



RLIR 2007 Issue 1

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# ROYAL LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL REGATTA OFF AND RUNNING

The 5<sup>th</sup> Royal Langkawi International Regatta 2007 got off to a blustery start on February 4<sup>th</sup> as entrants began arriving with a 20 knot wind at the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club, the regatta's home and main sponsor.

Club manager Wicky Sundram said the regatta will see the coming together of experienced top-notch sailors from around the world as well as some highly competitive locals as it is the premier sailing event in the country.

Competitors will match their boats and crews in eight racing categories over a period of 4 days through February 9. In past years the event has seen the participation of multi-hulls, racing yachts and sports boats from as far away as Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Holland, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Thailand.

Technical Director Ahmad Zailani Bashah (Zack) said "We expect a good number of both local and foreign yachts to return this year but, what ever the number, the event is supposed to be fun and fun is just what we have planned." Social events will range over the island from the RLYC to Telaga Harbour and parties at the yacht club will frolic to live bands and free beer.



The regatta has seen the participation of all women teams and youth sailors and this year is no different with a young energetic teams from Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia on Navy Platu class boats and women making up a greater share of crews throughout the fleet.



In fact, Regatta Coordinator, Ms Shikin Fauzi is in charge of bringing the whole thing together.

Now in its fifth generation, the regatta has come of age and is now an official part of the Asian Regatta Calendar drawing regular boats as well as new participants who actively race in regional yacht circuits. This year will have skippers racing for two main trophies: the Prime Minister's Challenge Trophy, open to internationally registered yachts and the Commodore's Challenge Cup, open to club registered cruisers.

Three other trophies including the Langkawi Sports Trophy for winners of Sports Boats divisions and the Malaysian Multi-hull Challenge Cup is for catamarans and tri-marans racing in the Multi-hull divisions. "RLIR is pleased to announce a new prize, the LADA-IRC Challenge Trophy, being awarded from this year," says Wicky Sundram. "This is for the IRC class which is becoming more and more important in the event."

RLIR 2007 Advisory Committee Chairperson Y.M. Tunku Soraya Dakhlah binti Tunku Tan Sri Abdullah said, "The regatta is now into its fifth year and the event is slowly carving its own niche within the region's sailing circuit."

**Richard Blair**

Partnereed by:



**PETRONAS**



# GOOD MARKS FOR PRACTICE RUN!

## Practice Day By Richard Blair

They said it was a practice run, and practice it was, especially for the on-water teams of volunteers.

Monday's NE to SW bay run course was set for its proximity to the yacht club and the beer - and with a bracing 20 knot breeze it proved to be a good choice. Nearly two-thirds of the fleet came out at 1400 hrs to practice their tacks and turns and iron out the kinks in their sail changes.

But it ended up being the organizing committee that did most of the ironing, as foul-ups left the correct course flags ashore and the starter boat anchor proved weaker than the 2 knot current in the bay. In fact the anchor problem turned out to be the biggest glitch of the day. Another Danforth was rigged to the police boat's twisted pick and both were tossed in attached to 1/2 inch chain before it was discovered that the anchor windlass did not work.

All of this made for some extra seamanship on the part of the committee volunteers to get the rig out of the water again at the end of the afternoon.

Meanwhile, the race was run with Racing Class boats following an elongated oval with a return loop at its westerly end while all the other boats, except for cruisers, followed a short upwind leg followed by a long spinnaker run down the bay followed by a bit of buoy weaving which most boats didn't even bother to finish.

Typical of the prevailing attitude, race favorite Jelik took two minutes to raise her foresail before crossing in its class and then led the field around both marks 1 and 2 before heading for the finish and home with such panache that she certainly looks like the boat to beat.

Race officials shortened the course to finish at the mark closest to the club but participants were too busy practicing their mark turns, sail changes and beer toasts to bother finishing at all.

Only two Fireflies, Twin Sharks and Mamba, came out and they were really the sexiest racers of the fleet skipping over the slightly choppy waters against the 15 knot wind with grace and speed.

The only boats that seemed to be taking it seriously were the Malaysian Navy's three Platus, crewed by Singaporean, Malaysian and Thai crews, as they beat up to the first mark on a 40-degree heel.

As the wind fell off to about 10 knots most of the fleet was found taking long lazy tacks home from one side of the bay to the other as Matahari buzzed the starter boat all bums on windward bulwarks.

And then it was time to pull up the anchor.....

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Yacht racing will never be as popular as other sports like auto racing. There is simply not enough carnage. (Anon)

## WHERE IS THE PARTY?

Tradition stands! Serious racing and serious partying are on the cards again at this year's regatta. Tradition also continues with both the opening and closing festivities being hosted by the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club.

Wicki Sundram, General Manager of RLYC, stated at today's media briefing that it is confirmed that the Prime Minister, Dato Seri Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi, will be here again this year for the Grand Prize Presentation Ceremony on Friday. Good news too for those Royal Langkawi Yacht Club marina dwellers, buses will only be required twice this week - as we will be back at the yacht club on Wednesday night.

