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ISSUE **139**

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Golf in Perak – Untapped Tourism Potential

Moves are afoot to promote the game of golf in Perak. According to CEO of Perak Tourism Ahmad Fathil Abdul Ghani, the state is providing allocations to golf clubs organising events such as the recently-held Perak Ladies Open held in February and the Grand Finale of the upcoming World Amateur Inter-Team Golf Championship (WAITGC) 2012 organised by Tourism Malaysia from November 6 to 8 this year at the Royal Perak Golf Club.

By James Gough



On the Green. The 6th Hole at MVGCC's Valley Nine



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Structured Golf Packages welcomed by Tour Agents



Royal Perak Golf Club

Acknowledging that golf in the state has positive potential, he added that a meeting with the stakeholders and local tour agents will be held soon to initiate a structured golf package. “The package won’t just focus on Ipoh but other clubs at Lumut and Taiping and must cater to all. In Ipoh we have good food but we must also consider shopping for the wife and theme park activities for the family. The package too must target the foreign and domestic golfers.”

Tour agents when contacted welcomed the move by Perak Tourism to promote golf saying that “any product promotion is best undertaken by the state” as it takes on average six months and more after a promotion has started before they begin to see any bookings.

History of Golf In Perak

The game of golf has been played in the Kinta Valley for over a century. Introduced by the British during their presence here, a fine example remains of the original style and can be seen at Batu Gajah’s Kinta Golf Club, a nine-hole course turfed with trimmed cow grass over undulating grounds that reveal a picturesque green landscape aligned with its surrounding environment.

The club began as a turf club known as the Kinta Gymkhana Club, situated on the plateau 350 feet above sea level and had a seven furlong race track with the lawn in the inner track being used for cricket and golf. When the Club shifted to Ipoh after WW1, the grounds were turned into a golf course and named The Kinta Club and rated the best nine-hole course in Perak at the time.

The next course built was the Ipoh Golf Club, the early name for the Royal Perak Golf Club (RPGC), which was first formed at the turn of the 20th century. Its members initially played on a nine-hole course at the Perak Turf Club’s racecourse.

Due to its increased membership, the club acquired 180 acres (stretching from Tiger Lane to Gunung Rapat) from the State Government for the construction of an 18-hole golf course before shifting to its current location at Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah (formerly Tiger Lane) in 1932. Up till the nineties the RPGC was the only 18-hole golf course in the Valley.

Blossoming Interest

With interest in golf gaining widespread popularity during the nineties, courses in Ipoh such as Meru Valley Golf and Country Club (1992) and Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort (1994) were opened to cater to the market.

This saw the creation of a golfer’s paradise all within close proximity of Ipoh City, perfect for a golfing weekend, that is, good game, good cuisine, affordable stay plus easy accessibility especially from Kuala Lumpur and Penang.

Royal Perak Golf Club

RPGC is located right in the heart of town and is generally a favoured walking course for most golfers although it has buggy facilities.

Seasoned golfers say that it may be ‘flat and appear friendly’ but it is ‘mature and can be quite unforgiving’. Driving your ball into a rough or wooded area will need some course management discipline if you don’t want to blow-up your game.

It has hosted some major events such as the Malaysian Open Golf Championship in 1974 where Graham Marsh carded a 65, the Mizuno Tournament Championship from 1979-1981 and the Benson & Hedges International Golf Series also in 1979. A regular fixture of the club and MGA calendar was the Perak Masters Open Championship inaugurated by DYMM Sultan Azlan Shah first played off in 1987.

Meru Valley Golf and Country Club

Meru Valley Golf and Country Club (MVGCC) is a mere 10 minutes west of Ipoh City. Situated at the foothills of the Kledang-Saiyong Mountain Range it is a resort with a breathtaking 27-hole international championship golf course aptly named the Valley, Waterfall and River Nines.

The favoured combination of nines is the Valley and Waterfall which offer challenging holes against a picturesque backdrop of valleys which slope downwards from the clubhouse towards cascading streams, water hazards and jungle lined fairways.

In 2008 it won the CNBC International Property Awards for Best Golf Development, Asia Pacific and the 5-Stars Award for Best Golf Development, Malaysia. It has also played host to the Perak Amateur Golf Championship for the last five years.

The club is also a residential golf resort and home to seasonal golfers who stay during the winter months and never fail to have their daily morning round with many preferring the fresh morning walk instead of taking the buggy.

Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort

South of the city at Batu Gajah is Clearwater Sanctuary Golf Resort. This 27-hole golf course was designed by Aussie professional Tim Woolbank and has been built around disused mining ponds and named the Raintree, Lakes and Wetland nines.

As the names imply, having a round here will present the golfer with picturesque rows of shady raintrees surrounded by serene lakes whilst driving their golf ball down challenging fairways. Not surprisingly the Resort has been described as the “Most Scenic

Golf Course” and rated as the “5th Best Golf Resort in Asia” by Golf Malaysia Magazine.

Numbers Remain Static

All of these courses offer golfers a fun and challenging round of golf. Yet despite the quality of the golf courses available, the number of rounds played per month has not increased and has consistently remained at an average of 2,500-3,000 rounds per club per month all these years.

The game is mainly played by its club members. It is the walk-in guests who average 1-2 flights and the occasional group tour arranged by tour agents and the corporate game that contribute to the extra numbers.

The corporate game is where a major corporation such as Maybank, will hold a game for its staff and customers as a public relations exercise which will see close to a hundred rounds being played. The scenario is the same at all the three clubs who declare that they average one corporate game a month.

According to a spokesman for Meru Valley Golf and Country Club, the club which describes itself as “a residential golf resort offering full country club facilities”, it additionally has its regular seasonal guests who come over during winter, stay a few months and play a round every day.

Perak Golf Courses Not On Tour Itineraries

A survey of the websites offering golfing packages throughout Malaysia and South East Asia revealed that Perak golf courses are not indicated in their itinerary. Local agents when contacted also confirmed that they “don’t do golfing packages”.

Hopefully all of the plans being mooted will start to bear fruit in the very near future as it will attract another sector of visitors, the corporate sector.

This segment of visitors is known for looking after its corporate customers with a 2D1N stay consisting of an afternoon of golf followed by good dining, wine and song, and another round of golf the next morning before departing.

Cultivating this corporate clientele will give the tourism industry a much needed boost and possibly take the industry to another level.

Fore!



Clearwater Masters Tournament 2011. (Inset) Champion Barry Henson

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IPOH **echo**

From the Editor's Desk

• by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

Visit Perak Year (VPY) 2012 is now in its third month of operation and in nine months it will come to a close. Whether this year-long endeavour to increase tourist arrivals in Perak meets its defined targets is open to debate. Given the fluidity of activities organised to complement the event, it may be a little premature to appraise Tourism Perak's performance at this juncture. A correct judgment will not be forthcoming unless factors such as timing, preparedness and mood are taken into account. These factors inhibit VPY 2012 and will make or break the resolve of those responsible.

It was with this aim in mind that prompted Fathil Ghani, the hard-pressed Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Perak, to call for a meeting with media chiefs recently. The significance of the dialogue, held in a purpose-built limestone cave at Sunway's Lost World of Tambun, was not lost in transition. The ambiance surrounding the seemingly claustrophobic cave was most conducive, as it encouraged the attendees to speak their minds out, literally.

The reorganised Tourism Perak Management Berhad (TPMB), with Fathil at the helm, became operational only in mid-August 2011. For reasons of expedience, TPMB was placed under the control of the State Secretary and is responsible directly to the Executive Councillor of Tourism for the implementation of tourism-related activities/policies in Perak. Two other agencies are similarly responsible for tourism in the state. They are Tourism Malaysia (Perak) and Ministry of Tourism Perak Branch. In the heydays there was the state tourism council which presided over all three agencies. Over and above this, and acting on a more partisan platform, is the Perak Tourism Association, a non-governmental organisation that acts as a conduit between the government and the tourism sector.

