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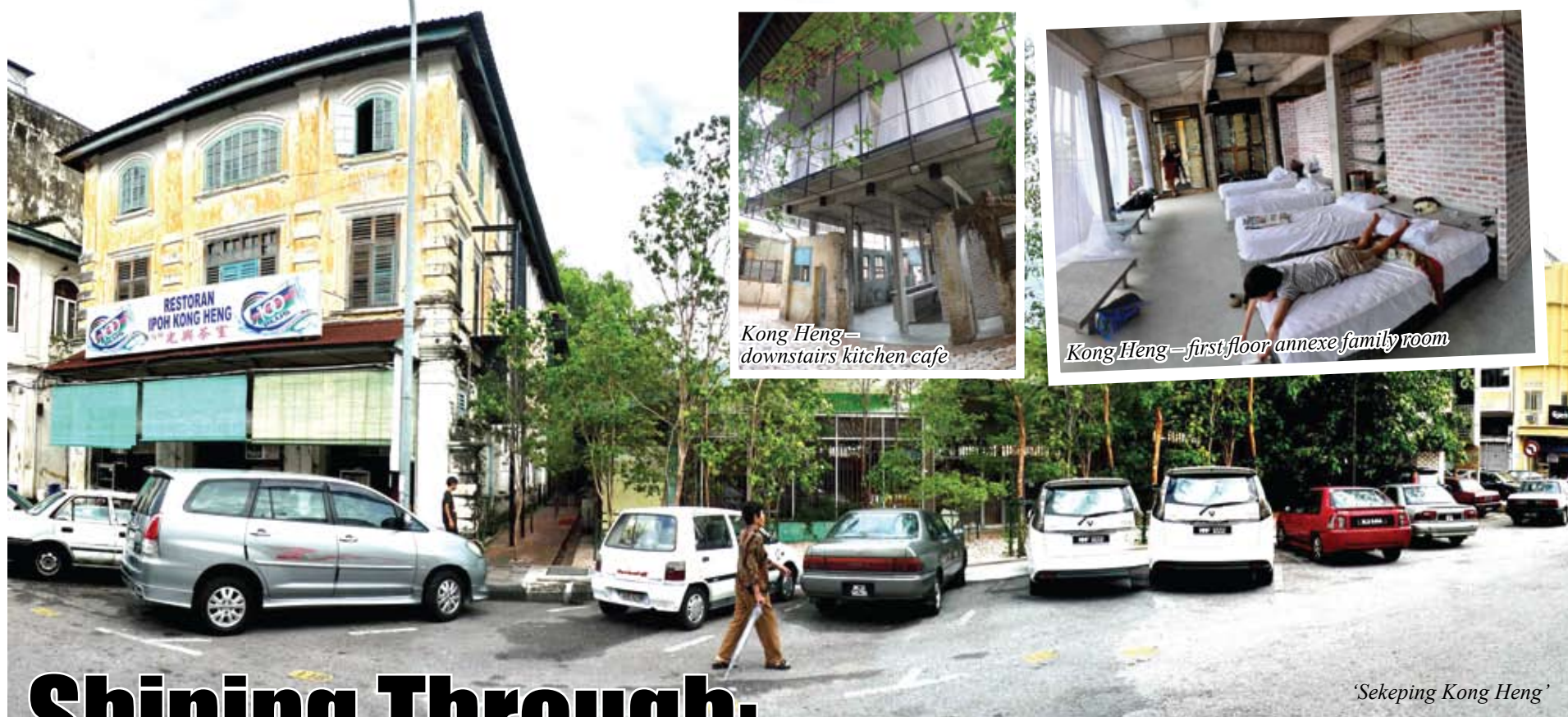


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Kong Heng—  
 downstairs kitchen cafe

Kong Heng—first floor annexe family room

'Sekeping Kong Heng'

## Shining Through: Ipoh's Heritage Spirit

by James Gough

Ipoh, the Town that Tin Built, is beginning to come alive and heritage preservation is playing a big role. Since the collapse of the tin industry in the late eighties Ipoh has slowly but surely been on a downward spiral. Many of its youth, attracted to the more progressive cities of Kuala Lumpur and Penang, have left Ipoh in a mass exodus, earning it the label of being a retirement town. Concomitantly, old buildings, some of them well worth preserving, have been left to rot and decay, some even collapsing, as in the case of Concubine Lane.

Continued on page 2



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# Movement at Last

Finally things are beginning to move in Ipoh. Ipohites with nostalgia, as well as property developers, are beginning to take an active interest in preserving Ipoh's rich heritage and some of its buildings. If we drive along several roads in New and Old Town, we will notice that progress has been made in certain old shop lots which have been upgraded with their exterior façades maintained while their interior have been modernised.

Currently, we are seeing a proliferation of this 'preservation of Ipoh' with the 'restoration' of multiple units of properties which their owners say will be turned into boarding houses or boutique hotels or "restored just to keep the spirit of Ipoh alive". A welcome spirit indeed and one which Ipoh Echo has set out to explore and document.

## 'Sekeeping Kong Heng': A Guest House

Over at Old Town amongst the Heritage Trail lies the Dramatist Hostel, more popularly known as Kong Heng coffee shop famous for its *kai see hor fun* and other local food fare. The property which is bordered by Leech Street (Jalan Bandar Timah), Jalan Panglima, the adjacent lane till Belfield Street (Jalan Sultan Yussuf) was purchased by its current owners in 2008. This is a 3-storey building where actors stayed and rehearsed and performed at the Chinese Opera Theatre next door which has since been demolished but the hostel remains.

One of its owners is renowned landscape architect Ng Sek San, an Ipoh boy, who said that "Ipoh was a good place to grow up" and felt that "it should be preserved for the next generation". However, for Ng "restoration is not just about restoring, that would become a museum. I want something that is living. Every building has a spirit. We should visualise and build around that spirit."

Late last year Kong Heng coffee shop was closed for five days for a clean-up and that was all the attention paid to it. Not so for the hostel that Ng has transformed into a guest house – 'Sekeeping Kong Heng' (a slice of Kong Heng).

The wood walls of the partitioned rooms on the first floor have been replaced with concrete sheets and each room has been fitted with its own bathroom. There are eight rooms on this floor.

On the second floor, the open floor now has two bathrooms plus two suspended air-conditioned glass houses above the rehearsal floor which can also be used as a function room. As Ng explained "we provide the space and allow the users creativity to take over, which should appeal to young people".

## Adaptive Reuse

While the main Kong Heng building has been restored the kitchen at the back has been maintained and made an excellent example of adaptive reuse by building another two storeys over it which adjoins it to the original building by the staircase in between.

The first floor annexe is 'literally' a covered open-air family room. It can accommodate one double and four single beds. The bedroom walls are of wire mesh and the tall uncut trees keep the room cool and comes with a mosquito net.