Tuesday night's presentation and dinner will be at Telaga Harbour – the chance to experience the delights of another of Langkawi's great marinas. Nestled on the spectacular coastline at the bottom of the stunning Machinchang mountain range, Telaga Harbour is a hard setting to beat. Mediterranean styling, Russian, Latino and Asian cuisine and a Japanese bakery all add to its cosmopolitan appeal.

On Thursday night, organizers have thrown in a touch of local culture with the choice of venue. Kampung Tok Senik is located right at the centre of the Malay rural heartland of Langkawi. Its traditional village ambience and commanding views of padi lands should make for a memorable evening.

(Tip: Don't forget the mozzly spray.)

## BEHIND THE BUOYS

In Langkawi to attend an ISF (International Sailing Federation) seminar, **Ahmad Yusoff** readily put up his hand to help out at the Royal Langkawi International Regatta. Yusoff makes a point to try and give back to the sport that has given so much to him.

Yusoff represented Malaysia in the SEA & ASIAN GAMES from 1989 racing dinghies. He then went on to be national coach for three years and is the current state coach of Sabah.

Yusoff was first introduced to sailing when he joined the Malaysian Navy. Based just out of Sydney, Australia during his training, he spent most weekends learning to sail on Sydney Harbour.

Sailing has taken Yusoff to many places in the world, first as a competitor and later for training development as a coach. He and his contemporaries are the pioneers of Malaysian sailing coaches.

Yusoff prefers dingy racing to yachts. Why? He says yachts are too slow!

Maybe with the impressive line up of boats we have this year, and the good winds predicted for the week, he may just change his mind!

## THIS YEARS VOICE OF CHOICE!



Patrick and Wicky practicing their protocol

He's back! Who is he? Feroz Francis a.k.a Patrick a.k.a 'Party Man'.

You recognize the voice? Maybe you have heard him in the past on Langkawi FM Radio or on other air waves... as he is now a pilot for Air Asia, or here at a Royal Langkawi International Regatta. This is Patrick's third gig as M.C. and he is rumoured to be already booked for next year!

Patrick has been seen preparing for the formalities with RLYC General Manager, Wicky Sundram, down at Charlie's Place. Wicky assures us that his computer is not just a prop and that they **are** working!

Now that is my kind of office!

Jane Clarke



## Reports from the **POOP DECK**

### Anticipation...

You know, you can always tell when there is a Regatta coming! There's a kind of anticipation of knowing some thing is about to happen... The early morning silence is broken by the hammering of nails, as if there is going to be a hanging. (Not that there are hangings at the RLYC... certainly not as many as some say there should be.)

Hair-cuts for the bar staff are usually the first signs of something in the air... fresh grout on a tile... a lick of paint on the fence... new hooks in the shower cubicles. The Royal Langkawi Yacht Club really knows how push the boat out when it come to handling a regatta.

Then, as time draws near and the imminent arrival of the regatta is firm, there comes the the letter!

To all inmates of the RLYC.

From the 4th of Feb you will have to put up with racing boat people. These are people with loud shirts that shout a lot. They will drive their boats in and out of the marina very fast. The bar will be busy all day. Please park your car outside of the car park as it is full of containers storing lots of beer. The music will be very loud, till, way past your bed time.

Sorry for any inconvenience.

### BREAKING NEWS

In a surprise move today, the U.S. Government has declared bird flu a national security risk.

According to a White House spokesman, President George W. Bush has decided to take preemptive action... and a nuclear strike has been authorized against the Canary Islands!

### A Visit to Seven Wells - and Existentialism.

I recently had occasion to ponder the fate of philosophy. One doesn't hear much about philosophy anymore. It seems to have disappeared from the common topics of discussion. Maybe it is just university students who indulge in philosophical speculations or struggle with abstract concepts.

I confess that I have left those days far, far behind. However, this topic occurred to me recently when I fought my way up the steps to the Seven Wells falls (Telaga Tujuh). It was there that a large sign reminded me of that once mainstream topic of "Existentialism."



Several thoughts followed:

Huh? Where is 'Here'?

Where am I? Here? But of course I am...

At least, I think I am! Am I not?

If I think I am, am I?

Wither Existentialism?

### Preparations

Needing to change a turnbuckle on his mizzen mast stay the other day, a skipper set out to do just that. Unfortunately, with turnbuckle in hand, he forgot to secure the mast some how with a halyard - or something.

The buckle finally came apart... along with the mizzen mast from its deck step. Silently the mast fell over the side and narrowly missed his neighbour's boat! Desperately pulling and tugging at the attached stays he managed to get the end of the mast up onto the dock.

At this point a neighbour came to see what was going on. The now-rather-embarrassed 'rigger' was wrestling the mizzen with a firm arm lock around the mast. His neighbour asked if he needed any help, to which the 'rigger' replied, "Oh no... just checking the VHF antenna!"

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