





strengthened and the multi, *X Cat Riot* and *Sofa So Good*, won honours in their classes. *Lunchcutter II*, *Mata Hari* and *Phoenix* moved up the IRC rankings while, as winds flagged, *Raimon Land* established its lead over the Sports Boats at a shortened windward finish line.

The third day of racing (Wednesday, 9th of January) was staged southeast of the Langkawi archipelago in the open waters of

The 6th Royal Langkawi International Regatta was held from the 5th to the 11th of January, and attracted 36 boats, competing in eight classes. While a far cry from the 61 boats that appeared in 2003, it was a 40% increase last year's 26, and an indicator that the event is picking up steam again.

The regatta was run from the Royal Langkawi Yacht Club — an ideal base with marina berths and an excellent bar-cum-dining area for post-race gatherings.

The boats to beat across the finish line were Frank Pong's *Jelik* in Racing, Singapore entry *Lunchcutter II* in IRC, Phuket's sports boat *Raimon Land*, *X Cat Riot* in the Multihulls and *Sofa So Good* from Singapore in Club



Navy 1 starts the first race

Cruising Class. But for the five cups and trophies there were some tough battles throughout the various fleets, noticeably among *Yo!*, *Quantum Racing* and *Hi Fi Team Pryde* out of Hong Kong, and Phuket-based Fireflies *Moto Inzi* and *Twin Sharks*. The battle for plaques came down to the last day in light winds on a two-mile course which brought most of the boats under kite into the home run.

Racing started on Monday, the 7th of January, in a choppy Kuah Harbour with adrenaline pumping and competitors showing their underskirts during exciting starts against a blustery 20-knot wind on the 9, 10 and 12-

mile up/downwind courses. *Jelik* set its jib early moving well ahead in Racing while trying out some unexpected tactics, running well down under the wind and choosing entirely different tacks.

L  
A  
N  
G  
K  
A  
W  
I  
R  
E  
G  
A  
T  
T  
A

But, it was the eight sports boats that provided the most exciting start with the new entry from Qingdao, *Longtze Premier*, shaving barnacles off the start boat with lots of nudging and yelling from others in the pack.

The individual duels began with *Twin Sharks* beating *Moto Inzi* by one second for honours . . . and still the sports boats thrilled with a spectacular woman overboard from *Longtze Langkawi* as the boat crossed the finish! A quick start to the second race caught Cruiser, *My Toy*, with only two minutes to turn around from finish to start but Henning Lenz and crew did it with aplomb . . . and *Jelik* again left the others in its wake.

Day 2 (Tuesday, 8th of January) also found the fleet in Kuah Harbour with a stiffening 15-knot breeze and some tight starts on a long 6-mile up and down course. *Jelik* had a short leash on Racing with *Hi Fi*, *Quantum Racing* and *Full Metal Jacket* kicking and scratching for 2nd

place, while the three Fireflies buzzed through the pack. The second race of the day saw less chaos as the wind

the Andaman Sea. Another windward/leeward was set for Race 5 and conditions looked perfect in the sparkling morning light — 15 knots of breeze stirring white heads and promising the 70-strong press corp some memorable action.

But nerves got the better of many with a number of near collisions and recalls. Then came surprises with Henry Kaye's *Mamba* leading its class, and *Sofa So Good* finding some stiff competition from *Rusalka* in Club Cruising. The two Chinese-built sports boats, skippered by America's Cup sailors Thierry Barot and Pierre Mas, began to move up in their class as their local crews learned the ropes. Sadly, the second race had to be abandoned through lack of wind. So it was back to Kuah Harbour, and another attempt at Race 6 the following day.

The lighter conditions, and a long wait in the morning calm, led to tighter formations at the start of the re-run of the sixth race (Day 4, Thursday, 10th of January). Champing at the bit, the bunching led to near collisions and one solid bump in the IRC 1 fleet, luckily with no apparent physical (or emotional) damage to *Thairaver* as Malaysian offender, *Jandi*, floundered behind.

At the finish, the Fireflies were all over and through when *Jelik* reached way south and, gybing with the wind over its starboard quarter, ran in straight and fast, dusting RO



Day 3 start (top) and colour in Kuah Harbour (below)



Pink tutus on *Twin Sharks*

Mark Pryke's glasses with its big kite. The second race that day began in a dieing wind . . . and then had to be abandoned.

The seventh race held on a short upwind/downwind course, required delicate manoeuvring at the marks. It recorded the only protest of the series — a near collision at the start in which *Yo!* was disqualified for endangering Chris Meads' *Full Metal Jacket*. The race was so short, and options lacking, that all classes became entangled with upwind racers meeting those coming down. Sail changes had to be slick to keep from stalling in the light airs. Adam Ng's *Microlab Moonlight*



John Ramsden's *Sofa So Good* winning the RLYC Commodore's Challenge Cup and *X Cat Riot* lording over the Premier Cruising Multihulls.

Skippers and crews, back onshore, were generally happy with the regatta although there was a grouse about five



*Longtze Premier* running (top) and *Zuhai* rounds the mark during Day 4

days of upwind/downwinds from *Jelik*'s Frank Pong. But Thierry Barot, of the sports boat *Longtze Langkawi*, gushed: "It's a beautiful location, great facilities and friendly people." With two *Longtzes* now in Langkawi's National Sailing

*Shadow*, arriving at the leeward mark first, let half the Racing fleet through before getting a sail change right.

Centre he has reason to feel good. Read all about it on page 78.

**Next Royal Langkawi International Regatta — 4th to 10th January 2009**  
Visit [www.langkawiregatta.com](http://www.langkawiregatta.com) for details

Taken further east, this second race was made more interesting by the positioning of two Royal Malaysian Navy warships and a sail training ship, *Lili Marleen* — some welcome navigational obstacles for the crews, tired of the same old up and down stuff.

With only one race to hold on the last day, Friday, 11th of January, the same course was extended despite still weak breezes but the inter-class duels continued right up to the finish line. The Racers got closer and closer to *Jelik* in the light airs and the girls on *Twin Sharks* wagged pink tutus at *Moto Inzi* with whom they tied overall but lost out on the Malaysia Challenge Cup by a committee decision.