The second floor annexe is an open-air communal room with tables and chairs. The "kitchen is planned to become a café later on" while there are no plans yet for the 'store' which has been cleared of its intruding roots. The space between the two buildings has been paved with cobblestone and the entire ground floor is kept cool under a canopy from the original matured trees.

From the main road, the building appears that nothing has changed other than the paved lane and newly-planted trees. But then Kong Heng coffee shop is just 25% of the total property. As for the cost, Ng says he pays more for labour than material as he uses mainly local material. Ng only uses T5 fluorescent tubes (it's environmentally friendly) and has installed grease traps (I don't want to pollute the Kinta River). His plan for the rest of the property is "not thought of yet".

## 5-Star Boutique Hotel In New Town

Unlike Kong Heng, 63-year old Fong Soo Har, the owner of Tin City Hotel which is



Fong Soo Har in front of Tin City Hotel under construction

still under construction, has his hotel's plans all laid out.

The hotel located on three units of shop houses along busy Brewster Road (Jalan Sultan Idris Shah) is scheduled for completion in May next year. It will be a 5-star boutique hotel, eight storeys tall and will have just 26 rooms with two being duplex penthouses on the top floor which also houses the swimming pool. The hotel will also be the first in Ipoh to have an elevated car park for 12 cars.

Eight years ago Fong began investing in property in New Town and subsequently purchased three units along Jalan Sultan Idris Shah for the hotel and another seven units across the road. His reason for investing in Ipoh is because "I love Ipoh. KL is like New York – too busy. I grew up in Ipoh. I love it here and want to keep it looking like before."

Fong was born and raised in Tronoh. His father owned a tin mine there but when he grew up he made furniture cabinets at Gunung Rapat and later expanded his business to a factory at Lahat.

He left for New York in the late 80s "when business was very bad" also making furniture cabinets there. After two years working with a friend he started his own business in New York.

The original building was a three-storey building with half-moon French windows for its frontal façade. Fong maintained the front façade because "that is what it looked like driving down Brewster Road".

In order to ensure his ideas stayed focused, Fong brought in his New York architect Renny Booth whom he worked with for over 14 years.

He chose the name *Tin City Hotel* "because the whole hotel will be a tin mine story".

Fong hasn't worked out the details for the interior yet but he plans to put a replica of a *palong* on the top floor complete with water flowing down to the pool area which can be seen as one drives along Jalan Sultan Idris Shah.

## More Restoration in the Pipeline

*Lim Ko Pi* is a Kopitiam-style coffee house, located at 10-16 Hugh Low Street (Jalan Sultan Iskandar) before the intersection with Belfield Street. It is one of two red buildings (to the right) with the yellow Oversea Building in between.

Interestingly, its owner Lim Chai Hock is a Kedah citizen who married Ipoh girl Lee Yoke Chee and with their three daughters are all interested in preserving Ipoh's heritage.

Lim who has worked around Malaysia, currently works overseas. He compared Ipoh to China Town Kuala Terengganu "which is less than a kilometre long but has been well preserved and is a huge tourist attraction there". Lim hopes to duplicate that model for Ipoh explaining "Ipoh is a hundred years old and spread out and preservation opportunities are everywhere."

One of the reasons he purchased 10-16 Hugh Low Street is because the Oversea



Oversea Building (in yellow), Lim Ko Pi on the right

Building "is a landmark in Ipoh and should be preserved".

To cement his conviction that Heritage Tourism in Ipoh has potential, Lim has since made some very significant property purchases. Another landmark he has purchased is the 3-storey SPH De Silva building at the intersection of Belfield Street (Jalan Sultan Yussuf) and Station Road (Jalan Dato Maharajalela). This 'Neo-Renaissance design building is one of Ipoh's oldest commercial buildings and restoring it "contributes towards the city's fine streetscape".

At the intersection of Hugh Low Street and Chamberlain Road (Jalan CM Yussuf), Lim has also purchased seven shop lots which, wife Lee says, will be painted the seven colours of the rainbow. The reason for the purchase: "the buildings are still in their original condition but more importantly they all have a balcony which makes them unique". Already two of the buildings have been painted red and yellow.

Lim's vision for his properties is to restore and preserve them. All the properties are currently being upgraded and restored. However, his plans for 10-16 Hugh Low Street is to turn it into a boutique hotel with nine rooms, function room and two diners.

The efforts of these three entrepreneurs are testimony that the spirit of Ipoh Heritage is catching on. The heritage activity that may have started at the Old Town Heritage Trails has now spread to New Town so maybe it is timely that the Kinta Heritage Group should come out with heritage maps 3 and 4 which will cover New Town.

Hopefully with the featuring of the efforts of these three entrepreneurs more individuals, and possibly corporations, will come forward to preserve Ipoh town for the next generation to be able to appreciate its past.

*More pics online*



Two units of the planned 'rainbow' shop lots



## From the Editor's Desk

by Fathol Zaman Bukhari

## Is The Future In Our Hands?

*The future is ours to decide. We cannot leave it to the politicians to do the thinking. We cannot allow those with bloated egos to think for us. Neither can we allow kleptocratic leaders to do the honours...*

Former Finance Minister and Umno stalwart, Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah has a strong affinity for Ipoh and this could be the reason why he makes frequent trips here. And each time he stops by there is no telling what he will say about the goings-on in the country. Tengku Razaleigh, or more fondly Ku Li to his legion of fans, would take a pot shot at the BN-led administration especially its most dominant partner, Umno. It is not that he has a dislike for the party but more like advice from a senior member whose heart is with the *rakyat*.

Ku Li was on another of his whistle stops when he was invited to launch a book by Koon Yew Yin on Sunday, April 1 at Syuen Hotel, Ipoh. Despite it being an April Fools' Day the significance of the occasion was never lost. As expected, his presence did much to excite the 100-odd invitees who waited patiently for the Kelantan prince to make his appearance. It did not matter that he was late by over an hour, the audience, which consisted of the who's who of Ipoh's society, was prepared to forgive. They were there to hear what the Umno maverick had to say.

There have been many comments and views expressed about his short speech. The most succinct had been those on the online news portals. The mainstream media, however, were less enthusiastic, treating it like some insignificant event not worth reporting. That is only expected of them.

The speech titled, "Malaysia: The Future is in Our Hands" was delivered in true Ku Li's fashion – direct and to the point. Dispensing advice must be made in such a manner in order to make it more effective. And since much has been said about his speech, I wish to only dwell on three aspects which are relevant at this moment in time.

On our future Ku Li proclaimed: "...the future of innocent children yet unborn for generations to come is in your hands. It is not the King who will decide the future for us. It is not what the Prime Minister wants that will be of any consequence. It is you, the ordinary citizens, meaning the farmer, teacher...and even the unemployed vagrant who is going to decide the destiny of our children."

