

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Underdogs win the day at the OCBC Cycle Speedway Championships 2017**

- *Philippines beats Malaysia to the finish line at the Southeast Asia Championships, while TWC Racing emerges as the top team out of 15 clubs at the Club Championships.*
- *Widely-favoured Singapore Civil Defence Force wins the inaugural Corporate Championship*

**SINGAPORE, 18 November 2017 –**

#### **OCBC Cycle Speedway Southeast Asia (SEA) Championship**

In what was the surprise result of the morning, up-and-coming cycling nation Philippines pipped two-time defending champions Malaysia to the OCBC Cycle Speedway Southeast Asia (SEA) Championship crown. Held at the Singapore Sports Hub, the final race saw Philippines end Malaysia's dominance at the event with an ingenious stroke of tactical nous.

Philippines' captain George Luis Oconer, pulled away with Muhammad Fauzan Bin Ahmad Lutfi of Malaysia to form an unassailable lead at the front of the pack, leaving their respective teammates Ronald Nozuelo Oranza and Sofian Nabil Omar bin Mohd Bakri to stay behind with the chasing pack to set up a do-or-die sprint finish on the last straight. As the riders made the last turn, Oranza made the gamble pay off as he turned on the jets as he outpaced the group to clinch the victory for the Philippines.

Oconer, 25, said: "We had new and strong teammates joining us for the race this year and I felt pretty good riding with them today. Our race plan was to always follow our teammates throughout the route because the OCBC Cycle Speedway race is different from other road races we have taken part in. We were partly lucky because the other teams followed Malaysia closely, thinking that the defending champions will win again today. However, our second sprinter picked up speed fast and beat Malaysia's second rider at the end."

Muhammad Fauzan, 31, team captain of Malaysia, said: "I am disappointed because we were not able to defend our title this year. The last rider from the Philippines team

picked up speed very fast and it took everyone by surprise. To adapt to the interesting race format, our strategy was for our chaser rider to be patient in following the pack. I think we were unlucky this year but we will be back next year to regain our title."

Singapore improved on their performance last year with a respectable fourth-place finish in the final. Team Captain Junaidi Bin Hashim, 34, said: "Following the first changeover, it was still anybody's race. We still had a fighting chance up until the very last lap. I think the team did very well as we performed better than last year."

### **OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship**

#### **Local cycling club TWC Racing came out tops among 15 clubs on their maiden appearance at the OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship**

Following the trend of previous editions, the OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship title changed hands once again, as the young upstarts from TWC Racing took home the top prize with an impressive time of 17 minutes and 53.2 seconds.

Formed only in January this year, the young team, with an average age of 22 years, surprised many with their cycling prowess as they overcame a stacked field of 15 teams. They beat early championship favourites and defending champions Specialized Roval Mavericks, as well as established outfits Matador Racing and Allied World Kemp Technologies, in the final.

Firoz Loh, team captain of TWC Racing, said: "This is our first time participating in OCBC Cycle and the club's first competition together. To win such a major race felt amazing, considering that we formed our cycling club only recently."

The 18-year-old added, "We wanted to join the competition as it is a prestigious cycling event and most of the popular clubs in Singapore participate in it. With the win this year, we'll definitely participate again next year!"

Ben Arnott, 46, a rider with the Specialized Roval Mavericks, said: "We may have won last year, but the competition is getting stronger with every edition. We are going to keep coming back because it is interesting to see increasing numbers of people cycling in Singapore. Competitions like the OCBC Cycle Speedway Championships are going to get more people racing and excited about this sport."

## **OCBC Cycle Speedway Corporate Championship**

### **Singapore Civil Defence Force romps to victory as corporate champions**

In a wild surge to the finish, Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) successfully held off the challenge from OCBC Pain Train and Team GlaxoSmithKline to make their mark as the winners of the inaugural OCBC Cycle Speedway Corporate Championship.

Finishing with a time of 20 minutes and 42.2 seconds, SCDF executed their pre-race tactics to perfection, leaving just enough energy in the tank.

Ahmad Ridhwan, 31, team captain of SCDF said: “This is the first year we are participating in OCBC Cycle. We came across this race and saw it as an opportunity to expose ourselves as we are cycling enthusiasts who have been doing this together for a while. We train together as a team three to four times a week. The advantage of cycling together is that we understand each other's strengths and we strategise from there.”

The OCBC Cycle Speedway Corporate Championship is the latest category to be added to the expanded competition, with the other two categories being the Southeast Asian (SEA) and Club Championships.