The presence of these bodies did little to overcome



Appraising VPY 2012

The two-hour meeting revealed some interesting facts about VPY 2012. Foremost, it is planned with some finesse but implementation is being hampered by jitteriness and indecision...



the public's misconception of tourism management in the state. Many are still unclear of the roles and responsibilities of each agency. After having interacted with Fathil for the last eight months I am a little better than the average Perakian. Tourism Perak is the agency that calls the shots insofar as touristic activities in Perak are concerned. The other agencies are only in support. It is at the beck and call of the Executive Councillor of Tourism, Dato' Hamidah Osman. That explains why Fathil is in the thick of the action. Wherever Hamidah is, Fathil is there. Previous heads were not as conspicuous. The reason is simple – they could not fit in.

The meeting at the Tambun theme park's Kapura Cave saw some exciting exchanges which would have been summarily dismissed had it been held at a more formal location. Questions on VPY 2012's visibility and on tourist arrivals were raised. Fathil provided the answers and though they were not to our expectation, at least we all agreed to disagree.

A number of billboards extolling the virtues of VPY 2012 have been erected and placed along highways and

byways. But the number is too few and far between to make an impact. "This is the reason why there is very little aura in Ipoh and in the state," said Jalal, the Berita Harian chief. Awareness creation is essential, he reasoned as people need to be constantly reminded of the auspicious occasion.

"To date 70 tourist-related activities have been organised and more are in the pipeline," said Fathil. Activities at district and council levels are also being planned. The success of these programmes is dependent upon the creativity and determination of the district and council heads. "They have been forewarned not by Hamidah alone but by the MB himself," Fathil intimated.

If anything, the two-hour meeting revealed some interesting facts about VPY 2012. Foremost, it is planned with some finesse but implementation is being hampered by jitteriness and indecision. Subsequently, the full potential of Tourism Perak is not yet realised.

These are teething problems, which must be overcome if VPY 2012 is to see the light of day. That was the consensus of those at the meeting.

In The Name of My Father's Estate

Episode 3

• by Peter Lee

As John was heading back to the conference room after Dave left, Maggie, his personal secretary passed an envelope to him and said, "I just received a call from a lady and she asked me to tell you that it's important for you to read the documents in the envelope immediately because it's about your father's estate. Looking surprised, he hurried back to the conference room and opened the envelope. Before his mother started talking to the family, John told her to give him a minute to read the documents in the envelope. His mother asked what it is about. John replied, "There is a letter here from a woman named Connie Cheah claiming that she married father in 1980 and has three sons with him. She has also attached the birth certificates of her three children with father named as the father of the sons and a copy of father's will saying that all his movable and immovable estate are given to her and her three sons. "I don't believe this is happening and I thought it happens only in movies. As far as I am concerned, we can forget this and distribute father's estate as soon as possible," said Nick Lee. "Believe it or not, I think we have to check this first with Dave before we proceed," replied John.

Then suddenly Sandy called out "mum are you okay?" Patricia looked pale at this point and asked for a glass of water and her hands were trembling while taking out some heart medicine from her bag. John quickly poured her a glass of water while the rest scrambled to get her medicine. After taking her medicine, she managed to recover. Everyone in the room was silent for a few minutes and then John said "mum I think its better for you to go home and rest while I check with Dave on the validity of this claim." Patricia said "no, I am feeling better now. You can call him now." Within minutes Dave was on the line as John put him on speakerphone and said, "Dave, I have in my hands a copy of a letter from a woman claiming that she was married to my father in 1980 and from that marriage they have three sons. She also enclosed a copy of the will and apparently my father's entire estate goes to her and her three sons." In response, Dave asked, "Who are the executors?" John said "let me check. Oh! It's her name only." Dave replied, "Since there is an Executor, the will is valid" but for your information it's better to have at least two Executors."

Then, Dave asked "can you check on the number of witnesses who signed this will. John replied, "I can see only one," to which Dave said, "are you sure, because if that's true, then this will is invalid." Upon hearing this, John quickly said, "Yes! I only see one witness signature. So, does it mean the will is invalid?" "Looks like it" replied Dave. There was a sigh of relief on the faces of all in the room. John continued asking, "Then what about the birth certificates of the three sons?" Dave replied, "I think it's better you scan and email to me all the documents you received before I can advise because even though the will is invalid, she can lay claim to the estate due to the fact that her marriage to your father was before March, 1982."

To be continued...

Peter Lee is an Associate Estate Planning Practitioner (Wills & Trust) with Rockwills International Group. He is also an Islamic Estate Planner providing Wills & Trust services for Muslims. He is based in Ipoh and can be reached at: 012-5078825/ 05-2554853 or excels@streamyx.com. Website: <http://www.wills-trust.com.my>.

Eye Health

World Glaucoma Week
March 11 - 17, 2012

In conjunction with World Glaucoma Week 2012, Ipoh Echo talked to Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. Gill about this "silent thief of sight" – PART 3

Glaucoma, as you know, has been nicknamed the "silent thief of sight". This disease, which results in **permanent irreversible blindness** in the affected eye(s), often goes unnoticed until the loss of vision is significant.

What are the types of glaucoma?

Glaucoma can be divided broadly into the following:

- 1) Primary Open Angle Glaucoma
- 2) Angle Closure Glaucoma
- 3) Normal Tension Glaucoma
- 4) Other Types of Glaucoma

PRIMARY OPEN ANGLE GLAUCOMA – presents silently, most common.
Open Angle & Normal Tension Glaucoma: eye looks normal, no obvious symptoms



Open Angle & Normal Tension Glaucoma eye looks normal, no obvious symptoms

Primary open angle glaucoma is also known as chronic glaucoma. This is the **most common** glaucoma type. It mainly affects adults over age 35. In most cases, by the time open angle glaucoma is detected, it has already begun doing damage. In other words, often people who have this type of glaucoma **do NOT know they have it**. This type of glaucoma gradually reduces the **peripheral vision without other symptoms**. By the time one notices it, **permanent damage** already has occurred. That is why everyone who is at risk for glaucoma should go for an eye check annually.

ANGLE CLOSURE GLAUCOMA – presents acutely.

Angle Closure Glaucoma: red eye, dilated pupil

This type of glaucoma is also known as **acute glaucoma** or narrow angle glaucoma. It is not as common as open angle glaucoma. In this type of glaucoma, the **eye pressure** usually rises quickly resulting in acute symptoms of eye pain, redness, photophobia (inability to tolerate light), headache and sometimes even vomiting. The patient is usually forced to seek immediate treatment from an eye doctor who has to lower the eye pressure. The eye pressure in this kind of glaucoma is usually **very high** and the patient is in pain.



Angle Closure Glaucoma red eye, dilated pupil

NORMAL TENSION GLAUCOMA – presents silently.

Normal-tension glaucoma (NTG) is also known as Low Tension Glaucoma or Normal Pressure Glaucoma. Here the damage occurs to the optic nerve **without the eye pressure going above the normal range**. (The normal eye pressure: 10-21 mm Hg.) Researchers continue to study why the optic nerve in these individuals is susceptible to damage even with normal eye pressure readings. Many doctors however tend to believe that it is related to poor blood flow to the optic nerve. This glaucoma is also "silent" without any acute pain or symptoms. The person often ends up seeking treatment late when significant vision loss has already occurred. That is why **people above 40 years of age should have their eyes checked routinely** as part of their general health screening.

