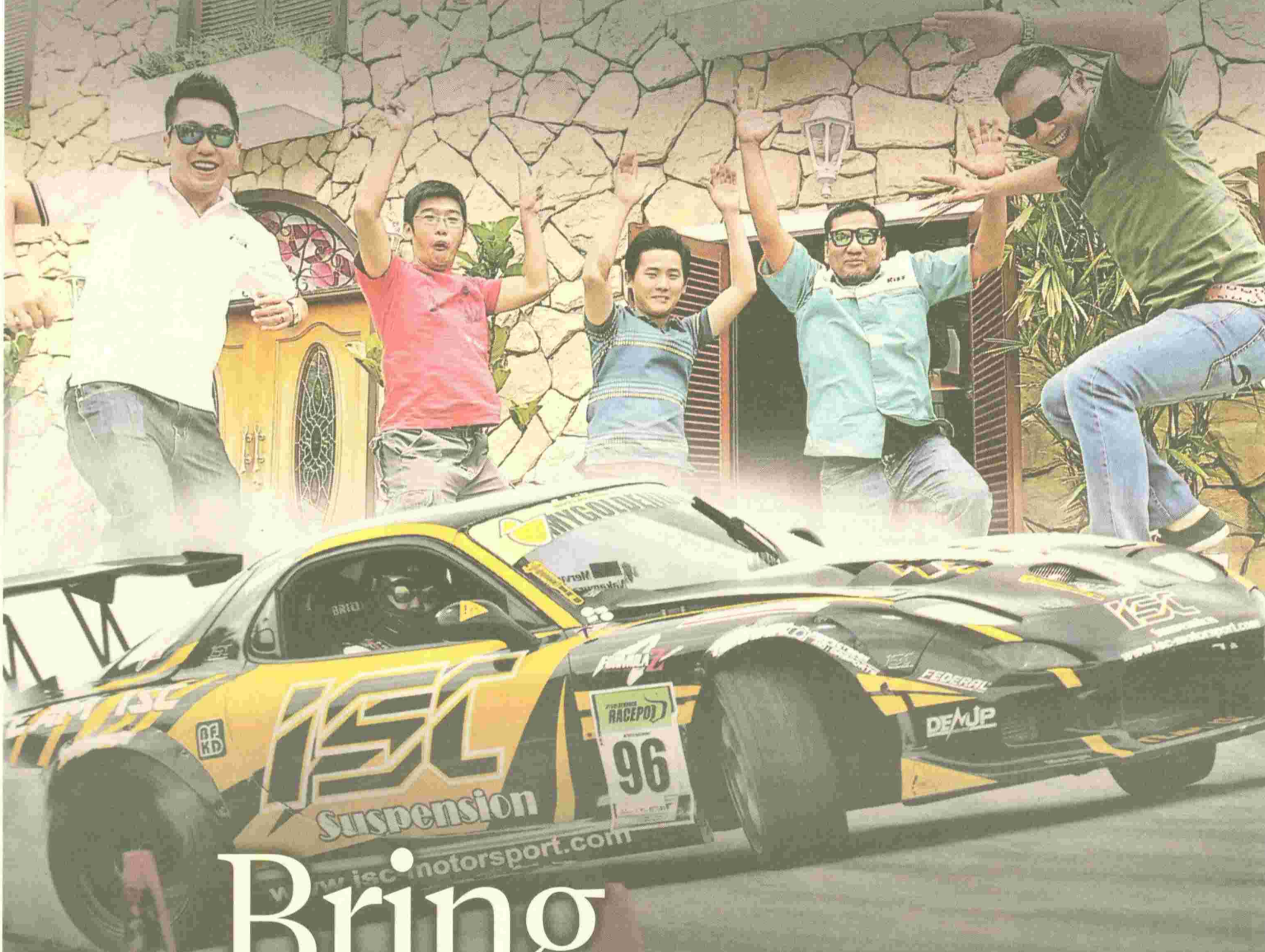


AUGUST 24, 2013

LIFE & TIMES

NEW STRAITS TIMES LIVE IT UP ON SATURDAY



Bring it on!