Unemployed vagrant? That is a tall order considering that the unemployed, the mat rempits, the snatch thieves and a horde of other unsavoury characters are a bane to society, as they need to be cared for using our depleting resources. But what Ku Li said is true. The future is ours to decide. We cannot leave it to the politicians to do the

thinking. We cannot allow those with bloated egos to think for us. Neither can we allow kleptocratic leaders to do the honours. We have to decide what is good or bad for us. And in making this decision we have to cast aside religion, colour and race and think as one.

On voting he warned, "There are many Malaysians who complain about the government but are not registered voters. They do not commit themselves wholeheartedly to seek change and to exercise their voting rights to choose a better government."

Ku Li was right. If we failed to treasure these rights then we have ourselves to blame. So if you have not yet registered as a voter, please do so before it is too late. Stop whining about a bias Election Commission. Leave that to Ambiga and her *Bersih* gang.

Our less-than-perfect education system, said Ku Li is one of the reasons for our debilitating captive mind which has inhibited our power to reason and see things beyond race and creed.

"Our educational curricula do not encourage the moral and intellectual reform of the mind...the education system has failed to impart the fundamentals of scientific thinking and reasoning in relation to our own society."

The flaw in our education system needs no elaboration, as is evidenced from the quality of people joining the job market each passing year. If and unless a total overhaul is done, our society will forever be mired in mediocrity.

And having discussed the foregoing, do we honestly feel that the future is in our hands? The answer is both yes and no. Yes, if we have the commitment to make a change and no if we are contented with what is around us. I rest my case.



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## In The Name of My Father's Estate

by Peter Lee

## Episode 4

John said to his family in the meeting "I think we can only decide how best to deal with father's estate once I receive news from Dave, our lawyer, regarding Connie's claim on his estate." Before the meeting ended Mrs Patricia Lee said to John in anger "Find out for me who this woman is and her claim as soon as possible. I wonder whether this is your father's reward to me after all these years of marriage and loyalty." She further asked her children "so are you guys still going to fight over the appointment of Administrators?" Sandy then asked "Mum, what do you have in mind?" Patricia replied, "I suggest that John and Michele be appointed as joint administrators of the estate, and since Dave mentioned we need Guarantors, then John and I will be the Guarantors. Are you people okay with my suggestion? If you people are agreeable, then we still have to hear from Dave whether your father's so called second wife and her children are also the beneficiaries of the estate. If it is, god knows what will happen next!" Nick and Sandy were uncomfortable with the suggestion of the appointment of Administrators but finally agreed with the rest out of respect for their mum.

After the meeting, John quickly phoned Dave and said "Hi Dave, I just finished my meeting with my family. Mum is really upset now. Can you please check on Connie's claim as soon as possible?"

When they met in Dave's office, Dave said to John "I have checked Connie's documents. The will is invalid due to only one witness signing. The requirement of two witnesses to sign is clearly defined in Section 5 (2) of the Wills Act, 1959. However, I have yet to verify whether the marriage between your father and Connie was in 1980 because any marriage before March 1982, whether registered or customary, is considered legal. This is stated in Section 4 of the Law Reform (Marriage & Divorce) Act, 1976. Your father's name on the birth certificates specifying him as the father of the three sons is genuine. The ages of these children are 10, 12 and 15." "So does it mean that if it is proven that their marriage was before March 1982, then Connie and her three children stand to inherit my father's fortune?" asked John. Dave replied "yes" and further said "since your father's parents have passed away then your mother and Connie will share the one-third entitlement of your father's estate while two-thirds will be shared by you, your five siblings, and your three step siblings who are still minors. This distribution is stated in Section 6(1) of the Malaysian Distribution (Amendment) Act, 1997. Another thing is the appointment of administrators for your father's estate would also require the consent of Connie and her three children. This is stated in Section 30 of the Probate & Administration Act, 1959 with the approval of the court. "Oh my God, what has Father got us into" said John. "So, what shall we do now?" John asked Dave. Dave said "since I have her contact number on her letter, why not let me make an appointment to meet up with Connie on your behalf and find out more on her status before we decide on the next course of action." John agreed and asked Dave to proceed with it.

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: 2nd Floor, 108 Jalan Raja Ekram (Cowan St.), 30450 Ipoh. Tel.: 012-5078825/ 05-2554853 or excelscc@streamyx.com. Website: http://www.wills-trust.com.my. (Peter Lee's column appears monthly.)

## World Glaucoma Week AWARENESS SERIES

In conjunction with World Glaucoma Awareness Week, Ipoh Echo talks to Consultant Eye Surgeon Dr S.S. Gill about this "silent thief of sight" – PART 5

Glaucoma as you know has been nicknamed the "silent thief of sight". This disease results in **permanent irreversible blindness** in the affected eye(s) that often goes without symptoms until the loss of vision is significant or the patient is blind.

Early diagnosis means early treatment and **therefore prevention of major loss of vision**. Diagnosing glaucoma may require **elaborate testing** to be done by the eye doctor.

The following are basically the tests that are done before making a diagnosis of glaucoma:

Examination of:	Name of Eye Test:
1. Eye Pressure	>Tonometry
2. Angle of the eye where the aqueous (eye fluid) drains	>Gonioscopy
3. Optic Nerve check	>Ophthalmoscopy (dilated eye exam)
4. Field of Vision	>Perimetry
5. Thickness of the Optic Nerve Fibre Layer	>Ocular Coherence Tomography Scan

## 1. Tonometry



This is the measurement of the **eye pressure** (intraocular pressure or IOP). This is often the first test that is done. If a person has higher than normal eye pressure, it would mean that the person would have a **higher risk** for glaucoma. It is important to understand that having eye pressure higher than normal does not mean a definite diagnosis of glaucoma.

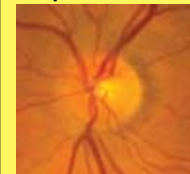
The test is done by first instilling some eyedrops to numb the eye. Following that, the eye pressure (IOP) will be measured using a Goldmann tonometer which is the gold standard in measurement.

## 2. Gonioscopy or examination of the eye drainage area

This test is done if you are suspected to have glaucoma. A special device called a gonioscope is used to examine the angle where the aqueous (eye fluid) drains in the eye. The viewing of this drainage area allows the eye doctor to diagnose the **kind** of glaucoma a person may be suffering from in order for the correct treatment to be given to the patient.



## 3. Optic Nerve check



Normal optic disc

An instrument called an ophthalmoscope or **Fundus Imaging Camera** is used to examine the optic nerve. The appearance indicates whether or not damage from glaucoma is present. It is important to examine the optic nerve from time to time, in order to look for **progression of nerve damage** due to glaucoma. The picture on the left shows a normal optic nerve (optic disc).