Dr Gill will elaborate more on glaucoma in the next issue of the Ipoh Echo.

For more information, contact Gill Eye Specialist Centre at 05-5455582, email: gilleycentre@dr.com or visit www.fatimah.com.my.



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Thinking ALLOWED • by Mariam Mokhtar**An Afternoon with Ruth Iversen Rollitt**

“I love Ipoh very much – that is really where my heart is and I am in despair when I see what is being done to it,” says Ruth, the daughter of one of Ipoh’s prominent architects, Berthel Michael Iversen.

Ruth’s father was born in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1906 and was the youngest of seven children. His talent for drawing saw him in good stead for studying architecture at the Royal Academy in Copenhagen, so when his older brother Werner, a planter invited him to go to the Far East, Berthel took up his offer and arrived in Malaya in 1928.

For eight years, he polished his skills in two architectural firms, before starting his own firm in Ipoh in 1936. His first company was called Iversen, van Smitteren & Partners with branches in Penang, Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Over lunch in a Chinese restaurant in London’s Chinatown, Ruth talked about her father, who was responsible for several famous buildings in Malaya and Singapore including several cinemas by Shaw Brothers and Cathay. He was also renowned for scores of government buildings, schools, radio stations, churches, hospitals and according to Ken Yeang in the ‘Architecture of Malaysia’, it was a symbol status among the Ipoh elite, to own a house designed by Iversen.

Many Ipohites will recall some of Iversen’s great works, such as the grandstand at the Ipoh race course, the Lido cinema, the Ipoh Swimming Club, Jubilee Park and the Lam Looking Bazaar.

Heritage is one thing, but development is another. For many decades, the historical buildings of Ipoh have been demolished, in the name of progress and development.

When priceless buildings are turned into rubble, our social past and our identity are erased. Ipoh does not appear to be proud of its history. Iversen’s buildings helped give us an identity. The gleaming towers of concrete, steel and glass structures which are popping up all over Ipoh now, are indistinct and characterless.

In between mouthfuls of *dim sum*, Ruth told Ipoh Echo that she had been born in the Batu Gajah maternity hospital in 1938 and her early childhood was spent at No. 1 Tambun Road.

She said, “When I was small, the land where the current fountain at the roundabout in front of the Menteri Besar’s house is sited, used to be part of our garden.”

During WWII, the whole family escaped to Australia but returned to Malaya after the war and settled into 110 Tambun Road, which her father built after their return to Ipoh.

She declares that she is “...always very happy to meet my country fellow men/women in London. There are many of them and I am lucky to have got to know them.”

**Community**
YBU Interacts With Villagers

It was a meaningful day for residents of Kampong Sekiah in Behrang when officials of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) called on them recently. The villagers were briefed by V. Elanggo, the head of Communication Unit 1 Malaysia. Most of the questions fielded were related to the foundation’s roles and responsibilities.

The villagers were keen to know the kind of assistance available to them, especially in ways to improve their socio-economic standing. Elanggo spoke at length on micro-credits and how the system works. He also touched on YBU’s role in the provision and repairing of houses for the needy and the displaced. The terms and conditions for eligibility were spelt out for the consumption of the audience.

Present at the briefing were executive councillor, Dato’ Ramly Zahari and YBU’s Chief Executive Officer, Dato’ Zainal Abidin Omar.

RM



She talks about her trips to Ipoh and of her visits to God’s Little Acre (Batu Gajah), where her first husband, the planter Donald Baxter was buried. Donald and his driver were killed in a payroll robbery at the Riverside Rubber Estate, where they lived.

She describes the idyllic years before tragedy struck; of a life full of adventure with her pets, including chickens and her son being born, at the same hospital as she.

During her visits to Ipoh, she is horrified at the destruction of the buildings in the area.

“Why destroy such a lot of heritage buildings that made Ipoh such a very special town?”

“It breaks my heart to see the modern monstrosities without any merit replace the beautiful houses my father built. I realise that these houses are not ‘grand’ enough for the wealthy people of today – but we were satisfied with them.”

“I realise that the value of the land is so high and that these houses in large gardens have to make way for many, many ghastly little shacks. Sadly there is no taste.”

She talks about Fair Park and the houses her father built there. She says her Chinese tailor lived in Fair Park and how the mention of the place brought back many pleasant memories.

As a subscriber to the Ipoh Echo, news on Ipoh is easy to keep track of. But she wonders why Ipoh is turning into a concrete jungle with none of the charm it once had.

“My father had been in Malaya for almost 40 years and contributed a lot to both government and private buildings. I want his name to be known, his buildings to be admired (before they are all demolished) – I want to do it for the sake of his memory and in admiration of a wonderful father and a great man!”

“When I tried to look up in the National Archives in KL – I was horrified to see that the name Iversen came up as: unknown!”

To preserve the memory of her father and his works, she says that she is working on a book about him and hopes to publish it this year.

She asks, “Does the Ipoh Echo have any influence in government offices? We need to be able to get into the town planner’s office and see if we can find old plans that confirm which buildings are by BMI.”

If anyone can help, they can contact Ruth Iversen Rollitt via the Ipoh Echo.

Hostel for Poor Students

Officials of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) visited Asrama Amanjaya Harmoni (AsAH) in Taiping recently to see the newly state-acquired hostel for themselves. The management of this once privately-owned hostel was taken over by Institut Darul Ridzuan (IDR) last year. The reason was a noble one – to fully realise AsAH’s objective of providing a conducive learning environment for underprivileged students. This is the primary reason why students from a rural background perform poorly academically.

The visitors were received and briefed by Razif Mokthat, the hostel’s manager. Razif was thankful for IDR’s timely intervention. “The hostel’s potentials are fully realised with the takeover,” he said. “Poor students now have a place to stay while pursuing their studies.”

RM





Musings on Food

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Chris DiGiovanna

SeeFoon spends a lovely Sunday afternoon by the sea

I have often heard the name of **Kuala Sepetang** (Port Weld) mentioned but the occasion has never arisen for me to venture there. So when the invitation came from Chris and Christine DiGiovanna for a Sunday lunch by the sea, I jumped on the bandwagon.

A group of us set off at noon arranging to rendezvous at the toll exit for Changkat Jering heading north on the north/south highway. After the toll, we turned left and followed directions to Taiping. On reaching a T-junction with a big sign saying Taiping Bandar Warisan we turned left and followed signs for Kuala Sepetang. It was a pretty straightforward way from here on and the only tricky bit was on arriving at Kuala Sepetang where a little manoeuvring led us to the restaurant, **Kedai Makanan Tepi Sungai**, set back a little from the road.

Panorama Upstairs

I thought we had arrived at a market, judging from the basket loads of seafood and fish being unloaded and despatched. Feeling a bit squeamish at the chaos and market conditions, we negotiated a steep flight of stairs leading us to the first floor where a panoramic view of the river greeted us. I breathed a sigh of relief, having been delivered from the prospect of eating in the squalid conditions downstairs.

Upstairs, the breeze was delightful as we were given a corner table right on the edge of the water where the river winds its way to the sea and we could see the fishing boats coming in, delivering their fresh catch of the day.



Fresh Caught and Superlative Cooking

I can't remember when I can honestly say that I enjoyed every single dish we had that day. Every single item was fresh caught and the cooking for some of the dishes was superlative.

We began with **crisp fried baby shrimp**, battered and fried in their shells, as we sipped our wine and waited for the other dishes. They soon arrived in quick succession but because



the restaurant was full to overflowing, we had to wait a while before our orders came.

Live Crabs and Clams

The **live flower crabs** sautéed with dried shrimp and cucumber slices was an unusual recipe for the crabs but one that I found delightful and not as cloying as other crab recipes.

