

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Malaysia a class above at the inaugural OCBC Cycle Speedway

South-east Asian Championship

SINGAPORE, 29 August 2015 – MALAYSIAN star rider Mohd Harrif bin Saleh continued his dominant winning streak in South-East Asia as he and his team mates clinched the title of OCBC Cycle Speedway South-East Asia (SEA) Championship Champion on Saturday evening at the OCBC Arena at the Singapore Sports Hub in style.

The Malaysians were a class above their competitors from start to finish as Harrif and team mate Muhamad Adiq Husainie bin Othman cruised through the finish line to win the inaugural OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA Championship in an exciting finale witnessed by the enthusiastic home crowd and fans, recording a timing of 18 minutes and 44 seconds.

A beaming Harrif said: "I found the handover part of the race exciting. I was confident that we had a chance at winning as my teammates are very good and fast. It feels good to be bagging another win in a race in Singapore and I definitely want to return again." Harrif clinched two gold medals at the 28th South-east Asian Games in Singapore in June this year.

With the team from across the Causeway holding an unassailable lead, the race around the fast and flat 1-kilometre course surrounding the iconic Singapore Sports Hub turned into a two-horse battle for second place as Singapore's Low Ji Wen and Brunei's Abdul Hadrie Morsidi found themselves in an intense tactical battle to see who could finish ahead of the other to secure the second spot on the podium. The Bruneian turned on the jets 80 metres from the finish line to finish ahead of the local hero by half a bicycle length.

However, there was a twist at the end of the 10-lap race, as Brunei suffered a 10-second penalty due to an infringement which occurred at the changeover point. The returning rider from the first 5 laps of the race did not get off his bike before the dismount line as he passed his wristband to his partner. The infringement relegated Brunei to third place with an official finishing time of 22 minutes and 54 seconds. Singapore was second with a finishing time of 22 minutes and 44 seconds.

“I thought the event was really interesting. I expected it to be tough but I didn’t expect it to be so tactical,” said Singapore’s Low Ji Wen. “The exchanges between the pairs also proved to be a little tricky, which took us riders some time and tactics to get through it. I don’t think I faced any difficulties. Everyone was on a level playing field with the new format, so I thought it was fair. For a first time, I thought it was fantastically organised and it worked out really well. I’ve seen the Malaysians race and I’ve raced with them numerous times. The way they race in each round just goes to show how strong they are.”

Earlier during the OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship, the atmosphere was just as electrifying as 15 top local cycling clubs battled for bragging rights to be called the nation’s best cycling team. After a hard-fought race, it was the Joyriders Racing Team 1 who proved their worth, clinching the title as the inaugural champion of the OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship with a finishing time of 18 minutes and 54 seconds. The Geylang Cycling Team (18:55) and Specialized Mavericks 2 (18:56) came in second and third respectively.

“It feels fantastic to win. We train together quite often, so to be able to pull together a win, and to do so as a team, it was a great race for us today. We train for races in general, so this is just one of the many events that we do. It is part of a regular training schedule that we do,” said Joyriders Racing Team 1’s captain Brian Johnsen. He added: “This is a new format, so I think there could be some changes that can help the format a bit. I think the transition could be done better. Overall, the event was pretty well organised.”

Singapore Cycling Federation’s President, Suhaimi Haji Said, was extremely pleased on how the event turned out on the first day, saying: “The inaugural OCBC South-East Asia and Club Championships proved to be a thrilling race format for both participants and spectators. It was great witnessing some of the best cyclists from around the region and Singapore battle it out against one another and we’re confident that this event is going to be a key highlight in the cycling calendar for years to come!”

“We are very pleased with how the OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA and Club Championships turned out to be. We witnessed some of the best riders compete against each other right here at the Singapore Sports Hub, and we are glad that everyone had a great time, including fans and supporters. We are also happy that the kids got to have a fun time at the The Mighty Savers rides. Here at OCBC Cycle, there’s always something for everyone, be it participants or supporters.” Said Koh Ching Ching, Head of Group Corporate Communications, OCBC Bank.

Earlier on in the day, the OCBC Cycle 2015 kicked off with the Mighty Savers® Kids Ride, which proved to be a hit with the children and families. The rides saw some 120 children aged 2 – 5 years old, with one of their parents by their side, cycle a distance of 100m, while another 120 children from the 5 – 9 year old category had their fair share of fun, cycling for a duration of 20 minutes around the OCBC Arena.

The Mighty Savers® Family Ride for 5 – 9 years old saw 90 participants enjoy 20 minutes worth of cycling time as a unit, while another 95 children aged 10 – 12 years old cycled for 30 minutes to wrap up the Mighty Savers® Kids Ride on a sunny Saturday morning.

11-year-old Ng Rae Wern gave the event the thumbs up, saying: “My mother encouraged us to take part as a family so my father, younger brother and I signed up for different categories. I have been cycling since I was 6 years old, but this is my first official cycling event. It was quite fun and I want to come back again next year.”

A total of 40 bicycles were also donated to OCBC’s “Sponsor a Child’s Bike Programme”. The beneficiaries are kids who come from the Singapore Children’s Society, Thye Hua Kwan Moral Charities and Yu Neng Primary School, some of whom took part in the morning’s festivities.

“One thing I learnt from this event is that confidence is important! Today’s ride was tiring but I did not give up and it was a good experience overall,” said Putri Maisarah Dzul Hidayat, 10 years old, who was overjoyed when she found out that she got to keep the bike that was sponsored by Polaris Consulting & Services Ltd. “I can now cycle to school and also cycle at the park with my family,” she said.