## Normal Optic Nerve

The picture on the right shows the damage that occurs to the optic nerve or optic disc due to glaucoma (indicated by the arrows).



Optic nerve damage in glaucoma

Dr Gill will elaborate more on the eye tests that are done for glaucoma in the next issue of the Ipoh Echo.

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



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Thinking **ALLOWED** • by Mariam MokhtarCleanliness Is a **Matter of Attitude**

We will never be rid of the twin terrors of trash and toilets if our attitude to filth remains. Just read the mainstream papers. Littered streets, blocked drains, fly-tipping and dirty amenities, are regularly reported, but very little improvement is made.

Despite claims by the Ipoh Mayor, Roshidi Hashim, that he will not tolerate piles of garbage and indiscriminate dumping, the problem persists. At one time, Ipoh was dubbed the Garden City and envied by other Malaysian cities. Today, the deterioration is evident. How can Ipoh return to its former glory? Can we ever regain the pride we once had in Ipoh?

Last Chinese New Year, Mrs Choo's celebration was marred by the stench from an illegal rubbish dump nearby. No-one should have to put up with the foul smell, the mess and the health hazards caused by rats and stray dogs foraging for food. "Last year during house-cleaning, someone threw over 30 bags full of waste over there. A few days ago, someone threw a sofa, wooden planks and eight bags."

## Began 10 Years Ago

Mrs Choo, a resident of Taman Ipoh for the past two decades, claims that the impromptu dump-site began 10 years ago. "It's even worse during Chinese New Year, as people clean their houses and generate more rubbish. Some even have the nerve to throw junk directly into my drain."

In another part of town, visitors to Jalan Spooner in Buntong are confronted with what looks like a landfill site. There are piles of putrefying organic matter, discarded furniture, construction rubble, food-waste and assorted plastic items.

Residents here claim that the dump appeared in the past decade. When a complaint was made via someone with influence, city council workers equipped with a bulldozer pushed the rubbish from the road into the nearby bushes. The newly created space just attracted more fly-tippers.

In Fair Park, Mrs Kua has lost count of the number of times she has contacted the Ipoh City Council (MBI) to clear the rubbish dump behind her house. Her problem is worse during wet weather because the rubbish clogs the drains. She is not alone in witnessing other residents throwing rubbish onto the dump.

Ipoh's growing mountain of rubbish is a problem that is also experienced in more affluent parts of the city. Residents close to the Ipoh Turf Club and the Perak Golf Club are angry with uncollected garbage and blocked drains.

One resident, Cik Poniah said: "There are weeds and small trees, around four feet high, growing in the drains. Council workers have avoided the area and have not been seen for months."

"The vegetation clogs up the drains, and when it rains, the roads flood. Monitor lizards and snakes thrive in these drains. Plant roots damage the drains. Don't the authorities realise that it will cost more to mend the broken drains?"

Her neighbour, Puan Rose, agreed: "The decline in the services happened about 10 years ago when MBI appointed contractors with a lackadaisical attitude to work. If they felt like it, they would turn up to collect the rubbish. Previous to that, the council had a supervisor to check on their work. Nowadays, we'd be lucky if the dumpster appears."

The litter situation has declined further and Ipohites believe that MBI will accept complaints about rubbish but will do nothing, because they know that the people will eventually tire of complaining and then stop contacting MBI.

Residents have requested that more enforcement officers patrol the streets to fine errant offenders. One resident was furious when told that MBI "had no idea when their officers would turn up".

## Taking Matters into Own Hands

One irate resident who was frustrated with MBI's failure to look after the interests of Ipoh's ratepayers, decided to take matters into his own hands. In early March, three lorry loads of coconut husks were dumped beside the highway, near Ampang, in Ipoh, whilst another lorry-load was dumped close to mayor Roshidi's home.

Roshidi responded by demanding that his enforcement officers locate the culprit and punish him. "I don't care who is responsible for throwing the coconut husks. There will be no compromise when it comes to illegal rubbish dumping. They are traitors to our cause to keep the city clean."

He warned that his officers would monitor illegal dumpsites and announced that unsightly garbage piles would deter tourists, especially during VPY 2012.

## Public Mind-sets Change

Various people and organisations have been trying to get to grips with the filth, but unless our mind-set changes and until we educate the public and the workers, by going back to basics, hygiene and rubbish issues will remain unresolved.

Tourists have already begun complaining. In late March two Swedes reported



to the regional papers about having to pay to use filthy toilets at the bus terminal in Medan Gopeng, but their horrifying experience is worthy of another article.

Priorities must be made. It was reported that the mayor and the Tourism Perak CEO Ahmad Fathil Abd Ghani will spend RM1 million to "beautify" Ipoh, by illuminating the limestone hills around the city.

Roshidi said, "When lit up at night, they will be really beautiful and I believe this will be an added tourist attraction for Ipoh."

This money would be better spent on a more efficient rubbish collection service, more regular rubbish collection and more enforcement officers. Rather than illuminate the limestone hills which do not require more "beautifying", the money could be spent on street lighting to reduce crime and drug addicts. In times of austerity, money should be spent wisely.

## Personalised Gifts for Sale



If you think it is hard to find a good gift for animal lovers, look no further. The newly-opened Henry Cats & Friends outlet at Tesco Ipoh is the place to go. Located on the first floor next to Time Galerie, the novelty shop features items for the home and kitchen, as well as fashion. All with cute animals printed on them.

On entering the chic-looking outlet, customers are greeted with a remarkable display of hand-painted stones of furry animals. Designed by Henry Lee from Taiwan, each stone takes about two months to paint. Each item is designed to be a unique personalised gift for friends and family.

Make a date with Henry Cats & Friends outlet at Tesco Ipoh and get your personalised gifts. No customer has ever regretted stepping into the outlets throughout the world. Online purchases can be made at [www.henryfriends.com](http://www.henryfriends.com) with prices ranging from RM5 to RM300.

Tiffany

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## Musings on Food

seefoon@ipohecho.com.my

By See Foon Chan-Koppen

Photos by Chris DiGiovanna

# SeeFoon goes Italian

Chef Kenny Lim doesn't believe in shortcuts. Coming from a family of hoteliers, Kenny has been drilled in formal kitchen and culinary skills from the age of 17 when he went to Les Roches International School of Hotel Management in Switzerland. Armed with a diploma in Hotel Management from Les Roches (rated one of the top four hotel schools in the world), Kenny decided that hotel management was not for him and went straight into doing what he loved best: cooking.

Since then he has worked in some of the finest kitchens in both East and West Malaysia including stints with Shangri-la and Regent Hotels in Kuala Lumpur, the Hard Rock Cafes in Singapore and KL, the Cyberview Lodge in Cyberjaya and many others.