Local drift aces all pumped up for key motorsport challenge
→ pages 10 & 11

BROWSER

FROM HEALTHY TO SEXY

→ LIVING PAGES 6 & 7

BITES OF BOEY

→ WELL LIT. PAGE 8



Spotlight's on Tengku Ahmad Irfan

→ SHOWBIZ PAGE 14

LIFE&TIMES **MEN**

Those wheels are drifting

Aneeta Sundararaj catches up with local drift aces as they prepare for the exhilarating motorsport championship soon to hit KL

DRIFT racing is back. On Sept 1, at Speed City Kuala Lumpur, some of the world's top drift drivers will battle it out during the second leg (after Australia) of the Achilles Formula Drift Asia Series 2013.

The Achilles Formula Drift Asia has been a key drifting event within the region since its inaugural season in 2007, bringing the excitement and heart-stopping track action to its fans. It is the first and only North American-sanctioned professional championship drifting series, with the goal of expanding and developing the motorsport of professional drifting in Asia. The sport has expanded globally and this means local drift drivers have the opportunity to compete, hone their skills and learn from the very best drivers.

Based on Formula Drift's traditional head-to-head battle format, drivers in the Achilles Formula Drift Asia will attempt to qualify in single-judged runs to be one of the 32 drivers that will enter the main competition. During the bracketed tandem battle competitions, drivers are paired off in a head-to-head competition of skill and nerves in a championship format to determine one winner.

Eager for victory and leading the Malaysian team is the champion of

Formula Drift Asia 2010, Prince of Drift, otherwise known as Tengku Djan Ley Tengku Mahaleel, 36. This automotive engineer says: "I'm very excited to get back on the track to represent Malaysia. Hopefully, I'll win a title on my home ground."

Just what is drifting, though? Prince of Drift explains: "We use a vehicle that concentrates its power on the rear wheels. Today, drifting is more an entertainment sport. The routine is the same and we use a set course. And each driver has his or her own style of driving."

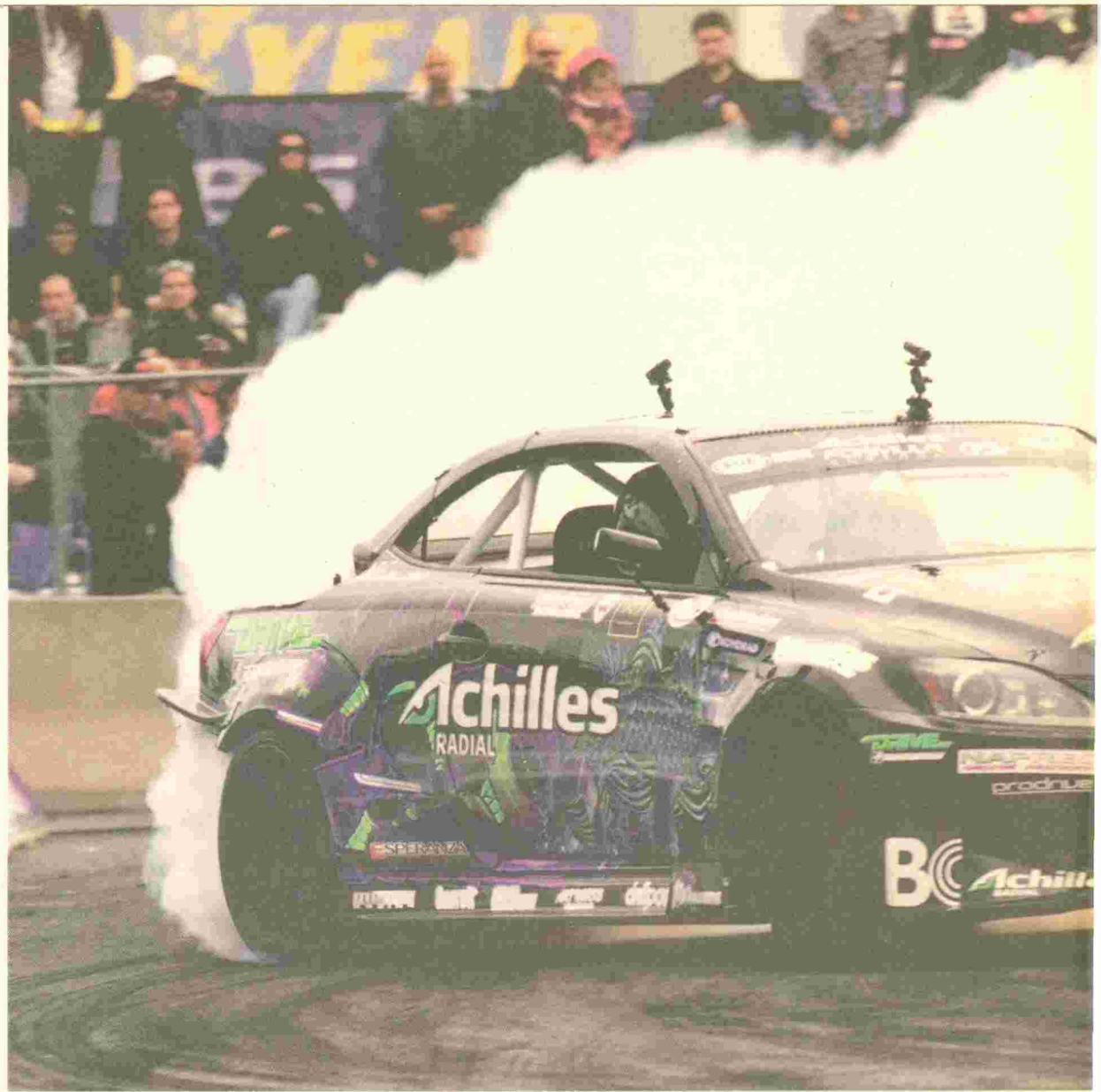
Since the aim is to entertain, this year fans of Malaysian drift will also be in for a treat — a new category, Night Team Drift, will see drivers breaking team boundaries to pair up with partners of their choice in a special synchronised tandem drift challenge, says driver Ee Yoong Cherng, 35. All this will happen during the twilight hour and serve as the finale of Achilles Formula Drift Malaysia.

