

Our ABA Reciprocal Clubs - Royal Selangor:
**RAJA MUDA REGATTA HOST +
 BOATING GEM IN PORT KLANG**
by Bruce Maxwell



The Clubhouse in the background along with the sailing yachts and pontoon.



Former Commodores of Royal Selangor Yacht Club



Raffles Marina (RM) yachties are no strangers to Royal Selangor Yacht Club (RSYC), where the 28th island-hopping Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta to Pangkor, Penang and Langkawi will start again next November.

Among RM powerboat owners, some see RSYC as a convenient gateway to Kuala Lumpur, only a short train trip or drive away, or else as a pleasant early stepping-stone in leisurely Passages North.

A 20 per cent rebate is offered on already very reasonable berth and mooring rates under the ABA agreement, and Raffles Marina members are charged no more than RSYC colleagues for use of other facilities, including F&B.

RSYC was originally established back in 1963 as Port Swettenham Yacht Club, which was Port Klang's former name, changing in 1972 to Selangor Yacht Club, and in 1989 it was accorded royal patronage when the Sultan of Selangor bestowed his warrant and it officially reopened as Royal Selangor Yacht Club.

Three years later a disastrous fire, starting in an adjacent fuel jetty, destroyed the premises, but it proved a blessing in disguise, as two prominent RSYC members, KL-based designer Dato Johan Ariff and architect Hijjas Kasturi, stepped in to create an elegant new clubhouse, which opened in 1996.

The only distance sailing event RSYC ran in those days was a quite lengthy Malaysian Offshore around some muddy Malacca Straits marks and back home. Interest was waning, so Sailing Secretary Jonathan Muhuideen, later Commodore Dato Richard Curtis, and myself as publisher of Hong Kong and KL-printed *Asian Boating*, now *Asia-Pacific Boating*, got together and drafted a new route from Port Klang along the premier West Coast tourist islands.

The Sultan was already cruising in small superyachts, and his heir apparent the Raja Muda sailed around the world in his Swan 68 *Jugra*, so with their strong support, the Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta began in 1990.

The concept, which coincides with the route cruising yachties



Sultan of Selangor, Tengku Idris Shah, with the Raja Muda Regatta trophy



take at this time of year, as the nor'east monsoon begins to fill, was instantly successful, and give or take a few storm-strewn series, plus one or two others frustrated by dead flat calms, it remains highly popular. In fact, unique. Nowhere else in the world offers three consecutive overnight races to well-known resort isles.

The ambience of RSYC at other times stems from its attractive albeit reclad rooves allowing breezes to waft across the wooden decks and through the restaurant and bar areas. For those partial to well-prepared Malay and Chinese cuisine, or some Western fare, with iced tea or a cold beer, while watching life on the estuary potter past, this place is a gem.

RSYC today has over 1,000 members, and its in-water fleet numbers about 30 keelboats and 60 powerboats, with a further 130 smaller boats on the hardstand. Its website says it is the oldest, largest and most active club in the country, "but we are young at heart, constantly attracting new members, including families, young people and businesses.

"RSYC serves breakfast, lunch and dinner every day, and can provide a wide variety of cuisines for group bookings. We also offer a bar, pool, wi-fi in all areas, and comprehensive facilities for boat storage, boat maintenance, launching, and on the in-water pontoons".

There are three 10-race series for the varied fleet of keelboats during the year, scheduled fortnightly on Sundays, as well as Platu sports boat events for generally younger sailors. Courses are usually "around the cans", but there are also longer runs to places like Port Dickson and Pangkor. Crew and visiting yachts are always welcome.

Sailing apart from the RMSIR and the keelboats focuses on Optimists, Lasers and Bytes, and training programs for young sailors take place throughout the year. Many have graduated to win regional and international events.

Royal Selangor also has an extremely active fishing section that organises regular competitions with attractive prizes. If

not using one's own boat, members can charter one with a skipper for a day from various local operators, or join a group for a specific fishing trip.

Techniques include trolling, and chunking then trolling. Anglers explore the mangrove inlets around Pulau Ketam, Pulau Indah and other local islands, or travel offshore to One Fathom Bank for true sea fishing.

These waters are suitable for experienced fishermen and novices alike. Help and advice are always at hand. Regular catches include garoupa (ikan kerapu), red snapper (merah), john's snapper (tanda), barramundi (siakap), stingray (pari) and barracuda (kekacang).

Current Commodore is Jeff Harris, Vice Commodore Jeffrey Voon, Rear Commodore Che Wan Mohd. Azuar, Hon Secretary Shawn Lee Rathgeber, and Hon Treasurer James Wong Yuen Siong. They head the 2016-2018 Committee made up of Diana Teh (social events), Yeoh Cheng Liang (fishing and powerboats) Eric Law Cheng Heng (yard and pontoons, Kiran Kumar (F&B) and Larry Ng Cheong Lip (house and grounds).

The 2017 Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta takes place 17-25 November, and registration is now open via the website. Singapore yachts feature strongly in all regatta classes, and additional entrants are encouraged.

For the last two years, the prestigious Raja Muda Trophy, made by Garrards of London, where the America's Cup was also created, has been won by Sarab Singh and his Singapore crew aboard *Windsikher 11*.

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