



Paintball Frenzy

at KK Paintball Centre

You're hiding behind a bunker with a 'gun' in your hand, your mind's racing to decide if you should run closer to enemy lines and attack or stay where you are and play defensive. Even just thinking about a game of paintball gets my heart racing. To me, this game is as close as you can get to being in a war zone without real bloodshed.

A few weekends ago, my colleagues and I decided to give paintball a try for the first time, but only after some persuasive coaxing. After all, the thought of being shot at isn't exactly something you would smile at in nostalgia. The paintball pellets come at you at 300 feet per second and can leave a bruise bad enough to last you at least a month.

So what convinced us to give in and risk a couple of ruptured capillaries? First of all, the suited up paintballers looked cool. They were dressed in their paintball team uniforms, complete with head masks, chest guards and joint pads for full protection. You don't want to risk getting shot in the head without a mask and the joint pads are for when you jump for cover, Die Hard John McClane style. Secondly, people who have played say the thrill is where the fun is.

Since we didn't have uniforms, we wore long clothing to protect the skin. The head masks came complimentary and we rented the chest guards. We split our group of fourteen into two teams and while our 'guns' got loaded with a couple of hundred paintballs, both squads exchanged good-natured verbal jabs at each other, vowing to take the

other one down.

Our safety briefing came next. "First of all, these are not GUNS," declared Kota Kinabalu Paintball Centre's Gabrielle, her eyes sweeping through our rookie teams. "They are called MARKERS." We sheepishly listened to the rest of the briefing and marched into the battlefield, hearts pumping at maximum speed.

For what felt like a lifetime, the fifteen-minute, first round battle was done. Despite being scared out of my wits, I managed to shoot a couple of enemies and escaped unscathed myself. My team took victory this time but round two was still to be had. Delia, the other team's captain, glared at me after the defeat and promised round two was going to be different. It is to my benefit that as editor, I can have it in writing on this page that we won the second time as well.

Fancy a rematch, Delia?

For a piece of paintball action, the Kota Kinabalu Paintball Centre is located 10 minutes from Kota Kinabalu in Kampung Sugud, Penampang. They are open Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.00am to 7.00pm and Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 9.00am to 7.00pm. Contact them at info@kkpaintballcentre.com for reservations or call 088 727445. You can also call 019 5355558 (Tracy - Managing Director) or 016 8459991 (Gabrielle - Field Manager) Find out more about paintball at <http://www.kkpaintballcentre.com/contact.html>.

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