It was serendipity that found him in Ipoh where he and his wife were staying with his brother-in-law before moving on to Penang, where he was considering re-joining his ex-boss at the Hard Rock Hotel there. Finding that his wife and their three girls aged 16, 15 and 9 loved Ipoh, and as luck would have it, he met up with an American investor who was keen to take over the existing Italia Mia restaurant which was then up for sale. And so a partnership was formed, with Kenny presiding in the kitchen and Soli, the American partner's wife helping the service and front of the house.

I noticed the difference the first time I went there after the new management took over. I have always been a regular at the 'old' Italia Mia and I needed to find out what was happening in the 'new'.



The decor has remained but the menu was different – more trattoria style and less formal. But it was the prices that caught my eye. Visibly lower than the previous management, the only option was to use the old adage 'proof of the pudding is in the eating', which a group of us did with gusto.

We decided to blow diets to the wind and ordered a selection of their appetizers that included **fried mozzarella sticks** and **deep fried calamari** (squid) both served with their home-made marinara sauce, a tangy fresh tasting tomato based sauce that lent a piquancy to the fried titbits.

We then had a slice of **pizza** each, the one we ordered being the **Pepperoni** (beef) from a choice of five. The crust was thin and crisp, with a generous topping of cheese and pepperoni. The roast duck pizza is apparently a must try and will be on the new menu which is due out shortly.

The **Parrot fish Piccata**, pan fried with capers and served with a lemon butter sauce was very flavourful, tinged with the tartness of the capers which complemented the firm fresh fish. It wasn't on the menu and was one of their featured 'Fish of

the Day' specials. However, this will be on the new menu – RM42.

We followed this up with the **country roast lamb rack**, marinated and braised in own juices served with ratatouille (mixed vegetables stew) and mashed potatoes. Hints of rosemary, garlic, and citrus flavours wafted from the table as we tucked into this very succulent lamb – RM56.

Next was the **Seafood Spaghetti A'lio O'lio** one of their signature dishes, a cornucopia of seafood – prawns, mussels, squid – pan fried with garlic and tossed with white wine and al dente spaghetti, topped with parsley – RM28. Definitely a must-have for those into seafood.

The entire menu is small but with a selection to please all palates from the vegetarian to the 'fishtarian' to the carnivore with a choice of chicken, lamb and rib eye steaks.

Their wine list is modest ranging from RM85 to RM110,



great for an evening of wining and dining in air-conditioned comfort in a European ambience, with white table cloths, where the service provided by Soli is extremely friendly and superlative and for me most importantly of all, where the toilets are clean and fresh smelling!

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## RECIPE

By Margarita Lee



## Leek & Potato Soup

### Ingredients:

- 1 tbsp. olive oil/vegetable oil
- 1 tbsp. butter
- 1 onion, sliced
- 500gm potatoes, sliced
- 3 to 4 medium leeks, sliced
- 1.5 litres vegetable stock or water with added stock cubes
- 250 ml milk
- 100 ml double cream
- Salt to taste
- ¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper

### Method:

- Heat oil in a pot, sauté onion till soft, add in potatoes and leeks, and cook with low heat until soft, stir in butter.
- Add in the vegetable stock and bring it to boil, simmer for 20 minutes until potatoes and leeks are tender.
- Whizz it with a blender until smooth, add in milk.
- Reheat the soup, season with salt and pepper.
- Add a tablespoon of cream to the centre of each bowl of soup and swirl it round gently with a fork.
- Garnish with croutons/sprinkle chopped parsley or chives.





## Young Perak

### PUO Students Graduate



Some 2,818 students from Politeknik Ungku Omar (PUO), Ipoh received their diplomas during a convocation ceremony held at the college hall recently. Due to the number, the ceremony was held over a three-day period. DYT Raja Muda Perak, Raja Nazrin Shah gave away the parchments on the first day followed by the Chief Secretary of the Ministry of Higher Education, the Managing Director of PERODUA and finally the Chairman of Gas Malaysia. It was PUO's 41st convocation ceremony since its inception.

A number of excellence awards were also given to students who had excelled in their fields of work. Among them were the polytechnic's overall top student, the top-semester students and the most innovative project winners.

Politeknik Ungku Omar is the first of the many polytechnics established in the country. Founded in 1969 with assistance from UNESCO, it has developed by leaps and bounds to be a top-notch technical institution in the country. Graduates of PUO are well sought after by industrial players. Its transformation into a full-fledged university by 2015 is well underway.

Chief Minister of Perak, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir was in attendance on the first day of the convocation ceremony.

RM

## Students Win Excellence Awards

Four engineering students of Politeknik Ungku Omar (PUO) won excellence awards for their entry at the National Innovation Competition held in Perlis in April of last year. The quartet, Nur Zurika Muhammad, Farhana Abu Hassan, Lim Tian How and Kee Shen May, all in their twenties, received the awards at the polytechnic's 41st convocation ceremony on Monday, April 2. Their entry, a custom-made alarm system codenamed 3S' System, won a placing in the competition. The awards were given away by DYT Raja Muda Perak, Raja Nazrin Shah, along with their diplomas, during the convocation ceremony.

RM



## Sport

### Time to Buck up Guys

It's definitely not time for fans to hold candlelight vigils or hold mass protest outside the Perak FA headquarters. But the time has arrived for Perak to sort things out and perform. Three defeats in their last four games have seen them slip down the pecking order to seventh place in the league, behind the likes of Negeri Sembilan and T-Team FC.

It has always been maintained that this Seladang squad is moderate, but well capable of ranking higher in the league. After surrendering their unbeaten home record to Lions XII, the classy touch has gone from their style of play. The FA Cup win against ATM was a rather scrappy affair while their performance in the 2-2 draw with PKNS was subdued.

Nevertheless, the fans have plenty of hope for the team. It is a known fact that the Selangans biggest chance for silverware would be the FA Cup. But predictably, they failed to dispatch Terengganu in the quarter finals last month. That poor form was carried into their next game where Kelantan outshone them in Ipoh, winning by 2-0 in the process. It hard to convert chances. However, they became a serious problem when Norizan Bakar's men were thrashed 3-0 at home by Kedah. Perak were absolutely shambolic on the day, struggling to match Kedah's hardworking squad, while also showing no real determination on the pitch.

Yes, Perak did secure a much needed 2-1 victory against Kuala Lumpur on April 7, but Norizan Bakar's men were back to square one after yet another 1-2 defeat to Lions XII four days later. The Selangans showed glimpses of their impressive form against V. Sundramoorthy's men, but failed to sustain it for the whole match. Expectedly, Michal Kubala was perhaps the only Perak player that showed initiative during the match, working hard in midfield and scoring the equaliser.

The cracks within their confidence are beginning to increase and the pressure from fans is totally justified. There is a significant difference between losing and being defeated with dignity. While there is still time for a revival in fortune, it's about time the Perak players buck up and work harder. Donning a Seladang jersey isn't just about playing football; it's about pride and dignity.

