



Football fans earn their Spurs

They get free passes to watch the big game in Shah Alam

story by C.Y. LEE



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THERE were no Monday blues for those who lined up early in the morning to redeem free passes to watch Tottenham Hotspurs in action at a ticket giveaway session at Menara Star in Petaling Jaya.

Folks from around Klang Valley dropped in at *The Star* for tickets to watch the English Premier League team train and play against the Malaysian League Selection tonight.

The giveaway was a joint effort between *The Star* and ProEvents International to promote Spurs' visit as part of the AIA Cup Asia Tour. It is the club's second visit to Malaysia since 1979.

Liverpool fan and football lover Wayne Mok arrived at 4am expecting a long queue but was first in line.

The businessman from Damansara, Kuala Lumpur, had been keeping his eye on Professional Footballers' Association Young Player of the Year Harry Kane and expects a good performance from the English team, especially after a

morale-boosting win against Everton in the last game of the English Premier League on Sunday.

"I will be very disappointed if he doesn't play," he said, while pointing at Kane's photo on the exclusive meet-and-greet pass.

Retiree Lily Yoo and her husband Danny Lim from Section 17, Petaling Jaya, arrived as early as 7am to collect their tickets for the match.

When asked about Spurs, she admitted, "I don't really know much about football, but of course I will support Malaysia," adding that she expected Spurs to win but it would be tough against the Malaysian selection.

Thomas Chooi from Kampung Sungai Kayu Ara, Petaling Jaya, who also collected a pair of tickets and exclusive meet-and-greet passes with Spurs players confessed, "I'm not a football fan, but I'm doing this for my son.

"He is 11 years old and this will be his first live match," adding that his son was a "big time fan" of the EPL.

"This is unexpected, and I will bring him to meet the Tottenham players," Chooi added, in reaction to receiving the exclusive passes.

Harine Dorerajah, who accompanied her son Sanjit Kishan for the free tickets, will also be watching their first live match, along with her family.

"It will be my first time watching a live match," said Sanjit, 17, a Liverpool supporter who will be rooting for the English side tonight.

Asked who he expected to win, he said, "Maybe Tottenham", but he agreed that Malaysia had a good chance to beat Spurs in tonight's eagerly-anticipated match.

In addition to the ticket redemption, *The Star* also gave away



1 Kam (right) presenting the meet-and-greet passes to Mok (left) and Chooi (centre).

2 Ng presenting the match tickets to Raymond.

Photos: CHAN TAK KONG

match day tickets to children under the care of NGO Dignity For Children Foundation.

The Star's Selina Ng presented the tickets to Dignity For Children Foundation representative Raymond Philip Selvaraj.

Spurs will meet the Malaysian Selection at Stadium Shah Alam tonight before heading to Sydney,

Australia for a friendly match with Sydney FC.

The team will also spend time with supporters and take part in community activities with its principal partner, AIA.

"There will be a total of 100 hours of training that is committed just for Malaysia and part of the programme will be talking to

Malaysian coaches in a classroom setting," ProEvents Management Ltd chief executive officer Julian Kam said.

"The team hasn't been here since 1979, so this tour is also about making new friends, and meeting their Asian fans who have been supporting the team through thick and thin."