It is not a cheap hobby as the price of the cars starts at RM15,000. Other than skill, Yoong adds that one needs to have some common sense when drifting. "Of course, you must know how to drive. The skill comes with practice. For example, take something like a doughnut. Not the food, but a formation during drift. What you do is to make a radius turn. This involves driving to a point where there's loss of friction and you go past the limit of adhesion. That's when the car begins to drift and the car's sliding."

Adding, he says: "It's not difficult to undergo training for this sport. You can teach a person from scratch. It's up to you how much you wish to progress. You can go as far as you wish or practice as much as you like. We learn from each other. Sometimes, what one person excels in, another will make a mistake. So we share our knowledge. Each one has a different concept and way to do things."

THE DRIFTERS

Unlike other motor sports, there is no age limit in drifting. With a day job



Tengku Djan at the podium during last year's Formula Drift Malaysia 2012.



Mervyn shares his tale of misadventure.



Mervyn stealing the thunder as he blazes through a corner at speed during a recent drifting event at the Malacca International Motorsport Circuit.

as a technician, Hanizam Hamzah, or Loyai, 41, entered the sport of drifting when he was in his early 30s.

Although there is no age limit for contestants, Mervyn Nakamura, 29, says the sport appeals to a much younger audience. "Our spectators tend to be people who are younger and social media savvy. So, in one event, we can have anywhere between 3,000 and 5,000 spectators."

Prince of Drift elaborates on this point: "Also, the spectators here are involved in the sport. Because our arena is much smaller — we only have four corners — the audience gets to see the whole track and all the action. The audience is not involved only in the last bit."

That element of entertainment, he

adds, is why every leg of the Achilles Formula Drift Asia Series has something new. The aim is to keep the fans excited and coming back for more. He hopes that the fans this year will enjoy the non-stop drifting action that the drivers will try to recreate. For the drivers, their aim is to gain vital championship points in the lead-up to the series finale to be held later this year in Jakarta, Indonesia.

As they continue to tell their stories, each driver begins to reveal aspects of themselves. Mervyn, who is with an airline, says, "I'm half Japanese. So, although my official name is Mervyn Mohamed Abdullah, I chose to use Nakamura to honour my mother. That way, she's always with me."

Then Yoong, who runs his family's



Ee says drivers will pair up.



Tan is in love with drifting.



Hanizam took up sport in his 30s.

stationery business, says, "Actually, I'm also a trainer for figure skating."

Another one who's involved in his family's business is the quietest in the group, Tan Tat Wei, 33.

Tan explains that he became interested in the sport when he went to Japan to study the language. Unlike others, his family was not in support of his interest. As their only son, his parents are keen for him to stop and concentrate on business. He ignores them because, he says, quite simply, "I love drifting."