Keesh



## Daulat Tuanku

### Heartiest Congratulations

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Paduka Seri Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah  
Ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah  
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## News Roundup

### KVWO: On a Musical Journey

**T**he Kinta Valley Wind Orchestra which was formed in 2010 will be embarking on another musical journey again, this time to Taiwan.

According to Eugene Pook, KVWO's Music Director their 'journey' began last July when they presented their 'Around The World in 80 Minutes' performance at a local hotel here as part of the PSPA's Perak Performing Arts Festival 2011. After their performance there was an enquiry whether KVWO could do a performance in Penang.

Their first out-of-state performance in Penang was held in January this year. The Charity Musical Show 2012 was held in aid of the Mount Miriam Cancer Hospital which raised a whopping RM88,888.

Immediately after the show, "I was approached to enquire if we could perform in Taiwan" said a smiling Pook. Hence this coming June KVWO will be travelling for their first ever international performance in Taiwan.

Their stay in Taiwan will be sponsored by the Taiwan City Council and Tamkang University. The orchestra will have two performances to help raise funds for Taiwan's aborigine community as well as scholarships for Taiwan's Tamkang students.

To help raise funds for their passage to Taiwan, the KVWO together with the soon-to-be launched Perak Philharmonic Orchestra and 'Friends' held a fund-raising performance themed 'For The Love of Music' at The Dome, Meru Valley Golf & Country Club on April 8.

For Pook, these 'invites' are aligned with the orchestra's aspiration which is "to

put Ipoh/Kinta Valley on the world map" but more so to "give the orchestra's student musicians an opportunity on an international stage and participate in an exchange programme".

Considering that the orchestra is just two years old and has been invited to perform twice within 12 months, is an excellent recognition of the orchestras' talents. However, Pook humbly shrugged off the statement preferring to thank their main sponsor KL Kepong Group and also The Haven and MVGCC for their continuous support of this community orchestra.



JAG

## Fund Raiser for Women

In accepting the tribute, Mother Mangalam stressed the importance of social harmony and family unity. She expressed hope that family and marital guidance could be included in our school syllabus.

Koon matched Ringgit for Ringgit the amount raised from the sale of tickets to the dinner event, amounting to almost RM63,000. He also pledged to do the same for whatever amount PWW manages to raise in the next twelve months.

Entertainment for the night was provided by D'Belle Dance Group, saxophonist Mann G and The Instant Café Theatre Company's Jo Kukatas and Kuah Jenhan, who brought the house down with their humour.

PWW, registered some nine years ago, is a non-profit organisation that relies heavily on public contributions and sponsorships. It strives to empower women in crisis through education and skills training. Proceeds from this fund-raising initiative will be used to fund the operational costs of PWW as well as programmes that are in line with the mission and vision of the society.

EL



**T**he Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) organised a fund-raising dinner at the Tropicana Ballroom and Banquet Hall, Ipoh recently, with the theme "Happily Ever Laughter Nite". It was also held in conjunction with the celebration of International Women's Day 2012, which fell on March 8.

Guests of honour were President of The Pure Life Society Datin Paduka Mother A. Mangalam, known as Mother Teresa of Malaysia, and philanthropist Mr Koon Yew Yin.

The Pure Life Society provides shelter for needy children and Mother Mangalam, over the years, has provided for more than 2,000 children through it. She was a recipient of the Merdeka Award in the education and community category in 2010.

Dato' Seri N.S. Selvamany read out a lengthy tribute to honour Mother Mangalam, who was born into a Hindu family, and how she came to be the co-founder and President of The Pure Life Society. According to Selvamany, the word "mangalam" means "blessing" in Sanskrit and indeed, Mother Mangalam is a blessing to many who have had the pleasure to know her.

## Letters

We reprint some of our reader's comments from our online paper. Go to <http://www.ipohecho.com.my/> to read more. The views expressed in these letters are not necessarily shared by the Editorial Board. We reserve the right to refuse or modify the letters we publish.

### Gua Tempurung



**I** visited Gua Tempurung on March 31 and was shocked at the amount of rubbish in the show cave. Considering it was a Saturday morning and only just the start of the weekend, I dread to think how much more rubbish would accumulate over the weekend. Maybe the rubbish bins have not been emptied for a while. But why are visitors allowed to dump their rubbish, mainly plastic bottles – in the cave. Also there are many broken shoes, and soles from shoes littering the cave. The other problem is visitors are given stickers denoting which tour they are on, but these stickers fall off and there are so many lying on the walkways. Not a good advert for Visit Perak Year 2012, or for Malaysian show caves.

Liz Price

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Heartiest Congratulations

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**Ibni Almarhum Sultan Yussuf Izzuddin Shah**  
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on the occasion of His Royal Highness's  
**Birthday**  
*From*  
**The Board Of Directors, Management & Staff**

**TALIAN PENTING : 1-300-88-1230**



## News Roundup

### SHE Expo 2012

**SHE** (Slimming, Healthy, Enrich) Expo 2012 will be back in Ipoh. The exposition, to be held at Stadium Indera Mulia from April 20 to 23, is open to the public. Operating hours are between 10.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. daily and admission is free. The expo targets female consumers with a few thousand enticing beauty products up for grabs.



Last year nearly 50 exhibitors participated in the show. This year 62 exhibitors

have so far registered and will operate from over 100 booths. Among them are Vigico, Diapex, Coway, PAMA and many more.

A lucky draw will be held each day with attractive prizes such as LED TVs, I-pads, travel vouchers, spa vouchers and beauty products to be won. Hospital Fatimah will be giving a health talk. Make-up shows by Aery Jo Academy and a catwalk presentation by models from the Amber Chia Academy are on the cards to keep the crowd enthralled.

Visitors in excess of 50,000 are expected over the three-day period. The exposition is set to break new grounds.

Tiffany



#### Vacancy for a Coordinator

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### Gift of Dictionaries



The Rotary Club of Sitiawan, with the collaboration of the Rotary Club of USJ Petaling Jaya, handed over some 3,600 dictionaries to students from Manjung District recently. Dr V. Gurunathan, the club's PRO, said that the gift of dictionaries to students from Chinese, Indian and Malay schools is one of the many community-oriented programmes that Rotary Club of Sitiawan had in its pipeline. The students were required to write a simple essay in English on why they wished to own a dictionary. The response was overwhelming. Rotary Club of Sitiawan plans to do more for the hard-core poor, the aged and the physically and intellectually handicapped. Present at the handing-over ceremony were members of Rotary Club USJ Petaling Jaya.

SN

### Illegal Food Stall to Go



A long-standing impasse between an illegal food stall operator and residents of a small corner of Pengkalan Pegoh has finally come to an end. This was made possible by the timely intervention of Dato' Hamidah Osman, the Executive Councillor for Entrepreneur Development and Adun for Sungai Rapat.

