

Raja Muda Selangor 2025 - Pangkor to Penang

There are three races on Saturday 15th, Monday 17th and Thursday 20th November. The schedule allows me to set this RMI series as an objective.



Friday 14th, after the last grib of the day, I prepare for the first race.

It seems simple, straight north with a tack halfway through.

The only small problem is that, with people staying at home, I can't get up early to make a few adjustments for the 4:30 am grib.

I wake up at 8:30 a.m. and can only assess the damage and give up all hope for the series.

Nothing catastrophic, however.

I notice that the mid-course tack could save a lot of time if it is pushed north, even if it means leaving the BVMG or making multiple tacks.

Unfortunately, the 11:30 grib, which came with light winds, completely disrupted my predictions.

I had to tack immediately to move back west and avoid land, then make a second tack to head north again.

The planned tack was indeed pushed far north but had to be done offshore, leaving no hope of making up for lost time.

At the finish, I came in 7th, which is a very good result.

Rafa will therefore be the favourite for the rest of the race, with Mirek coming in 3rd. Well done to them... In my mind, there is still a small hope of reaching the podium for this series, provided I do better than bonknhoot and Kipper.

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Raja Muda Selangor 2025 - Pangkor to Penang

The course is identical to the previous one, heading straight north. The difference is that the start is west of Pulau Pangkor Island, and my router advises me to head east along the coast.

This means I will have to make a series of turns right from the start.

This time, no one is at home, and the alarm is set for 4:00 am.

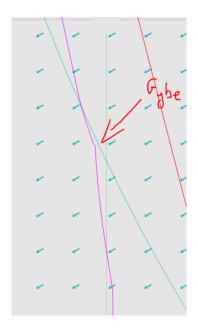
The 4:30 am grib forecast changes things again and it no longer seems worthwhile to sail along the coast, but rather to head directly north.

Am I already too far east?

This will be my question throughout the race, as Rafa has opted to stay further west for the return leg.

A slightly strange gybe is to be made just after the 11:30 grib.

It's almost straight ahead because the wind is turning very quickly.



I notice that Rafa is fiercely defending his position and is leading the race.

I think I'm in a better position, but CriticalHippo, to the east, seems to be even better.

Strangely, I notice that Hippo is not gaining ground on me.

Unfortunately, this means that I am gaining very little on Rafa...

The finish is therefore extremely uncertain, but I am lucky to finish 9 seconds ahead of Rafa.

So I climb onto the third step of the RMI podium, temporarily.

I am 1 point behind Mirek, so I need to finish ahead of him in the third race, which is quite a challenge.

I am 5 points behind Rafa. And there, I don't really believe it, as there is little chance that he will let me catch up with him...

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Raja Muda Selangor 2025 - Penang to Langkawi

The last race in the series, and the shortest at 70 nm.

Once again, it seems very simple... And yet!

It's a sprint northwards, trying to take advantage of the slightly stronger winds, starting on starboard then port. We also have to consider the wind in the finish area, which is weakening and turning north, forcing us to lower the TWA angle and therefore our speed.

So I decide to veer west and set myself a minimum angle of 51° to finish.

Why 51, you may ask?

No idea, but I like the number...



Don't worry, I just wanted to say something silly, as the suspense in the finish area was really unbearable. The protagonists were Freyja, who was initially announced as the winner before the server recalculated, Hippo, Mirek, and me...

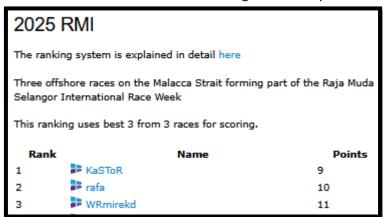
In the end, and after checking the photo finish, I found myself 2 seconds ahead of CriticalHippo, and 8 seconds ahead of Freyja and Mirek (who had the same time)!

The icing on the cake was that my friend Adlaem squeezed in between us, and in the scramble, rafa could only manage 7th place.

Wow...

In the end, rafa kept second place in the series, and it was well deserved! Mirek came in third.

I'm almost a little ashamed of having stolen first place...



Well done to everyone, it was very interesting because it was extremely close!

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