

Media Monitoring

Publication: **BYM Sailing & Sports News – Online**

Circulation/Audience: -

Date: **3 December 2007**

Reference: **Monsoon Cup**

Headline: **Monsoon Cup: Welshman Tudur Owen sets course for World Match Racing success**

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Monday, 03 December 2007

Welshman Tudur Owen admitted he felt “very privileged” after pitting his wits against the World’s top big boat sailors at the prestigious Monsoon Cup in Malaysia where Great Britain’s Ian Williams clinched the 2006-07 ISAF World Match Racing Tour Championship title.

Sailing under the stewardship of young up-and-coming Australian skipper Torvar Mirsky, Owen, a member of the Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme National Squad, helped his crew to an impressive fifth place.

Semi-final victory for Southampton’s Williams, a former RYA National Match Racing Series and RYA Youth Match Racing champion, resulted in him claiming overall Tour victory before his Team Pindar capped a memorable event by winning the Monsoon Cup.

And with his sailing CV becoming fuller by the week, 24-year-old Owen, from Anglesey, insisted his appetite for World Match Racing Tour glory has been whetted even more by his latest experience in South East Asia.

He said: “The Monsoon Cup is without a doubt the biggest regatta I have participated in. I was photographed hundreds of times and the camera crews spent a lot of time on the back of our boat or filming from the dock. I feel very privileged to have competed in this prestigious match racing event and I am already looking forward to next year’s campaign.”

The Monsoon Cup was the sixth time Owen, who takes the position of trimmer on the boat, has raced as part of the Mirsky Racing Team and marked his highest World Tour placing to date having made his Tour debut with seventh in the Brasil Sailing Cup in Vitoria, Brazil last month.

And although Williams went on to produce heroics to take the event title, Owen will never forget the Mirsky Racing Team’s round robin victory over the newly-crowned Tour champion before the Mirsky team bowed out in the quarter-finals.

As a member of the Volvo RYA Keelboat Programme, Owen’s ambition to become a regular on the World circuit and be part of a future Tour-winning team is supported by having unparalleled access to specialist RYA keelboat training and coaching, grants as well as placement on viable keelboat race campaigns.

RYA Racing Services Manager David Atkinson said: “The Programme has a great track record in its sailors, both past and present, taking part in headline-grabbing campaigns such as the America’s Cup and Fastnet Race. Tudur is the latest example of a Programme beneficiary to get the chance to hone his skills on the biggest of international stages and we are excited to see him progress.”

Karenza Morton