The offending food stall, built by a local on the Simpang Pulai-Pengkalan Pegoh road kerb, is a bane to passers-by and motorists using the road to get to Simpang Pulai. The operator's habit of discarding kitchen waste and leftovers at the back of the stall has neighbours up in arms over his lack of civic-consciousness. The stench emanating from the back portion of the shanty is a big turn off for those living within the vicinity.

"The fact that the stall is rented out to an illegal is another factor why it should go," said Hamidah to Ipoh

Echo. "It has been around for over seven years and in spite of complaints, the owner persisted," she added.

Ipoh City Council Secretary, Dato' Abdul Rahim Mohd Arif, who was at the site along with Dato' Hamidah confirmed that no operating permit was issued by the council. "The stall is on reserved land and is, therefore, unlawful," he told Ipoh Echo. The owner was given a week's notice to demolish the illegal structure failing which the council will proceed to do so in accordance with council by-laws.

Shahar Mohd Mokhtar, 56, is irked by the operator's audacity in expanding his stall that it has now almost completely shut out the façade of his interior decoration shop nearby. "It's most irresponsible of him to do so," Shahar protested. He expressed his gratitude to the authorities for resolving the problem despite the passage of time.

RM

### Aiding the Needy



Hedd Industries (M) Sdn Bhd, an Ipoh-based management consultancy, donated RM50,000

to Persatuan Seruan Islam Perak (PSIP) as part of its corporate social responsibility to the local community. A handing-over ceremony was held for the purpose at the society's hall in Jalan Seruan off Jalan Dr Raja Nazrin Shah recently. The money is for the establishment of a training school for Muslim women on the society's premises. Dato' Hj Musa Hj Nordin, Executive Chairman of Kuari Batu Emas Sdn Bhd, the parent company of Hedd Industries, gave a cheque for the said amount to the President of PSIP, Dato' Sheikh Hj Mohamah Nor Mansur. Persatuan Seruan Islam Perak is a charity organisation dedicated to the caring of economically deprived and marginalised Muslims in the state.

Faiz

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcements must be sent by fax: 05-2552181; or email: [announcements@ipohecho.com.my](mailto:announcements@ipohecho.com.my), by the 9<sup>th</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

**Free Consultation on Back Pain & Slipped Discs Conditions by TAGS Spine & Joint Specialists, April 2-30, Call: 1-300-80-SPINE (77463) or visit [www.tags.my](http://www.tags.my).**

**Futsal Rakyat 1 Malaysia by Kelab Sukan Komuniti Ipoh Friday's Perak.** Promotional rates from April 13 to 30. Venue: First Garden, Ipoh. For details call Steven 012-5513517, Vicky 016-5671158 and Deva 012-574 4767.

**Charity Walk for a Healthy Heart and Jumble Sale by Y's Men's Club Ipoh, Saturday, April 21 from 8.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at YMCA Ipoh. For details call K. Letchimanan 012-538 1939.**

**Talk on 'What is Autism and how can I help?' by Mrs Michelle Cheah of AAHA, Saturday April 28, 7.00 p.m. at St Mike's Restaurant. RM30 per pax for buffet dinner. For more information, contact: Ms Siow 016-5933068.**

**Children's Art Colouring Competition by Y's Men's Club Ipoh, Saturday, May 5 from 8.00 a.m. to 12 noon at YMCA Ipoh. For details call Charanjit Kaur 016-553 8443.**

**Tarcisian Convent (TCS) Class of 82 Reunion Lunch, Saturday June 2 from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at Heritage Hotel, Ipoh. Tickets at RM100 are being sold now and all ex-students who were in TCS from 1972 (Std. 1) till 1982 (Form 5) are cordially invited. For details contact: Shanti Jeyaraj @ 012-2892233, Sylvia @ 019-3534561 or Shareena @ 012-3470900.**

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Our Heartiest Congratulations & Best Wishes to our  
Royal Patron

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## Heritage

### Rock Paintings of Tambun

Malaysia's oldest prehistoric rock paintings found at Gunung Panjang, Tambun (Gua Tambun) was the focus of a group of students led by Professor Dr Lynn Hollen Lees from the University of Pennsylvania. The University Malaysia Kelantan students are currently attached to the Ministry of Tourism (Perak) on a 4-month practical training.

The day trip was organised by the Perak Heritage Society as part of its efforts in promoting historical heritage to visitors. The 2-hour hike was strenuous but worthy and, in spite of a heavy downpour, it did not dampen their spirits.

Perak Heritage Society's Law Siak Hong was on



hand to brief the visitors. They had to climb 128 rocky steps to a ledge to observe the huge paintings at close quarters. From that vantage point they could also see Ipoh with the Kledang hills in the background. It was a remarkable sight to behold.

Evidence of vandalism is obvious as some of the paintings have been defaced. Steps to protect these 2,000-year old rock paintings have been taken but they are not sufficient. The difficulty in accessing the location is what that keeps intruders away. But for how long?

According to Professor Lynn, the paintings were similar to rock and cave paintings she had seen in other parts of the world. The site was gazetted by Ipoh City Council in 1986 and was declared a national heritage by the Department of National Heritage on January 10, 2010.

Nadim

## News Roundup

### Aerobics for Health



An aerobics workout session, "Jom Robik", jointly organised by Ipoh City Council, Persatuan Kecergasan Fizikal Daerah Kinta and Fitness

Embassy was held at Polo Ground one Sunday morning recently. It attracted the participation of a few hundred people. Guest of honour, Dato' Chang Ko Youn, joined in the workout, alongside Fitness Embassy Director, Tommy Huang.

Addressing the press later, Chang said that the activity was aimed at encouraging people to exercise to avoid health issues from cropping up as they age. The three leading causes of death in Malaysia presently are heart diseases, cancer and stroke. The risk from these diseases could be reduced with regular exercise, he said.

Illness affects productivity of citizens. Therefore, a healthy society will decrease the economic burden on the government.

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## Sport

## Moving Forward...Ipoh Bug



**I**poh Bug which started in 2008 with the goal of 'Developing Youth through Sport' had an active month in March with their holding of the Junior Cup and the launch of their Football Centre.

The Junior Cup was held during the first term school holidays and saw five teams each participating in the U13 and U15 mini tournament with teams

coming from Kedah and Kuala Lumpur.

The Under-13 champion was Team Ipoh Bug while the Under-15 champion was Team Ipoh International School.

Ipoh Bug's Football Centre which was launched in early March has so far brought in two ex-National football players, Chan Keat Swee and Wong Kuw Fou to train its players.