This was followed by **big round clams** steamed with Chinese wine and topped with fried chopped garlic, each clam as fresh as can be, and not a single bad one amongst all that we had at our table.

The **squid** was next, with salt, pepper and chilli, battered and delectably crunchy. In fact, the dish was snapped up so quickly that I requested for a second portion. Next came the **Assam fish**, this time a flounder or Ikan Pari. I often don't order this fish because inevitably I find that it's not fresh. Not here though. The fish was the freshest Ikan Pari I've ever tasted and cooked in the tangy Assam sauce which had the right balance of sweetness and tartness to make the dish memorable.

Then came the **steamed prawns**, sweet, succulent large prawns steamed on a bed of egg custard, redolent with scallions and chopped fried garlic.

Baby Crabs – A Rare Find

As people around my table were satiated and ready to just sit back and enjoy the refreshing breeze coming from the sea, I spied a plate of baby crabs being delivered to the next table and promptly ordered one. Now, I have had soft shell crab and all manner of other types of crab, but never have I ever had **baby flower crabs**, which these were. My curiosity was soon satisfied when they arrived, each tiny crab crunchy to the last bite as I justified my greed by telling my friends that the chitin of the shells was a popular slimming aid.

We were a party of 10 and our total bill for the dishes mentioned came to RM288. Apparently they also have the highly prized white pomfret at RM8 per 100g and large Mantis prawn at RM32 each. What is also very popular, but which I have promised myself to return to savour, are their cockles which are farmed there.



Kedai Makanan Tepi Sungai (RT Weld Restaurant) - Pork Free

No. 150 Tepi Sungai, Kuala Sepetang, 34650 Taiping.

Tel: **05 8581169** **012 5598798** (Kee)

Business Hour: 12 noon - 8.30 p.m. GPS Coordinates : N04 50.150 E100 37.620. Closed on Wednesdays

HAWKER FOOD

Nasi Lemak (Revisited)



It may be safe to say that *nasi lemak* is the unofficial favourite breakfast of most Malaysians. With that in mind, it was worth taking a second look and this time we have included the more elaborate stalls which offer a variety of other dishes. The '*lemak*' comes from the rice cooked with coconut cream and pandan or ginger added for fragrance. *Nasi lemak* can be as simple as topping with *ikan bilis* sambal or fried *ikan bilis*, cucumber slices, fried peanuts and a segment of a hard-boiled egg; or it can be more elaborate with the additional of: fried chicken, rendang, curry, *sotong* sambal, cooked vegetables and topped with a fried egg. Whatever your preference is, one is spoilt for choice.

Morning stalls:

Canning Corner (Halal), Jalan Lee Kwee Foh, Canning Garden

Gingery fragrant rice with spicy sambal. Value for money – only 80 sen without an egg.

Pusat Makanan dan Minuman YY, Jalan Che Tak (New Town)

Pre packed at RM1.30 each. Very tasty with *ikan bilis* sambal, a quarter egg, fried peanuts and cucumber.

Neli's Deli (Halal), 71 Jalan Raja Ekram (New Town)

Rice topped with spicy sambal, lots of small delicious crispy fried *ikan bilis* and a fried egg sunny side up – RM2.50 – also has *sotong* sambal.

Monday-Friday: 8.00 a.m.-6.00 p.m., Saturday: 8.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. Sundays closed.

Kedai Kopi Sin Choi Yuen, 45 Taman Sembilan, Taman Pertama

Nasi lemak comes with sambal, fried *ikan bilis* and peanuts – RM3. It is a little bit sweet.

Night stalls:

Nasi Pandan @ Aneka Selera Ipoh Garden (Glutton Square)

Not your usual *lemak* rice but tasty *pandan* rice with *ikan bilis* sambal, cucumber and a fried egg; you can add other dishes too – RM3.50.

Nasi Lemak Daun Pisang (Halal), Jln Fair Park a short distance from 7-Eleven

Lovely lady selling cone-shaped bundles of *nasi lemak* neatly wrapped in banana leaf – RM1.50. Fragrant rice topped with *ikan bilis* sambal, a bit of salted fish, half an hard-boiled egg and cooked french beans. She is there from 6.30 p.m. and on weekends from 5.00 p.m.

Nasi Lemak Malay (Halal) @ Kafe WK Garden East, 6 Jalan Medan Ipoh 2, Taman Medan Ipoh

Fragrant rice with spicy sambal, fried *ikan bilis* and peanuts. Different varieties of *nasi lemak* from RM3-5.



RECIPE

By Shanthi Ganeshan



Finger Food – Fish Cutlets

Ingredients:

For cutlets

- 1 can tuna chunks – well drained
- 3 medium sized potatoes (approx. 250g) – boiled till soft, peeled & coarsely mashed
- 1 medium onion
- 1 green chili – remove seeds
- 10 curry leaves chopped finely
- 1 tablespoon coriander leaves
- ¼ teaspoon black mustard seeds (optional)
- ½ teaspoon lime juice
- 1 tablespoon oil
- salt & pepper to taste

For coating

- 1 egg – lightly whisked
- ¾ cup bread crumbs
- 1 cup oil to fry

Method:

1. Heat 1 tablespoon oil in saucepan, add mustard seeds and let it splatter. Add in chopped onions, green chili, curry leaves and sauté for 2 minutes. Remove from heat.



2. Add in the mashed potatoes, tuna, lime juice, coriander leaves, sufficient salt & pepper and mash to a coarse paste.
3. Take about a tablespoonful of the paste and roll them into small balls. You should get about 20 balls.
4. Dip the balls one at a time in the whisked egg and next roll in the breadcrumbs.
5. Fry in medium hot oil for about 3-4 minutes until golden brown and serve hot!
6. The cutlets can be made in advance and fried just before serving.

News Roundup

In Aid of Education



Yayasan Pendidikan Kampar, the education foundation of Kampar parliamentary constituency, organised a charity dinner recently to raise funds for its activities this year. The dinner, attended by about 600 people, was held at the banquet hall of the State Secretariat Building, Ipoh.

The foundation, supported by the education bureau of UMNO Kampar, runs a study-group programme. Academically weak pupils from underprivileged families within the Kampar parliamentary constituency are given free lessons to help them with their studies. In addition, study tours and camping trips are organised for the children as a form of reward for their performances.

At the dinner, Ezhan Aliffdaniel Amran, one of the many who benefitted from this programme, shared his experiences with the diners.

Twenty-five students who scored 5 As in last year's UPSR examination were presented with certificates of achievement. Volunteers from the 36 study-group centres throughout the Kampar parliamentary constituency were given certificates for their services. Guest of honour, Wanita UMNO Deputy Chief, Dato' Kamilia Dato' Ibrahim then presented awards to initiators of the study-group programme, to honour their role in the empowerment of children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Chief Minister Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambray Abd Kadir, who was not in attendance, gave RM10,000 to the foundation, through Kampar UMNO division chief, Dato' Radzi Manan.

EL

Thoroughbred Sale

Thirty four colts and fillies from champion bloodlines came under the hammer at the *National Stud Farm* in Tanjung Rambutan recently. This was the 19th year that such an auction was held and the fifth for Malaysian-bred horses. The auctioneer was David Chester of Magic Millions Sales Pty Ltd., a world-renowned thoroughbred auction house from Australia.

Despite uncertainties in the horse-racing world, the 2012 National Premier Sale saw many members of the racing fraternity, locals and foreigners, converging at the National Stud Farm. The farm, incidentally, was the brainchild of Tunku Abdul Rahman, the country's first premier and was built in 1969. It is now a division of Pan Malaysian Pools Sdn. Bhd.