But it is easy to see why his parents object to his hobby: TTW has a deep scar on his arm—a constant reminder of an accident.

Mervyn adds: "My mother and father didn't like the idea. They couldn't understand why I had to drive sideways when I'm supposed to be driving straight."

The others then share their own

tales of misadventure. There's the time when Loyai was competing in Marina Bay Sands, Singapore and he hit the wall. Watch the accident on YouTube video (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zedzb4yFcPI>). "I was driving at 130 km/h when I hit the wall," says Loyai. Luckily, he sustained only a broken ankle and was on crutches for six months.

Meanwhile, Prince of Drift has suffered burns—his car once caught fire. "Now, if I get even the slightest smell of smoke, I'm the first one out of the car."

BONDING

Besides drifting, there are the social aspects of this sport. They give an example of a trip to A Famosa Resort. "We booked bungalows for the whole weekend. There was a barbecue and

we had great fun socialising."

All the drivers concur that their varied experiences and mishaps have made them more aware of their surroundings and the limits of any car they drive. This includes the cars they drive off-circuit.

"When my children are in the car," says Yoong, "I now make sure they're buckled up." They also take more precautions like making sure the car's been serviced, the air pressure in the tyres have been checked and plan their

journeys ahead. The united message about drifting from all five men is this: it's a hobby for them and they do it for the sheer love of the sport. Also, they want people to see that it's an organised and safe sport. It is not associated with any illegal activity.

For more information, visit www.formuladriftasia.com



Let's celebrate Malaysia Day!

Come with your wheels and join the Green Ride around the country's smart city, Cyberjaya. But if riding is not your game, the Life&Times mini carnival may have one for you. It'll be fun!

Exciting prizes for:

- Most Unique Costume
- Most Techy Rider
- Youngest Participant
- Oldest Participant
- Largest corporate group
- Largest family group

Saturday, September 14, 2013
6.30am - 2pm
Cyberjaya Lakeside, Cyberjaya

...and loads and loads of lucky draw prizes to be won!

PERSONAL DETAILS REGISTRATION FORM

NAME:
 ADDRESS:
 SEX: IC/PASSPORT NO: TEL (H/O): MOBILE:
 EMAIL: T-SHIRT SIZE: S M L XL XXL XXXL

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

NAME:
 RELATIONSHIP: TEL (H/O/MOBILE):

DECLARATION OF INDEMNITY

I understand the terms and conditions of the event and agree to be bound by them. In consideration of the acceptance of my entry, and my being permitted to take part in this event, I agree to indemnify the organisers, the event management, the Malaysian Government, the sponsors and the venue owners together with such people who are responsible for the organisation of the event and the respective officers, servants, representatives, employees and agents from all actions, claims, costs, expenses and demands in respect of injury or death to myself, and/or loss or damage to my property however caused. The same may have been contributed to or occasioned by the negligence of the said bodies, their employees, servants, representatives and agents. I will not litter anything and will strictly refrain from any act of environmental destruction. I shall not use in any manner the event name and logos without the written permission of the organiser or any advertisement, printing or promotional materials.

Signature (Participant): _____ Date: _____

FOR PARTICIPANTS AGED UNDER 18 YEARS:

I, NRIC: _____, parent/guardian of the participant whose particulars appear above, confirm that I have fully read and understood the effect of the above Declaration of Indemnity and hereby agree and declare on behalf of the participant that the purpose of Declaration of Indemnity will have equal effect on the participant. I hereby consent to his/her participation in the event.

Signature (Parent/Guardian): _____ Date: _____

REGISTRATION DETAILS:

- Fee: RM10 per participant (one original form per participant) to RED ADVENTURE SDN BHD (CMB: 1441-0010797-05-8)
- Deadline: 5pm, Saturday, August 31, 2013.
- Bring along the original registration forms and bank-in slip together with 4 New Straits Times mastheads on race day to redeem goodie bags and t-shirts, and join the ride.
- For complete terms and conditions and event day programme, visit www.nst.com.my/greenride
- For any enquiries, please call 012-3551662 (Red Adventure Sdn Bhd) or email redadventure@yahoo.com (Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm)

Organisers: **NEW STRAITS TIMES**



Event Management: **RED ADVENTURE**