



MEDIA RELEASE

MONSOON CUP GETS THE ROYAL TOUCH

Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, His Royal Highness Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Almarhum Al-Sultan Mahmud Al-Muktafi Billal Shah, will make a return to sailing when the Coronation Cup is held at the five-star Ri-Yaz Heritage Marina Resort and Spa on Nov 30.

The Coronation Cup (formerly known as the Terengganu Cup) was last organised in 2007 to honour Tuanku Mizan's installation as the 13th King of Malaysia. It will act as the curtain raiser to the Monsoon Cup which is from Nov 30-Dec 5.

A keen sportsman, Tuanku Mizan is an avid golfer and has a passion for endurance riding. He has taken part in competitions locally and abroad and has been crucial in promoting the sport in Malaysia. His Majesty even qualified for the 2008 World Endurance Championships, which was held in Malaysia. That was the first time the prestigious event was held in Asia.

Earlier this month, Tuanku Mizan was among 68 riders from nine countries who participated in the fourth Sultan's Cup Terengganu Endurance Challenge at Terengganu International Endurance Park (TIEP) in Kuala Terengganu.

He has also regularly attended the Monsoon Cup, the season-ending race on the World Match Racing Tour (WMRT) and even tried his hand at Match Racing in 2007 at the Coronation Cup. Being the avid sportsman that he is, he enjoyed match racing and all it has to offer, hence the interest to race again.

Among those who participated in that race was the then Tengku Mahkota of Kelantan, Tuanku Muhammad Faris Petra, who has since assumed the throne as Sultan Muhammad V, former Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh and current Terengganu Menteri Besar Dato' Sri Ahmad Said as well as representatives from TM, Air Asia, PRIDE Foundation, Kencana Petroleum and Tourism Malaysia.

Tuanku Mizan's team, The Royal Standard, won 2007 Coronation Cup ahead of the Kelantan Regent's team, TMKN Endurance.

The Coronation Cup is unique as participants do not need any sailing experience to enjoy the competition. Each team of three VIPs will be assigned five professional sailors to assist them during the tournament.

Among teams participating will be Datuk Peter Gilmour (AUS) and YANMAR Racing, Adam Minoprio (NZL) and ETNZ/BlackMatch Racing and current tour leader Mathieu Richard (FRA) and French Match Racing Team, together with triple Olympic Champion Ben Ainslie (GBR) and TEMORIGIN.

The Coronation Cup is the perfect pre-race event for the Monsoon Cup, the season ending race on the World Match Racing Tour (WMRT). Five skippers are still in with a chance of being crowned ISAF World Champion.

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