The 2-year-olds were brought into the ring one by one for the bidding, with a starting price of RM10,000. The filly of resident National Stud Farm sire, "Dolphin Street", a half sister of "Beautiful Choice", the 2011 Malaysian Bred Horse of the Year, was the crowd's favourite. She received a bid for RM70,000. The highest bid, however, went to a bay filly which went for RM85,000 which was made by trainer, Robyn Brogan.

The auction grossed almost a million ringgit from 34 lots. Stud farm manager, Ray Knight, was happy with the sale. His years of hard work had come to fruition. Horses sold at the sale qualified for the winning performance bonus, valid for five years ending on December 31, 2017.

EL



Money for Religious Schools

Over 4,000 people attended a cheque-presentation ceremony at the Menteri Besar's residence recently. Money given by the Education Ministry was distributed to religious schools (*Sekolah Agama Rakyat Kafa*) in Perak.

Some RM14.5 million was pledged by Deputy Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in his capacity as Education Minister, during his recent visit to Ipoh. Each religious school received RM21,954.40. There are 660 such schools in the state.

Zambry acknowledged the commitment of religious teachers towards the development of religious studies. He stressed the importance of religious teaching in children and how it would affect their thinking. The positive teachings of Islam, he said, should be shared with people of other races and beliefs.

Zambry told the gathering that Kolej Islam Darul Ridzuan, Ipoh had received approval from the Education Ministry to upgrade its status from college to university. This will boost the state government's objective to turn the state into an education hub.



Besides the presentation of mock cheques, awards were given to top scorers in the 2011 Ujian Penilaian Kelas Kafa, a religious studies examination. Aiman Nabilah Abd Aziz from Teluk Intan bagged the girls' category while Ipoh's Amir Asyraff Afendi won the boys' category. Each received a certificate of commendation and RM1,500 cash, a personal donation from Zambry.

The Chief Minister then announced a special bonus of RM500 each to all 3,120 religious teachers in Perak. This pay-out will cost the government RM1.56 million.

EL

Women Honoured



International Women's Day was celebrated on Thursday, March 8 with the theme "Connecting Girls, Inspiring Futures". In conjunction with this auspicious day, started in 1911, Inner Wheel Club of Ipoh East, a member club of women's service organisation, International Inner Wheel, honoured ten women for their exemplary service to the community.

Wong Nyuk Mun, Datin Rosiah Ahmad, Mariayee Ammal, AMS Periasamy Pillai, Ng Yoke Mooi, Datin Normah Hj Hassan and Saraspathy Sambasivam received the Exemplary Community Service Award. Rathy Mahendran, Datin Gnanambigai Rajah and Datin Dr Joges Pathmakanthan received the Exemplary Community Service through Inner Wheel Award.

The Lifetime Exemplary Achievement Award went to Dato' Dr Madhuri Majumder, whose birthday, incidentally, fell on the same day.

The presentation ceremony was held at the State Secretariat Building, Ipoh. While the guests dined they were entertained to music, songs and dances by local talents.

EL

Gifts for Widows



Dato' Zainal Abidin Omar, Chief Executive Officer of Yayasan Bina Upaya Darul Ridzuan (YBU) and officials of Ipoh City Council Retirees' Society (Permai) visited the widows of two former Ipoh City Council staff recently. The visit was most timely as the families had just lost their loved ones. The late Hadi Mohd Rashid of Kg Tengku Hussein Baru and the late Narayanan Ramakrishnan of Taman Pakatan Jaya had served the council well during their tenure in office.

Zainal presented their widows, who were touched by the gesture, with hampers containing foodstuffs.

RM



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Meru Valley Resort is the one and only development in Ipoh, Perak to offer exclusive residential properties within an international championship golf course.



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News Roundup

Tenby Schools Forging Ahead

Tenby Schools Ipoh chartered another milestone with the construction of a new campus in Bandar Meru Raya, approximately 7km from city centre. With an investment of a few million ringgit and occupying almost 14 acres of land, this new school site is slated to be the best privately managed campus in Malaysia.

Chief Minister Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir was the guest of honour at the ground-breaking ceremony held in situ recently. He was joined by his wife, Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli, Special Adviser Dato' Chang Ko Youn, Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim, Chairman of Tenby Schools Dato' Seri Dr Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, Director of Tenby Schools Ipoh Dato'



Lim Si Boon, senior officials of the school and guests.

The existing campus at Jalan Kelab Golf, Ipoh has an enrolment of 1,200 students. However, the new campus can accommodate up to 1,500 students. Upon completion, in time for the September 2013 intake, it will boast state-



of-the-art facilities and an integrated sports complex.

Development of young minds through quality education is the key to a better future. About 3,300 students representing 30 nationalities are attending Tenby schools throughout

Malaysia, right from kindergarten to A-Levels.

EL

Al Rajhi Bank in Ipoh

The largest Islamic Bank in the world, Al Rajhi Bank, launched its first branch in Perak at Greentown Business Centre officiated by Perak Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir recently.

Al Rajhi Bank is five years old in Malaysia and Ipoh is its 23rd branch. It is headed by its CEO En Azrulnizam Abdul Aziz, an Ipoh boy from Manjoi. The Bank is a universal Islamic bank and offers strict Shariah compliant banking products and services that are structured on Islamic principles.

In conjunction with the opening of its Ipoh branch, the bank is re-launching its other 22 branches with special promotions till the end of March.

JAG



Brazilian Ambassador Visits Zambry



Brazilian Ambassador, HE Sergio De Souza Fontes Arruda, paid a courtesy call on Perak Menteri Besar Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir at his office on the morning of March 1.

The meeting lasted approximately 40 minutes after which Zambry presented Arruda with souvenirs which included an English translation of a book of poems written by Zambry and a poster of the State Crest embroidered in gold thread.

Arruda announced that he would be leaving Malaysia soon, having been posted to Azerbaijan. Arruda travelled alone to Ipoh earlier the same morning using the electric train from KL and described the service as "excellent".

JAG

Health Equals Wealth



Women's Day at Taman Boon Bak Rukun Tetangga



The International Women's Day was celebrated at the Taman Boon Bak, Rukun Tetangga Sector recently. The Guest of Honour for this function was Dato' Thong Fah Chong, the Ipoh Timur MCA Division Chairman. He said that our community should appreciate the role played by women in various economic sectors, political and social. He also mentioned that in this coming general election, we need to make the correct choice of candidates that work for our children's and grandchildren's future aspirations. Entertainment included a performance by SMK Pinji, the Ipoh Chinese Cultural Club with their energetic and spectacular 24 Chinese Season Drums, line dancing and dragon dance. The function was also attended by Koperal Lee from Balai Polis Pasir Puteh who urged the communities in Taman Boon Bak to take care of their belongings, with advice on prevention of house breaking and safety procedures for all the women who were present at this function.

Feminine Touch

Sentuhan Hawa (Feminine Touch) was the name of the day-long arts programme held recently at Koloni Karyawan Amanjaya (PORT), in collaboration with Mashdar Legacy. The objective was to bring together female artists in Perak, offering them a platform to showcase their finished works. This programme is the first of many to introduce and promote female artists to Perakeans.

Among the family-oriented activities held in conjunction with the programme were a children colouring contest, drawing competition for teenagers, airbrush demonstration, batik painting, dance presentation and poetry recital. There was also an art and photography exhibition – works by female artists – in line with the theme of the programme.

