

Media Monitoring

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Headline: **Ian Williams the 2007 WMRT Champ**

Ian Williams The 2007 WMRT Champ

KUALA TERENGGANU, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The skipper of Team Pindar, Ian Williams (United Kingdom) was declared as the champion of the 2007 World Match Racing Tour (WMRT) 2007 after Mathieu Richard (France) and his Saba Sailing Team lost to Team Shosholoza helmed by Paolo Cian of Italy in the quarter-final of the Monsoon Cup in Pulau Duyong here today.

Cian who beat Richard three rounds to one, however, lost to Williams in the semi-final 2-3.

His team will meet the Pizza-La Sailing Team (PST) skippered by Datuk Peter Gilmour of Australia in the final tomorrow.

Gilmour's team edged Blackmatch Racing skippered by Adam Minoprio (New Zealand) 3-2 in the quarter-final before whitewashing Team Apport.net helmed by Bjorn Hansen (Sweden) 3-0 in the semi-final.

Hansen had beaten the Mirsky Racing Team skippered by Torvar Mirsky (Australia) in the quarter-final by the same margin.

Williams now in second place in the WMRT with 132 points was declared the winner because of his unassailable lead as his total will be 172 points even if he were to lose in the final tomorrow. Richard, the closest contender, has only collected 140 points.

As such, tomorrow's race will determine who wins the prestigious Monsoon Cup this year.

Gilmour in a press conference after the semifinals said: "I am glad that we managed to get through today although for me the title for the WMRT is over. But tomorrow, it is back to business for the Monsoon Cup," he said.

As for Williams, he said that he was glad his team achieved their objective (of being the WMRT champions) and that he was looking forward to battling Gilmour tomorrow for the Monsoon Cup trophy.

Tomorrow, the fight for the third/fourth placing will take place at 10am before the battle royale between Gilmour and Williams.

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