Mr. Ankit Sharma from Polaris Consulting & Services Ltd said, “We wanted to do our part to help the underprivileged kids from the Singapore Children’s Society. We see our participation in this programme as an extension of Polaris’ existing CSR initiative, Ullas, where we sponsor children’s education. Earlier during the Mighty Savers® Kids Ride, I was cheering the children on! Despite the hot weather, they displayed strong perseverance and spirit.”

The OCBC Cycle 2015 continues tomorrow at the Singapore Sports Hub with the Community Rides, which will see cyclists participate in The Straits Times Ride (23km) and The Sportive Ride (42km).

More details on OCBC Cycle 2015 can be found on www.ocbccycle.com .

RESULTS

OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA Championship

Position	Team	Name	Time
1	Team Malaysia	Mohd Harrif Bin Saleh	18:44
		Muhamad Adiq Husainie Bin Othman	
		Mohd Saiful Anuar Bin Aziz	
		Muhammad Fauzan Bin Ahmad Lufti	
		Mohd Shahrul Bin Amat Amin	
2	Team Singapore	Mohamed Elyas Yusoff	22:44
		Low Ji Wen	
		Syed Amir Haziq Ahmad	
		Junaidi bin Hashim	
		Lee Shern Mun Benedict Joseph	
3	Team Brunei	Reduan Bin Yusop	22:54
		Azmi Bin Abd Hadzid	
		Abdul Hadrie Morsidi	
		Mohammad Radzi Bin Tamat	
		Mohd Shahrom Ayub Bin Hj Yakob	

OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship

Position	Team	Name	Time
1	Joyriders Racing Team 1	David Strooper	18:54
		Teo Woon Lip	
		Brian Johnson Johnsen	
		Varian Tan	
2	Geylang Cycling Team	Ho Benjamin Tun Ho	18:55
		Muhammad Ghazzi Bin Krisna	
		Tan Say Wei	
		Mohammed Ghaffari Bin Krisna	
		Brian Ng	
3	Specialized Mavericks 2	Teoh Yi Peng	18:56.019
		Andreas Oestern	
		Teh Jing Long	
		Richard Paine	
		Matt Lodge	
4	Specialized Mavericks 1	Nick Swallow	18:56.652
		Paul Youcef Cummings	
		Ben Arnott	
		Bastian Dohling	
		James Guardino	

Programme Schedule

A. On Sunday, 30th August:

Event Categories	Distance/ Duration	Flag Off Time
The Sportive Ride	42km	0515hrs
The Straits Times Ride	23km	0700hrs

SOCIAL MEDIA ASSETS

Keywords:

#OCBCCycle, #cycling, #SpeedwayChamp, #STride, #Sportiveride



Suggested tweet: Malaysia win inaugural OCBC Cycle SEA Speedway C'ship!
Details can be found at www.ocbccycle.com (97 characters)



Suggested Facebook post: Team Malaysia outclasses its South-East Asian rivals at the OCBC Cycle SEA Championship to be crowned inaugural champion with Team Singapore and Team Brunei coming in second and third respectively!

For more details, please visit www.ocbccycle.com

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About OCBC Bank

OCBC Bank is the longest established Singapore bank, formed in 1932 from the merger of three local banks, the oldest of which was founded in 1912. It is now the second largest financial services group in Southeast Asia by assets and one of the world's most highly-rated banks, with an Aa1 rating from Moody's. Recognised for its financial strength and stability, OCBC Bank is consistently ranked among the world's strongest and safest banks by leading market research firms and publications.

OCBC Bank and its subsidiaries offer a broad array of commercial banking, specialist financial and wealth management services, ranging from consumer, corporate, investment, private and transaction banking to treasury, insurance, asset management and stockbroking services.

OCBC Bank's key markets are Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Greater China. It has over 630 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and territories. These include the more than 330 branches and offices in Indonesia operated by subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and 95 branches and offices in Hong Kong, China and Macau under OCBC Wing Hang.

OCBC Bank's private banking services are provided by subsidiary Bank of Singapore, which has received increasing industry recognition as Asia's Global Private Bank, and was voted "Outstanding Private Bank in Southeast Asia in 2014" by Private Banker International.

OCBC Bank's insurance subsidiary, Great Eastern Holdings, is the oldest and most established life insurance group in Singapore and Malaysia. Its asset management subsidiary, Lion Global Investors, is one of the largest private sector asset management companies in Southeast Asia.

For more information, please visit www.ocbc.com.

List of countries participating in the OCBC SEA Championship

S/N	Country	Cyclists
1	Brunei	Abdul Hadrie Morsidi Azmi Bin Abd Hadzid Mohammad Radzi Bin Tamat Mohd Shahrom Ayub Bin Hj Yakob Reduan Bin Yusop
2	Cambodia	Eng Lin Keo Ratha Nhonh Lenh Seng Kheang Yoeun Phyuth
4	Malaysia	Mohd Harrif bin Saleh Mohd Saiful Anuar Bin Aziz Mohd Sharul Bin Amat Amin Muhamad Adiq Husainie Bin Othman Muhammad Fauzan Bin Ahmad Lutfi
5	Myanmar	Aung Phyo Wai Aung Myo Naing Kyaw Tun Oo Soe Thant Zaw Win Ko
6	Philippines	Dominic Simon Perez George Luis Oconer Jerry Jr. Aquino Ronald Nozuelo Oranza Rustom Cabanilla Lim
7	Singapore	Junaidi Bin Hashim Lee Shern Mun Benedict Low Ji Wen Mohamed Elyas Yusoff Syed Amir Haziq Ahmad