Mazidah Abd Rahman, Deputy Director of the Department of Arts and Culture Perak and newly-appointed Chief Executive Officer of Institut Darul Ridzuan, Dato' Seri Dr Abdul Rahman Hashim graced

In an effort to drive awareness that one needs health to pursue wealth, CIMB Bank (Tasek, Ipoh) invited Perak Community Specialist Hospital (formerly known as the Perak Chinese Maternity Hospital) to provide free health screenings and diet counselling to the public to launch their "Bijak Malaysia Savings & Protection Plan" Open Day recently. The response was enthusiastic as many showed up for the health check and learnt about the CIMB plan.

Experience-Sharing Programme



The Bakti Siswa BAIDURI Programme, a brainchild of BAIDURI President, Datin Seri DiRaja Saripah Zulkifli, was launched by Raja Puan Besar Perak Tuanku Zara Salim, at the Chief Minister's residence recently.

The objectives of the programme are multi-fold. They are to provide BAIDURI (Association of State Assemblymen's Wives) members an opportunity to share experiences with university students, to organise community services, to instil the spirit of volunteerism and to create an avenue for students to offer their views on nation-building. Ultimately, these ideals will make the students be more competitive and become people of integrity.

The first activity of the programme, held earlier in the day, was a gathering of university students, organised by student advisory council – Majlis Perundingan Mahasiswa Perak. Over 300 female students from all over the country participated in a series of dialogues aimed at helping them to face challenges on campus and in the working world.

Participants received certificates at the end of the day-long programme. Ten students from disadvantaged backgrounds received bursaries from BAIDURI President.

EL



the occasion.

The event ended with an entertaining outdoor music performance by guest musical band, Janice and The Supertank.

EL

ECO Tourism



Bukit Kinding in Malaysia Book of Records

Bukit Kinding Eco Park Resort (BKEPR), Tanjung Rambutan, got itself into The Malaysia Book of Records for introducing the longest Double Zipline Flying Fox in the country measuring 486 metres in length. The record-breaking certificate was presented to Bukit Kinding Eco Park Resort by State Exco for Tourism Dato' Hamidah Osman.

The Flying Fox is an activity where a participant rides down an inclined cable located at high point. At BKEPR the glide down provides the participant with a breathtaking

view of the Kinta Valley which is more spectacular at sunset.

BKEPR has transformed itself into an eco-adventure resort and offers a unique variety of activities such as stand-up paddling, free kayaking, zorbing as well as paintball.

Dato' Hamidah who was pleased at the 'products' that the Resort had to offer, mentioned that "if properly packaged with other adventure locations like Gopeng, eco-adventure tourism had good marketing potential."

JAG

Young Perak

Star Rekindles Tradition



Sekolah Tunku Abdul Rahman (STAR), Ipoh has a long sporting tradition which dates back to its humble beginning in January 1957. The school, like similar institutions in Ipoh, has produced many sporting legends, especially rugby players who went on to don state and national colours. In fact, sports have been synonymous with the development of STAR per se.

In keeping with this proud tradition, the school organised the STAR Gold Rush Athletics Circuit 2012 on Saturday, March 3 at the school field. The athletics meet was an occasion to honour past greats who were invited to grace the day-long field event. A line-up of who's who was on hand to provide the finesse to an otherwise mundane occasion. The presence of these one-time sporting greats was a true reflection of the appeal the school has on its past students. The current batch of students could only watch in awe at their famous seniors.

The athletic meet did produce some noteworthy results but were nowhere near that of the former athletes. A case in point was the renowned Golden Quartet '72 comprising of Yusof Ali, Hassan Ahmad, Zaharan Mat Piah and Mohd Redza Rahman. The foursome, who were present at the meet, were a force onto itself in the 1970s. Between them they had won several accolades for the school. Their forte was in the short sprints and the relays.

The seniors could only reflect on their past recalling a time when giving their best for their alma mater was all that mattered.

Nadim

Spelling Contest

An English spelling contest was organised recently by Y's Men's Club, Ipoh as part of its on-going community project. The event, held at YMCA Ipoh, saw keen participation by 13 primary schools from within the city. A total of 39 students took part in the contest whose objectives were to improve the spelling skills of students and to encourage competition among them.

Udaya Banu and his team of judges had difficulty in picking the winners as the participants' spelling skills were high. Sarah G from SRK Marian Convent won the individual category while Wong Jun Sen of SRK Methodist (ACS) and Rossan V of SRK La Salle were the runners-up. Overall champion went to SRK Marian Convent with the most number of points.

The club has other community-related activities planned for the coming months. Of interest is the Charity Walk for Healthy Heart and Jumble Sale on April 21 and the Children's Colouring Competition on May 5. For details call K. Letchimanan at 012-5381939.

Ed



Students on Study Tour



A group of 16 students and five teachers from Kingston School, Medan visited Persatuan Pemulihan Sultan Azlan Shah in Bercham recently. The study tour was most timely as it coincided with Visit Perak Year 2012.

The students, aged between 11 and 12 years old, are studying under the international primary school

KPJ ISH Leap Year Baby



Pn Munirah & En Norazizi with their baby. Left – O&G Consultant Dr Usha Devy Balaguru and Sr B.F. Yeoh, Unit Manager of maternity ward, KPJ Ipoh



KPJ Ipoh Specialist Hospital leap-year baby boy (2.97kg) was delivered at 4.05 a.m. Proud parents: Pn Munirah bt Hamid and En Nor Azizi b Yon

curriculum. Teacher Margaret Moore said that it was their first trip to Malaysia. The objective of the tour, according to Margaret, was for students to pick up lessons for practical application later. Under the science curriculum, students are required to learn the different types of physiotherapy available at the centre. Brief lessons on physiotherapy were given by the specialists on duty. They observed patients undergoing physiotherapy treatment.

The group was then taken to Gua Tempurung and other touristic spots in Perak. It was an eventful three-day visit to the silver state.

Tiffany

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LETTERS

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Flood Detritus



Lorry loads of garbage was removed from the Sungai Pari bridge in Jalan Raja after the recent floods. However, rubbish is hanging from the bottom of the bridge and some touch the water. During heavy rain when the level of the water rises to the bottom of the bridge, the rubbish restricts the flow of debris along the river. I am not going to blame MBI workers for not removing this, because it cannot be seen from the top of the bridge, but can be seen clearly from my house. The rubbish must be removed before they start to pile up. I do not want my house to be flooded again.

A. Jeyaraj

Northern Paintball Series 2012

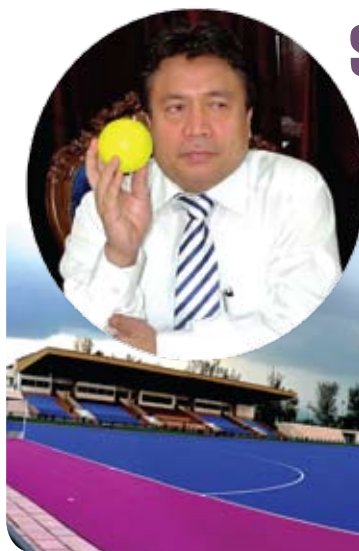


The second leg of the annual Northern Paintball Series was held at Taman Rekreasi Sultan Abdul Aziz (Polo Ground) over a weekend recently. The sport has a huge local following. The reason why it was held in Ipoh was to cash in on the ongoing Visit Perak Year 2012. The series was organised and sponsored by TuneTalk Mobile Prepaid. Ipoh City Council provided some logistics support.

Thirty three teams participated in the two-day competition under Division 3 and Division 4. The top five teams are eligible for selection to compete at the international paintball championship in Langkawi in November. They get to compete with foreign teams from countries such as Iran, France, United States, Thailand and Japan.

Tune Talk Votolocos and Hittballerz 2 tied for first place in Division 3. The Division 4 title was won by Tune Talk Lost Boyz who defeated a determined Jezzaballes 59'ers. The third leg of the series will be held in Penang in May.

