

Phuket Race Week

From Page 28

As those who were nearby at the time know, an ill-fated decision".

After a superb performance, Duncanson sailed his Phuket 8 - designed by father John Duncanson - to a runaway, win and clinched the series. Stuart Harrison's Mumm 30 Panic had to settle for second with Keith Moore's recently acquired Phuket 8 Skiff Asia Pla Loma finishing third overall.

Ruby Tuesday's second successive win in the last IRC race put them level on points with Minx, but - although helping push Viroj Nualkhair's Octopussy into third place, it was not enough to clinch the series. After applying discards, Minx's two firsts and two seconds gave them the overall number one slot.

In the Club Class, Stuart Crow and his crew on Cinders didn't put a foot wrong, breaking the tie with Al Boone's Blue Moon to take the series. Blue Moon scored second with John Fenn's Four Winds taking third after a consistent performance throughout the week.

In the Multihull Class there were no surprises, as Mark Pescott skippered Ceberus to its fifth win in five races. The Phuket Youth Team led by Mathew performed well on Chimera, gaining a second - but it was not enough to overturn the early performance of Chris Sieber's Kilo, who took second in the series, with the youngsters coming in third overall.

Worthy of note is that Phuket Race Week winners in every class were members of Phuket's Ao Chalong Yacht Club. The local boys say they're looking forward to challenging all comers next year.

At the final night's party, Evason Phuket's General Manager, Alasdair Junor, confirmed that he and his team looked forward to welcoming the event back to Evason in 2005.

As with any regatta, the sailors had a wealth of advice to offer the organizers on how the racing could be improved. "We're taking it all on board," said Dowden, "and

those who supported the inaugural event can expect to see some of their ideas incorporated into next year's format.

Andy Dowden announced, prior to the presentation of series trophies by Admiral Apiwat Srivardhana, Secretary General of the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand, that next year's Phuket Race Week main event will be a regatta held over four days not six.

And, from a renowned regatta commentator and sometimes critic, Asian Yachting's Capt Marty Rijkuris: "With the increasing number of regattas in the Asian region, the inaugural Phuket Race Week can be used as an example by budding event organizers to bring simplicity to their operation. Running a professional and successful event that pleases the sponsors, and most of all the competitors, should be the priority - and that is what Image Asia has achieved here."

And what did some of the competitors think of the event?

"Great event. The venue was good and the food after each race was the best I've had at any regatta! I hope to be back next year," said Panic's Glen Ormerod, a sentiment echoed by Racing Class winner Scott Duncanson: "It was a great week. Good fun, light winds early on in the week but great wind on the last day. I thought it was nothing short of brilliant."

Going even further, was John Vause of



Ruby Tuesday: "Great regatta! Great event well organized. Excellent venue. Good party format. We enjoyed it very much and will be back next year. And we're selling it to others!"

Another thought to keep in mind, there was talk about supplying yachts for sailors who wish to participate next year and don't have the time or expense to get their own boats to the event. This could provide a great holiday / competition and a chance for Australian and New Zealand based sailors to meet their local counterparts.

Provisional dates for Phuket Race Week 2005 are 28th - 31st July.

