



# Light Winds, But A Successful Regatta

## Race Day 4 By Richard Blair

Day Four at Tolo Island Race Area began with light 5-knot winds from the northeast and a bum engine aboard Racer **Ulumulu** which moved the top division start back to 5<sup>th</sup> place and then to last when the winds began dropping.

Nevertheless the IRCs, Sports Boats, and Multis left first on a triangular course with an internal boomerang loop followed by the Club and Rovers following shorter Course 3. Wind up-course was reported as "3 knots gusting to 4" out of the northeast but the official's boat cast such a wind shadow over the line that it was crunch time for starters on the favoured end next to the flags.



IRC's Start Race Day Four

First the IRC 1 boats bumped the start boat while trying to set their spinnakers on the line, then a glut of Sports Boats got their kites all tangled as they drifted together, and it took minutes for the last of them to get off.

The Multis were no luckier with **The Sting** crossing smartly on its jib while **Moto Inzi** fought with her spinnaker. But the tactic paid off as they cleared the shadow and **Moto** got well ahead. Meanwhile there arose



Zuhrah and Ulumulu Vie For Second Place

a minor altercation as **Xcatriot** on its jib got just down wind of **Running Cloud** trying to set its kite. **Xcatriot** forced the tri up into the wind fouling its big sail as the cat got on ahead.

Then a succession of jennies and spankers passed as the clubs got off somewhat more orderly but no faster. In fact **My Toy** got caught in the lee of the start boat and finally called off and went home. All of this prompted the Committee to alter the Racers' course to three times around a shorter 2 mile loop. **La Samudra** and **Beaux Esprit** got off, brashly attempting to take on the big boys but doing the same course only twice around.

**Ericsson (V060)** jibed smartly around the leeward mark with **Ulumulu** and **Zuhrah** in close pursuit as all windward course vessels employed every tactic in their foot lockers. Meanwhile the rest of the fleet followed the leader around the slow north south Course #4 settling in for a long haul.

Continued on Page 2



PETRONAS



MASTERCONSULT



## Race Day 4 cont'd

**Ericsson's** massive lead left it a battle for second place between **Ulumulu** and the Malaysian Navy Racer with the Navy boat almost losing a man as it changed sails at the second rounding of the leeward mark.

Holding that position all the way to the end, the plucky Malaysian Navy team finished second to the Swedes as the rest of the fleet began crossing in failing winds.

**Image Asia Jemini Jo** led the Club Cruisers followed by **nom de plume** well ahead of the rest. Then **Moto Inzi** won line honors in its class and, as the wind died, **Rusalka** was the first Rover to cross.

A number of racers, left with little wind as marks were called in, requested special dispensation. The Committee announced selective FPA finishes to the remaining boats in an expansive mood of bohémie as the regatta drifted to a close.



**La Samudra beats Beaux Esprit On The Racers Course**

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## BEHIND THE BUOYS



**Don And Jan McWatters**

The Royal Langkawi International Regatta certainly “measures up” for Don and Jan McWatters. Don accepted the invitation to officiate at this year’s regatta on the glowing recommendation from his good friend, Geoff Cruse, last year’s official Multihull Measurer and reknowned party boy!

Hailing from Paradise Point on the Gold Coast, Australia they are both life members of the Multihull Yacht Club of Queensland. Don had been involved in sailing “as a boy” but the call to International Hockey took over. Don represented Australia at many levels including the Tokyo & Mexico Olympics (we’ll leave it to you to work out how old this makes him!).

On return to the weekend club racing scene they competed in Performance Handicapping events for many years. They now consider themselves part time cruisers and generally set off for 4-5 months on ‘Emerald Lady’ their 12.6 metre catamaran. One of their most memorable trips was to the ‘Top End’ of Australia – huge tides and strong currents as well as the remoteness and ruggedness of the area were the appeal as well as the challenge.

Jan & Don have been impressed with the organization and spirit of the regatta. Their only regret is that they have too little time to enjoy all that beautiful Langkawi has to offer – but they say they will just have to come back with ‘Emerald Lady’.

# SOUTH EAST ASIAN REGATTAS

## The Organizers

By Richard Blair

*Having plumbed the question of what skippers look for in a regatta, we asked three organizers why they shoulder the mammoth task of holding regattas.*

### If we build it will they come?

That's what marinas, clubs and organizers want to know. What is it that will attract the sailors? "The real reason we go to the work of organizing these regattas is to please our present members and, of course, attract new members." says Wicky Sundram, manager of the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club. "This is our job, creating both serious and fun activities for both our home members as well as those visiting." All of which is good for business.

Grenville Fordham who was instrumental in organizing the King's Cup event in Phuket and has now put together the Phuket Sailing Week in July says it's all about people. "We look for people first and then boats after that." He admits that it is becoming more and more difficult for regattas to attract the big hi-tech racers which draw the media and sponsors. "So we just go for the fun sailors, the cruisers, the home-boys and some IRC boats as well."

What goes unspoken is that sponsors affect the bottom line for most organizers. There is a lot of expense and work time that goes into holding a regatta. There is all the equipment: radios, mark boats, etc., not to mention the accommodation and transport for participants and officials. "You can cut corners somewhat but many things are basic." says one experienced regatta organizer. "So you need money, some where between US\$100,000 and up to half a million or more. That's where sponsors come in."

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## SHOP LANGKAWI

Those participants thinking of passing time tomorrow between Kayak Racing, Water Polo and the Gala Dinner could do worse than sample some of Langkawi's Duty Free Shopping.

Friday is a religious day here, so most of the smaller shops will be closed. However the banks, tourist shops, and the two major supermarkets will be open. If you need provisions then 'Billion' in Langkawi Fair (behind MacDonalds) may serve, although Teoh Soon Huat ('TSH') has the larger selection and can be found just past the third set of traffic lights into Kuah, on the left.