Tiffany



Sport

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup Hockey Tournament



The 21st Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey tournament will be held at Stadium Sultan Azlan Shah from May 24 till June 3. Incidentally, the date coincides with the second school term holidays. This was announced by Perak Hockey Association President Dato' Abdul Rahim Mohd Ariff.

Seven teams, including Malaysia, will be participating this year. They are: Great Britain (ranked 4th), Korea (6th), New Zealand (7th), Pakistan (8th), Argentina (9th), India (10th) and Malaysia (13th).

To liven up the tournament, the National Indoor Hockey Tournament (June 1-3) as well as Hockey Clinics, organised by the Asian Hockey Confederation, will be held simultaneously.

Rahim also announced that the AstroTurf at the stadium has been changed to blue and pink while the hockey ball to be used for the tournament will be yellow in colour. According to Rahim the change is to make the game attractive but also more television friendly due to the contrast of colours, yellow, blue and pink.

JAG

Thunderbolts Win League Title

Tunku Mahkota Ismail Sports School (SSTMI) Thunderbolts won the Malaysia Junior Hockey League crown beating UniKL Young Guns 2-1 at the Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Stadium, Ipoh on Sunday, March 4. The final matches were played on the stadium's newly laid blue pitch, the third of its kind in the world. Thunderbolts took home RM25,000 in prize money while the Young Guns, RM15,000. They were runner-up in 2010 and 2011.

In the third place playoff, Sekolah Sukan Bukit Jalil (SSBJ) trounced MBI-Anderson 3-1, with three successive goals from the 54th to 60th minute, after trailing in the first half of the match. Both teams played their hearts out as they strove for a podium finish. SSBJ bagged RM12,000 while MBI-Anderson won RM10,000.

HRH Sultan Azlan Shah, who watched the finals accompanied by Chief Minister, Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr Zambry Abd Kadir and Malaysian Hockey Confederation (MHC) officials, presented medals to the winners.

Roll of Honour: Best Player – Mohd. Syafiq Zulzairin (UniKL). Man of the Match – Firhan Asharri (SSTMI). Best Goalkeeper – Mohd Adi Fazri Abdul Rahim (MSSPP-USM). Top Scorer – Mohd. Shahril Saabah (SSTMI). Fair Play – Kedah HA Juniors.

EL



Seladangs in the Bin

Perak's edgy season appears to be heading on a downward spiral, after they were effectively eliminated from the Malaysian FA Cup by Terengganu on Saturday, March 10. Despite matching up to Terengganu's talented team for most of the game, Ashaari Shamsuddin's goal just before half time was enough to seal the Seladangs' fate. Perak has now lost

three games in a row.

The FA Cup was perhaps Perak's biggest chance of silverware this year, with Kelantan and Terengganu leading the charge impressively in the Super League. Even during pre-season, Michal Kubala spoke exclusively to Ipoh Echo, stating that the Seladangs were aiming to win at least one cup in 2012.

There was a lot of sanity in that statement because, realistically, Kelantan and Terengganu were always the title challengers, and with the relatively inexperienced squad that we have, cup competition was definitely the ideal chance.

The momentum was initially good when Perak dispatched ATM FC easily in the first round. Michal Kubala's early goal in the 4th minute transformed the tie, leaving ATM on the back foot for most of the game. The Seladangs could have scored more, but defended well to march into the second round in style.

However, Terengganu were never going to be easy opponents. Yes, Perak did beat them in the Super League earlier this year, a match that is best remembered for Michal Kubala's stunning pile

driver! Having said that, the addition of Francis Forkey Doe and Erison Baiano has since improved Terengganu's offensive capabilities and Perak was definitely in for a fight at the Sultan Ismail Nasiruddin Shah Stadium.

Norizan Bakar's men kicked off the game on a bright note, but slowly faded towards the half-time whistle. Their complacency came back to haunt them as Ashaari Shamsuddin opened the scoring inevitably in the 45th minute, and despite Perak coming back strongly in the second half, the deficit score line remained.

One issue that has been bothering the team and fans alike is the lack of goals from their forwards. The fact that a midfielder in Kubala is currently leading the scoring charts for Perak speaks much for their obtuse strikers. Lazar Popovic's struggles have been well documented, while the other lads are struggling for form.

With the FA Cup now out of reach, Perak will have to focus on finishing well in the Super League. Their next match on March 17 is against league champion, Kelantan. A win could bring back the shine in the Seladangs' performance. A defeat, however, will be catastrophic.

Keesh



News Roundup

St Michael's Centennial Logo Launched



St Michael's Institution, which is 100 years old this year, launched their centennial logo on the morning of February 24 with the theme "Cherishing the past, Embracing the future".

The launch, held during the morning assembly at 7.30 a.m., had as its Guest of Honour Tan Sri Dato' Lee Oi Hian, himself an Old Boy, Class of '69.

Also present was Dato' Brother Vincent Corkery, Old Michaelians Association President Mr Adrian Tsen, PIBG Chairman Joseph Michael Lee, past Principals and teachers.

St Michael's Institution Principal Madam Loh Wei Seng, also an ex-Michaelian Class of '75, described the morning's event as a "meaningful celebration to mark the school's 100 year illustrious journey and existence."

La Salle Brother and former Brother Director, Dato' Brother Vincent Corkery attributed the "secret of the school's greatness and on-going vibrancy to its spirit of faith, service and community which values the old Michaelian experience, unique meaning and relevance for life."

The morning's activities saw the guests cutting the Happy Birthday Centennial cake and unveiling the official Centennial Logo by Tan Sri Dato' Lee Oi Hian. Collar pins of the centennial logo will be worn by all Michaelians throughout the year.

The schools centennial celebration started last month with the Centennial Cross Country Run. It will be having more centennial events throughout the year such as a Food and Fun Fair and Talentime in April, School Play in July and culminating with the Centennial Dinner on September 29.

JAG

Championship Dog Show

The 322nd and 323rd editions of MKA All Breeds Championship Dog Shows were held consecutively at Dewan Leong Wan Chin in Ipoh recently. The two shows attracted over 260 pedigrees from all over Peninsular Malaysia. The championship was judged by Michael J. Shoreman and his wife, Rosemary from Canada.

There were a total of seven breed groups with each group offering seven classes – Minor Puppy, Puppy, Junior, Intermediate, Open, Veteran and Malaysian-bred.

The judges looked at each dog from head to toe and compared their findings with the "perfect specimen" based on their interpretation. They also looked at the movements of the dog, like action of the front and hind legs. The animal's temperament was also accounted for.

Winners of the seven breed groups were awarded prizes and championship points. Dogs that have accumulated the highest points at the end of the year while also meeting other criteria, will eventually be crowned Malaysian Champion and Malaysian Grand Champion, respectively.

EL



Tree-Planting Programme

A tree-planting ceremony by AEON Co (M) Bhd was held recently to commemorate the opening of the new AEON Ipoh Station 18 shopping mall.

AEON's "Hometown Forest" programme, initiated in 1991, is part of the company's corporate social responsibility initiative. The objective is to "green" the grounds of all shopping malls opened by the company, in Japan, their home country, and also globally. Since then, more than 9 million trees of local species have been planted worldwide; AEON Ipoh Station 18 being the latest.

The tree-planting ceremony was graced by Chief Minister Dato' Seri DiRaja Dr

Community

Like That Lah!...Ipoh's traits, quirks and idiosyncrasies

Chow Pai Parking Alert

Scenario: Cecil Rae Lane, Canning Garden. Commercial block of shop lots consisting of mixed traders inclusive of three *kedai kopi* (coffee shops) and gaming shops fronting the Canning Garden market, a near perfect 1 Malaysia street.