According to William Chang, Ipoh Bug's Chief Co-ordinator, the goal of the Football Centre is "to provide the boys with more than just the basic training to excel in the game with the target of preparing them to participate in league games". The Centre's weekly training is held at the YMCA field. Ipoh Bug charges a nominal fee for the training which covers field rentals and travel cost for invited coaches.

Besides the Centre, the club also holds football training every Sunday at the Rangers Camp, Tambun Road from 5.00-7.00 p.m.

JAG

## Polo: Iskandar Merdeka League Tournament

**T**he recently held Iskandar Merdeka League Tournament had an exciting final when the score after the 4th chukka was a 6 all draw which had the teams going into sudden-death overtime.

Team Izira ultimately won the tournament when teammate Yudie Fazly Jamili put in the final goal to beat Royal Pahang 7-6 in a keenly fought match which saw relative newcomer Team Izira putting up a hard fight for their first ever league tournament win.

Izira Patron Azlizan Zabidin, more popularly known as 'Ijan', was ecstatic explaining that this was her team's first win since being formed a year ago adding that she and co-Patron Tengku Uzir would shuttle between KL and Ipoh during the tournament, to plan ahead before their upcoming matches.

The President of Iskandar Polo Club (IPC), Dato'



Radzi Manan, the organiser of the tournament said he was satisfied with the overall tournament considering that this was the first league tournament it had organised after a long hiatus. A total of eight teams participated in this low goal polo tournament of which three teams were from Pahang. IPC's team is called the Tambun Tigers.

JAG

## Muaythai Fit Warrior (Northern Zone)

**A**bout fifty pugilists from Perlis, Kedah, Penang and Perak gathered at Ipoh's Muaythai Academy recently to fight for the honour of representing northern zone in the Muaythai Fit Warrior National Championship.

There were seven weight categories in all. Winners from each category and their first runners-up will proceed to Putrajaya this May to represent northern zone at the national championship held in conjunction with National Youth Day.

Besides winning cash prizes and medals, the top two fighters in all categories will be provided with intensive training to prepare them for the championship.

Winners at the Malaysian Muaythai Fit Warrior Championship will then represent the country in the Asian Championship to be held in Iraq in May and the World Championship in Russia in September.

The Ipoh bouts were won by: Azyzie Aziz from Kedah (48-51kg), Mohamad Firdaus B. Janai from Kedah (51-54kg), Muhammad Qhalid from Kedah (54-57kg), Wan Muhammad Ridzuan from Perak (57-60kg), Azman B. Rezali from Perak (60-63.5kg), Azhar Zakaria from Kedah (63.5-67kg) and Muhammad Sayuti from Perak (67-71kg).

EL



## Basketball – Sultan Azlan Shah Cup



**C**hina Xiamen emerged champion of the inaugural Sultan Azlan Shah Cup International Basketball Championship 2012 held at Stadium Indera Mulia, Ipoh. The Chinese team defeated Philippines Far Eastern University 90-64 after a hard fought match which saw tempers flaring. The narrow defeat of the Chinese to the Filipinos in the preliminary round could be the reason for the highly charged match. China Xiamen's top scorer, Liu Yi-Sheng netted 22 points.

This is the second time the Chinese team had won an international invitation title in Malaysia. They won the Johor International Invitation in October last year.

Perak Selection defeated Royal Thai Navy 102 – 58 to end the tournament as the 5th best team. Australia's Gold Coast Authentic All-Stars edged Taiwan's Normal University 103 – 87 for the 3rd spot. A total of eight teams participated.

The tournament was organised by the Malaysian Basketball Association and held in Ipoh in conjunction with Visit Perak Year 2012. The opening ceremony on Tuesday, March 27 was officiated by DYMM Sultan Azlan Shah while the final on Monday, April 2 was graced by DYT Raja Muda, Raja Nazrin Shah. Chief Minister, Dato' Seri DiRaja Zambry Abd Kadir was in attendance.

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## News Roundup

### New Police Beat Base



Mayor Dato' Roshidi Hashim and Deputy Chief Police Officer, Dato' Zakaria Yuof jointly declared opened the newly built RM33,000 police beat base at Ipoh's popular night market, Gebang Malam recently. The siting of the base in this part of the city is to ensure safety and security for visitors to this thriving flea market. The area around Jalan Dato' Tahwil Azar is a noted hot spot known for its many petty crimes. The base will be manned by the Police and the council's enforcement officers.

"Joint-patrolling is an effective way to combat crime," said the mayor in his opening remarks. "The physical presence of security personnel is a good deterrence. Moreover, it's part of the much-lauded Government Transformation Programme to improve the quality of public services and to increase efficiency and transparency," he added.

Since mobility is essential, patrolling will be done in multi-purpose vehicles supplied by the Police and the Council. "The objective is to get the personnel to the troubled spot in double-quick time," said Zakaria to reporters.

There are two other bases in the city which are similarly managed. One is located at Polo Ground and the other at Little India in downtown Ipoh.

RM

## Leisure

### Good Food, Good Wine and Good Fellowship

The International Wine and Food Society (IWFS) Ipoh branch, held their annual AGM at Restaurant Lee How Fook recently. A new committee was elected under the stewardship of incoming President Leong Keng Yuen and Vice President Lee Nyit Fee, who takes on additional responsibilities as Cellar Master.

Outgoing President Cheah Chen Kin thanked the members for their participation and support and highlighted some of the memorable events that took place during his term.

IWFS has branches all over the world and in the words of its founder Andre Simon who said in 1933: "The object of the Society is to bring together and serve all who believe that a right understanding of good food and wine is an essential part of personal contentment and health and that an intelligent approach to the pleasures and problems of the table offers far greater rewards than the mere satisfaction of appetite."



A branch was started in Ipoh in 1996 by SeeFoon Chan-Koppen, who was a member in Hong Kong and Kuala Lumpur since the 1980s, and under the guidance of its first President Datuk Dr Foong Weng Sum, the society has grown to a membership of 30 and growing. The Ipoh branch welcomes new members. Those interested in good food, good wine and good fellowship, please contact Hon. Secretary Doreen Kam at: **019-5103270**.

### GM Cocktail @ The Bistro



General Manager Mr Mark Rummery thanked all invited guests for their support thus far and encouraged everyone to try out the new menu at the Bistro.

There were 11 lucky winners for the night who went home with dining vouchers, hotel stays and the Featured Wine of the Month. Chef Michael brings his specialty all the way from the Asia Pacific region and Indian Ocean to Ipoh, with a fusion of Japanese, Asian and Mediterranean. It is hoped that The Bistro new menu is sure to satisfy the most discerning palate.

The Impiana Hotel Ipoh held its third successful "GM Cocktail" or Corporate Cocktail at *The Bistro* on March 23. Invited guests were served a variety of tasting plates specially created by newly appointed Executive Chef Michael Koh. La Villa wines, red and white were the featured wines for the night.

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