For boat needs, most hardware stores will be closed. However Peninsular Yachts, the largest chandlery on the island, well stocked with a comprehensive range of boat hardware, will open specially tomorrow between 10.00 and 17.00 for the convenience of regatta participants. 'Nautical Bits' - Paul and Sheila - will be open as usual (2.00-7.00pm) for pre-owned boating goods, both bought and sold.

Personally, I'd head to the air conditioned malls! Either Langkawi Fair or the newly opened Langkawi Parade (just ask any taxi driver) for some general retail therapy and gift shopping.

Not a shopper? Restocking the liquor cabinet and buying a new pair of 'flip flops' is shopping!

After the last few days' strenuous activity, on or off the race course, try some reflexology or a full body massage or spa treatment. Alun Alun in City Bayview, Sheraton Perdana or the reflexology place on the ground floor in Langkawi Fair.

Want to spruce up for the farewell party? 'De Cuts' (on the main drag out of town) & 'Skyline' (Langkawi Fair) are open Fridays. Highly recommended is the hair wash at De Cuts, both for the novelty value and the shoulders and back massage.

Whatever you chose to do Friday – take the time to recharge your batteries for the Gala Farewell Party. See you there!

**Jane Clarke**



**Office staff tirelessly work in shifts to support the Regatta!**



## PROFILES



**Ben, Spidey, Matt, Tony and Tim**

### **SAIL IN ASIA-UK TEAM**

Matt Rickard (Skipper), Tony Clarke, Tim Jestica, Ben Davis and 'Spiderman' were recruited by Mike Downard, owner/operator of Sail In Asia of Phuket and former regatta competitor, to take part in this year's regatta at the invitation of RLYC. The guys have spent the regatta racing in the Sports Boats Class on a 'Platu' supplied by the Malaysian Navy.

The guys and Mike met working in a Sailing Centre in the Docklands, London. Mike has since set up his own Sailing School in Thailand; Matt is currently working for him. Ben and Tony are still involved at the Docklands' Sailing Centre while Tim has just finished university studies in "something really brainy like physics".

All are sailing instructors and have had racing experience, though this is the first time they have raced together. For Tony, Tim and Ben this is also the first time sailing in this part of the world – and they are loving it! As for Spiderman, he's not saying much – we get the feeling the rest of the team are 'carrying him'!

The week's racing has them placed second overall. On day 2 they placed second in a thrilling finish that saw them coming from behind only to miss out on 1st place by a second! A regatta record we are told! Best results were achieved when race preparations included putting a large dent in the beer coupon kitty and not much kip – which they readily attribute to Spiderman's influence.

The guys have enjoyed their first RLIR, and have been overwhelmed at the welcome they have received and the friendly regatta rivalry. Plans are to sail Switchblade back to Phuket taking some time to enjoy the Butangs on the way.

A warning to all 'Regattaites': Spiderman plans on hitting the town for the final nights – the boys compelled to chaperone!



## Reports from the **POOP DECK**

### A Bar

Yesterday afternoon, Regatta Measurer David Richards and I had forsaken the luxury of the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club for a little exploration.

We were walking down a side street in Kuah when he suddenly stopped and pointed.

“Now this is my kind of bar!” the Measurer exclaimed.

“What kind of bar is that?” I asked

David smiled broadly and said simply, “Open.”

### Eggs Act

Breakfast at Charlie’s place is popular. Especially the eggs. And most especially with the Ericsson team.

The situation has escalated to the point where early each morning a lookout is posted to watch Ericsson. When movement is detected, a warning is sent out for all to hasten to breakfast while there are still some eggs left.

Nearly everyone at the Yacht Club knows of the Ericsson team’s passion for eggs. One of the medical staff was not sure that the excessive consumption of eggs was such a good thing. “Beyond the cholesterol issue, eating a lot of eggs can cause acute, massive flatulence.”

Upon hearing the medical opinion, the race committee expressed concern. “Purposeful development of flatulence may be a violation of the principles of fair racing. Imagine the effects during a race in light air, should a skipper send his crew forward to artificially fill his spinnaker. We are taking this very seriously.”

### Bread and Butter

Do you know which side your bread is buttered on? I always put the butter on the top side. Once I tried to butter my bread on the bottom side. It was very messy. I’ll bet that most people butter their bread on the top.

I suppose you could put the butter on the side side. If you did then, every time you took a bite you would have to put more butter on. You could go through a lot of butter that way. I wonder what the medical people think of that. I also wonder if the doctors know what side their bread is polyunsaturated margarined on.

I wonder why folks tell you that they know which side their bread is buttered on. Maybe someone once tried to trick them, and put butter on the bottom. I’m not sure why anyone would want to do such a thing.

A sailorette once told me that she knew which side her bread was buttered on. I said, ‘OK, I give up. Which side?’ She gave me a funny look but didn’t answer. In fact, she wouldn’t ever talk to me again after that. I didn’t know it was such a sensitive topic.

People like to tell you that they know which side their bread is buttered on, but they don’t seem to want to talk about it. I wonder why people are so reluctant to share the details. Maybe it’s a secret. I also wonder what I would do with the information if I had it.

### Crime Report

In a surprise move, the U.S. Justice Department conducted a series of early morning raids on several of America’s premier universities. A Justice department spokesman released a statement confirming that members of the Harvard University tennis team, the Yale University squash team and the Radcliff College badminton team had been placed under arrest. All have been charged with racqueteeing.”

### Post Script

It was noted yesterday by this humble reporter that **No Fixed Address**, in extremely light winds, seemed to have acquired a fixed address!

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