



Perfect conditions in Bass Harbour, Langkawi (above & below)

Unfortunately one yacht, a small Contesa 32, *Marikh*, crewed by the Malaysia Navy was dismasted and was towed in by a fellow competitor.

The Royal Langkawi Yacht Club did a great job of clearing the decks and providing a fully functional marina, bar, restaurant area and operational kitchen with lots of space available for the final night's party and prizegiving.

Friday, the 27th, saw a welcome late start at 1400. Windward / leeward courses were set in Bass Harbour with the wind switching from northeast to a solid easterly. Sarab Singh's Welbourn 52, *Windsikher*, continued to extend its overall lead in IRC 1.



Hurricane and WOW

Thirty one boats, in seven classes, started racing from Port Klang, in the first leg of the 26th Raja Muda Selangor International Regatta. Leaving after midday on Saturday, the 21st of November 2015, the fleet set off for Pangkor in a building westerly breeze. *Windsikher* put in an excellent performance in IRC 1 and finished ahead of Ray Roberts' *Millennium Racing* and *Ulumulu*.



The next leg from Pangkor to Penang, saw Duncan Hine's *Alive* arrive in just 20 hours, 33 minutes and 54 seconds. On handicap, however, it was *EFG Mandrake* that took the honours ahead of *Black Baza*.

In Penang harbour, two inshores were planned for Wednesday, the 25th of November, but only the first was sailed as race officer, Jerry Rollin, decided there was not enough wind for a second. *Windsikher* again proved unbeatable through determination and a well-oiled crew. *Millennium Racing* and *Alive* followed.

The Penang to Langkawi leg on Thursday followed, making a total of 250 miles of passage making. Starting into a freshening sea breeze, Rollin had the fleet away into 10-12 knots on the nose. It was a sprint, more than a race, with winds reach 25 knots, and the boats started arriving in Langkawi just after seven. First *Alive*, then *Windsikher* and *Millennium Racing*.



After a spinnaker start, the two Premier division yachts were on their way down the channel. The Simonis Voogd 56, *Starlight*, ran aground in one of the lower channels. Geoff Hill's Smith 72, *Antipodes*, stopped racing and, together with a police RIB, were able to drag the 56-footer off sideways with minimal damage.

Craig Douglas's Beneteau 47, *Popeye*, traded places with Gordon Ketelbey's syndicated Beneteau 44.7, *Fujin*, in IRC 3. Pete Waa's chartered Farr 1104, *Farrgo Express*, continued on its winning ways, wrapping up the IRC 4 Class with a day to spare.

Philip Auger's Davidson 35, *Sophia*, posted another win in Class 5 for the first race, remaining unbeaten in five races and defending its title with ease. Dato Richard Curtis' 100-year-old Bristol Pilot Cutter, *Eveline*, skippered by Trevor Richards, was leading Class 6 by just one point but Keith Millers' Harmony 38, *Sade 2*, won Race 6, with Simon Read's Beneteau 350, *Aeolus XC*, in 2nd. It would be down to the wire on the final day shootout in Class 6.

In Class 7, Danny and Nigel's *3Itch* took line honours again, but couldn't convert that to handicap victory. Rolf Heemskerk's steered his chartered Stealth 11.8m, *Hurricane*, to two handicap wins and went directly to the top of the Multihull ladder. With

two 2nd places added to the overnight win from Penang, David Liddell's Stealth 14m, *WOW*, in second overall.

On Saturday, the 28th of November 2016, racing continued with good winds of 10 to 15 knots and clear skies, bringing a picture perfect ending to yet another memorable Raja Muda. One passage race for the Multihull and Cruising classes and two windward / leeward races for the IRC racers, for the final showdown.

The starting signal sounded at midday for one of the best days of racing on picture-perfect Bass Harbour. Even though several classes were decided the day before, a strong fleet arrived to contend the last day.



Steve Manning's Ker 42, *Black Baza*, managed a handicap win in the first race. Philip Turner's Reichel-Pugh 66, *Alive*, took the daily double in the last race. The 52-footers had been in a tight battle throughout the regatta with Sarab Singh's *Windsikher* scoring a 3rd and 2nd place during the final day to win the Raja Muda Cup in their first outing.

2nd and 4th places for *Mandrake* saw them in 2nd overall and Ray Roberts TP52, *Millennium Racing*, slotted into 3rd overall Class 1. Geoff Hill steering *Antipodes*, defended his Premier Cruising title with a clean sheet and took the Jugra Cup in Class 2. *Starlight* retired after its grounding on Friday.



RLYC renovation (below) and Eveline (bottom)

Gordon Ketelbey's *Fujin* won the first race on Saturday to take Class 3 and retired to give the remaining boats in the class a chance to slug it out for 2nd and 3rd. Craig Douglas' *Popeye* (ex-*Sailplane*) scored two 2nd places keeping them in 2nd overall. A 3rd and a 1st place for Simon Piff's Ker 32, *Rekering Dream*, locked them into 3rd overall.



A battle royal between *Farrgo Express* and *Nijinsky* raged in Class 4 with each skipper using every trick in the book to win with *Old Putney Blue Angel* giving them a hurry-up whenever it could. The crew on *Farrgo Express* couldn't let their concentration drop for one second with *Nijinsky* nipping at their heels. The final outcome was Peter Waa's *Farrgo Express* 1st, Jeff Harris's *Nijinsky* 2nd and Jeremy Camp's *Blue Angel* 3rd.

Readjusted to 1st place in Race 5 for giving assistance to the dismasted *Marikh*, Philip Auger's *Sophia* finished with two wins, to successfully defend the Cruising Class title. Scoring a bunch of 2nd places, Chris Mitchell's *Lady Bubbly* earned them a 2nd overall. Ramasamy Menon's *Dehler*



34, VG Offshore, held down 3rd overall in Class 5.

By winning the last two races, Keith Miller's Harmony 38 *Sade 2* climbed to the top of the Class 6 scoreboard. Simon Read's Beneteau 350, *Aeolus XC*, clung to 2nd with consistent placings. The Bristol Pilot Cutter, *Eveline*, managed to hold down a podium spot for 3rd.



3Itch lifts a hull (top), Millennium Racing (above) and Farrgo Express (below)

*3Itch* took line honours in Class 7's only race of the day, but its handicap knocked them out of the running into 3rd place. Rolf Heemskerk's *Hurricane* took the Multihull title while David Liddell's *WOW* also eclipsed *3Itch* in the handicap stakes for 2nd overall.



As usual, this year's Raja Muda was a well-organised event and arguably the best so far. Under Kevin Yong and Connie's RSYC teams management they, have achieved the 'Gold' with seamless logistics support. The Royal Malaysian Police provided much needed boat crews, camera boats and the all-important start boat. RO Jerry Rollin's race management team dealt with the varying conditions without missing a beat. Well done everyone.