University Malaya clinch title for third time

DEFENDING champions Universiti Malaya (UM) overcame a spirited Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TARC) in a repeat of last year’s team event final to clinch their third straight Deputy Higher Education Minister’s Cup yesterday.

UM’s Lau Xiu Qiang, who won the men’s singles title last year, was stretched to four games in the first singles but managed to hold his nerve to beat Lee Soo Han 11-8, 8-11, 14-12, 11-7 to give his side the crucial opening point at the Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Sports Centre in Kuantan.

The women’s singles was another close affair which saw Ang Shaw Bing of UM grab the crucial points to give her the edge over TARC’s See Yin Jia and win the decisive point for her team with a 11-8, 12-10, 10-12, 11-9 victory.

UM coach Rustam Ramlan said he was delighted his charges managed to defend their title against a strong overall field and earn the right to take home the trophy outright this year thanks to their hat-trick feat.

UM, who defeated Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) 2-0 in the semi-finals, received RM2,500 while TARC took home RM2,000.

Third and fourth finishers Help University and USIM received RM1,500 and RM1,000 respectively.

Meanwhile, the men’s singles final saw Universiti Putra Malaysia’s Poon Soon Cheong crowned champion. Soon Cheong, however, was made to work hard and was stretched to six games (best of seven) by Universiti Teknologi Mara’s (UiTM) Matteus Aloysious before taking the match 11-7, 8-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-7, 11-6.

RESULTS — Team event final: UM 2 TARC 0; 3rd-4th: Help 2 USIM 0.


Women’s singles final: Liew Yong Xuan (UiTM) bt Chen Liang Fang (Inti) 11-7, 11-5, 11-6, 11-9; 3rd/4th: Wena Tan (Politeknik Kuching) bt Ashirah Mohd Yunus (UiTM) 11-3, 11-7, 11-6.