The time is 9.30 a.m. The coffee shops are busy with the breakfast crowd and their chatter fills the road outside. The parking lots are full and motorists are double parked waiting for a slot.

Everybody is doing their own thing when a shout cries out, "Chow Pai!" from one of the coffee shops. Seconds later another "Chow Pai!" shout is heard.

All heads perk up and many rush toward their cars, open their car doors and start scratching their parking coupons before placing it prominently on the car dashboard.

Chow Pai is Cantonese, literally translated means 'copy number'. In this case it is a parking alert that an MBI enforcement officer is outside checking for cars without a parking coupon to issue a parking summons, as is his duty.

According to a trader there, this happens throughout the working day explaining some motorists just pop in to buy their (betting) 'numbers' or 'tar pau' (take-away) a snack so they don't scratch their coupons.

Thank goodness for the lenient MBI officer as I witnessed him approaching a car as a motorist came rushing forward with parking coupon in hand, indicating that she was 'scratching it' and he moved to the next car.

No, I did not see the officer printing out any summons that morning as every car had their parking coupons displayed.

Like that lah!

JAG



Land for School

A previously submitted application for land by SJK (C) Wan Hwa 2 to the state government led to a surprise visit by Executive Councillor Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon to the school recently. Wan Hwa applied for the land beside the school, in June last year. The principal had met with Mah previously to discuss the matter.

The application, said Mah, is being processed. The state government approved almost five acres of land requested by Chinese schools in Perak last year.

The school plans to convert the state land into a car park. A car park is necessary as parents are not allowed to drive into the school compound to pick up their children. This is the cause of the massive traffic jams outside the school.

SJK (C) Wan Hwa has an enrolment of over 3,000 students and is almost a hundred years old. In 2000, the Board of Directors decided to move the school from its former location to the present site in Menglembu. The new school was built in 2009 at the cost of about RM9 million. Funding was sourced from the state government, who gave RM2 million while the rest came from donations and contributions.

The Board of Directors hopes approval for the land will be given in due course. Funding for the project, estimated at about RM1.5 million, will be similarly sourced – from the state government and well-wishers.

Tiffany



Zambry Abd Kadir, who also planted a tree. Zambry lauded AEON for involving the younger generation in the programme. Praising the company's commitment in greening the environment and their expertise in doing so, he suggested that the company assists Ipoh City Council to green the entire city, especially traffic "islands" at traffic junctions.

AEON Station 18 is the company's 29th store in Malaysia. With the assistance of students from five nearby schools, the grounds of the shopping complex were a hive of activity. The company reciprocated by donating books worth RM2,000 to each of the schools.

EL





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Validity Period	: 15/09/2011 - 14/09/2014	Exp. Completion date	: Sept 2013
Advertising Permit	: B456-24/1994/2012/09	Land tenure	: Freehold
Validity Period	: 22/09/2011 - 21/09/2012	Price	: Min: RM 230,210
Approved plan no.	: OSC/501-B6/B/G/140/597/10		: Max: RM 334,800
Land encumbrances	: OCBC Bank (M) Bhd.	Approving Authority	: Majlis Bandarnya Ipoh

Arts & Culture

Sitar Concert for Charity

The *Ipoh Fine Arts Society* organised a Hindustani instrumental concert in aid of the Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health at SUK, Jalan Panglima Bukit Gantang Wahab recently.

Samuel J. Dass, of Samuel Dass School of Hindustani Music, played the sitar and was accompanied by Prakash Kandasamy, of the Temple of Fine Arts, on the *tabla*. His beautiful rendition had the audience clamouring for more. Prakash also gave a solo performance on the *tabla*. Samuel said that during his classical performance there



was always a request to play a film song, to which he acceded by playing a popular Tamil song to please the

audience.

I reclined in the chair, closed my eyes and allowed the soothing music to lull me into reverie. Fine Arts Society donated RM10,000 to Perak Society for the Promotion of Mental Health.

AJ

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: **05-2552181**; or email: announcements@ipohecho.com.my, by the 9th or 23rd of every month in order to meet deadlines. Announcements by phone will not be entertained. Ipoh Echo reserves the right to verify any announcement before it is published.

William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" directed by Baz Luhrmann starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Claire Danes. Saturday, **March 17**, 2.30 p.m. at the Ipoh Swimming Club. For details and reservations call Wai Kheng of Perak Academy at **05-5478949** or **016-5518172** or email: contact@perakacademy.com.

Iskandar Merdeka League Tournament, a low goal polo tournament, **March 21-31**, 9.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m. at the Iskandar Polo Club, Ampang Baru, Ipoh. Nine teams will be participating. For enquiries, contact: Ms Ju (11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.) at **012-4926420**.

Olympia Ipoh Open Day, **March 23 & 24**, 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. at Olympia College Ipoh, 18 Jalan CM Yusuff, Ipoh. Contact **05-2433868**.

Buffet Lunch Fundraiser by the *Kiwanis Down Syndrome Foundation Ipoh* in conjunction with World Down Syndrome Day. Sunday **March 25**, 1.00-3.00 p.m. at St Mike's Bistro/Restaurant, 5 Jalan Sultan Idris Shah, Ipoh. Adults – RM50; Children below 10 – Free. For more information and tickets, contact: Sue **012-5123202** or Siow **016-5933 068**.

Free Bone Density, Thursday **March 29**, 2.00-4.30 p.m. at the Wellness Centre, 2nd Floor, Pantai Hospital Ipoh. Free Bone Density Screening for first 50 participants who register on the day of event. For information or registration, call the Wellness Centre at **05-540 5604**.

Sultan Yussuf School Batu Gajah Classes of 1966, 1967 Reunion Dinner, Saturday, **April 7**, 7.00 p.m. at the Ipoh City & Country Club, Ipoh. For details and reservations

call: Gopalan Nair **012-4502620**, Bahazin Yeop Harun **012-5270283** or Chew Meng Chye **012-5049857**.

"Happily Ever Laughter Nite" – a fundraiser for *Perak Women for Women Society* in conjunction with International Women's Day, Saturday **April 7**, 7.00 p.m. at Level 6 Tropicana Ballroom, Ipoh. Contact: PWW **05-5469715/012-5212480**.

Preview on Open and Distance Learning (Part-time) Programmes (Open University Malaysia), **April 8** at 55 & 57 Persiaran Greenhill, Ipoh. Undergraduate (Diploma & Bachelor): 10.00 a.m. to 12 noon; Postgraduate (Master and PhD): 2.00 to 4.00 p.m.

"For the Love of Music" – a fundraiser performed by the *Kinta Valley Wind Orchestra*, the *Perak Philharmonic Orchestra* and other guest musicians. Sunday **April 8**, 7.30-8.30 p.m., The Dome, Meru Valley Golf & Country Club, Ipoh. Entrance by donation: RM150 per person (light refreshments included). Limited to 100 seats only. For enquiries, call: Ms Ng at **010-5650412**.

PSPA's musical evening titled 'Australian Encounter', Saturday **April 14**, 7.00 p.m. at Gopeng & Pusing Hall, Kinta Riverfront Hotel & Suites, Ipoh. The audience will also be able to partake in an Australian buffet dinner during the evening performance. For further information, contact: Sara Fernandez (PSPA) **05-5487814** or Witzi Leong **012-5088818**.

Perak Malayalee Association 'Easter and Vishu Nite'. Dinner and concert to be held at the Ipoh City & Country Club on Monday, **April 30**. For details and reservations call: Sakuntala Nair **017-5798062** or Gopalan Nair **012-4502620**.