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Mulpha help revive Malaysian Men's Open

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THE Malaysian Men's Open championships will be revived and upgraded to a four-star tournament as the SRA of Malaysia (SRAM) has secured sponsors for the event which will be held in August.

The tournament, which was cancelled last year due to lack of funds, will have its prize money increased from US\$30,000 (RM114,000) to US\$40,000 (RM152,000) thanks to sports equipment dealers Mulpha International who have been the main sponsors of the Malaysian Women's Open since 2001. The increased prize money is to attract the top professional players.

SRAM president Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir said that Mulpha's contribution is timely as it will give local professionals like Ong Beng Hee, the World No 9, and Azlan Iskandar, the World No 38, a chance to do well.

Ong, who won the 2000 Malaysian Open, will appreciate the chance to compete in his own backyard for the first time since 2001.

"The Malaysian Open will be upgraded as we need to attract the top players and also give our players a chance to do well," said Mokhzani at the Bukit Jalil Sports School (BJSS) yesterday.

"We are glad that the tournament has been revived due to the continuous support of Mulpha in development. Hopefully, the tournament will become a major event in years to come."

Meanwhile, Mulpha also continued its support of SRAM's development programme. They signed a three-year equipment sponsorship deal with SRAM to look after the needs of the junior squash players at Bukit Jalil Sports School.

The equipment is worth between RM50,000 and RM70,000 and will be part of the SRAM Gemilang 2006 programme which is being geared towards the 2006 Asian Games in Doha.

Currently, there are 21 juniors under the BJSS squash programme with the potential to become fulltime squash players after completing their studies.

Besides that, Mulpha has also agreed to become sponsors of the Pahang Squash Academy which is expected to be launched next month. Mulpha has already contributed RM200,000 to the Penang Squash Academy which was launched last year.