best Asian Marina of the Year (2009, 2012 – 2014, 2016 – 2019) and the prestigious FIVE Gold Anchor Award. The Club also has the honor of hosting upscale international yachting events including Volvo Ocean Race 2008/09, Asia Pacific Yachting Conference and is home to Singapore Yacht Show,

the third most important boat show in the world according to The Financial Times. Located in Sentosa Cove, the prime leisure district of Singapore, ONE°15 Marina Sentosa

Cove features a beautiful marina of 270 berths with facilities to accommodate mega yachts of up to 200 feet. The well-appointed clubhouse encompasses world-class facilities including restaurants and bars, suite rooms, a members' lounge, conference and meeting rooms and leisure facilities. Evoking the glamour and elegance of Monte Carlo, ONE°15 Marina Sentosa Cove is Asia's most desired waterfront leisure destination.

www.one15marina.com

About SB20 Asian Grand Slam & Asia Pacific Championships

The annual regatta, now in its 6th year, will be organised by ONE°15 Marina Club with the support of the SB20 Class Association and sanctioned by Singapore Sailing Federation (SSF). This year, SSF shall run the races over the five days from 4 - 7 February 2021, while ONE°15 Marina shall host the participants at its premises at the exclusive Sentosa Cove. The race course will be off of Singapore's East Coast which typically boasts warm water, sunshine and 16 to 20 knot winds during the regatta time of year.