### **New Adventure Course a hit with Mighty Savers® Kids**

The 300 participants in OCBC Cycle’s popular Mighty Savers® Kids and Family Rides were also in for a treat this year, with a special Mighty Savers® Adventure Course prepared for the children at the OCBC Cycle Expo to test their riding skills.

With a series of turns and four special zones, the children were treated to a novel cycling experience as they navigated their way through the custom-made course. The four zones, comprising the Rainbow Rain Tunnel, Illuminated Tunnel, Wind Tunnel and Windmill Tunnel, provided a sensory experience for all participants.

This year’s Mighty Savers® Kids and Family Rides took place later in the day, with close to 300 children aged 2-12 years old riding along the OCBC Speedway route with their parents in tow. The rides were broken down into different age categories, with different cycling distances for each age group. Starting with the the Mighty Savers® Kids 10-12 years old age group, the kids were allowed to cycle on their own for a duration of 30 minutes along the modified Speedway course. This was followed

by the Mighty Savers® Family ride for kids aged 9-12 years old, who cycled along the same course as a family unit for a total of 30 minutes.

Following this, the Mighty Savers® Kids 8-9 and 5-7 years old categories commenced, with the children being allowed to cycle on the route for a duration of 20 minutes, before the Mighty Savers® Families Ride for 5-8 year olds took over for these families to enjoy the route for their 20 minutes of fun.

Finally, to end the day, the Mighty Savers® Kids 4-5 and 2-3 years old rides began, with the children riding along a modified 100m straight along the Speedway route, with their parents walking alongside them.

John Tan, 39, who signed up his two sons for the 5-7 years old and 2-3 years old categories respectively, said: "This is a great event that was very well-organised. It was a fun day out for the kids and my family really enjoyed themselves today."

His older son, 6-year-old Tan Sing Nyuen, said: "I liked to cycle on the road. I went around the track ten times. The bubbles were really fun!"

As part of OCBC Cycle's "Sponsor a Child's Bike" Programme, a total of 26 bicycles were also donated to beneficiaries from The Business Times Budding Artist's Fund and Yu Neng Primary, who also took part in the Mighty Savers® Kids Ride.

Chew Yingling Charlene, Executive, Arts & Community Developer, The RICE Company Ltd, said: "It's been a fun and enriching experience for our beneficiaries. Cycling is accessible, inclusive, and also a great way for children to keep active. We are very delighted that they have gained so much confidence, and are able to cycle on their own. We are thankful for OCBC's efforts to raise awareness of our cause and fundraise for the organisation."

12-year-old Muhammad Naqib Bin Makhlas, said: "I am very happy and grateful to OCBC and The Business Times Budding Artist's Fund for giving me the opportunity to learn how to ride a bike, and to now own one. I look forward to riding my bicycle on the weekends."

The OCBC Cycle 2017 continues tomorrow morning 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 2017 can be found on [www.ocbccycle.com](http://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 more than 600 branches and representative offices in 18 countries and regions. These include over 330 branches and offices in Indonesia under subsidiary Bank OCBC NISP, and more than 100 branches and offices in Hong Kong, China and Macao 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](http://www.ocbc.com).

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**ANNEX A**
**RESULTS**
OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA Championship

Position	Team	Name	Time
1	Philippines	George Luis Oconer	21:04.90
		John Renee Sadaya Mier	
		Ronald Nozuelo Oranza	
		Virgilio Dionco Espiritu	
		Jhon Mark Adlawon Camingao	
2	Malaysia	Hamdan bin Hamidun	21:05.00
		Amir Mustafa bin Rusli	
		Muhammad Fauzan bin Ahmad Lutfi	
		Sofian Nabil Omar bin Mohd Bakri	
		Nik Mohd Azwan bin Zulkifle	
3	Brunei	Muhammad Rafiuddin Bin Zikara	21:05.10
		Abdul Hadrie Morsidi	
		Ahmad Rifa'ie bin Haji Johor	
		Muhammad l'mmadi bin Abd Aziz	
		Azmi bin Abd Hadzid	

OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship

Position	Team	Name	Time
1	TWC Racing	Luqmanul Hakim	17:53.70
		Firoz Loh	
		Tan Say Wei	
		Liew Keat Ken	
		Chua Wee Siong	
2	Specialized Roval Mavericks	Bastien Dohling	17:54.20
		Matt Le Cornu	
		Benjamin Paul Arnott	
		Matt Lodge	
		Richard Paine	
3	Matador Racing	Kelvin Khoo Jun Khen	17:54.30
		Michael Naert	
		David Strooper	
		Rick Dumpleton	
		Benedikt Schneider	

OCBC Cycle Speedway Corporate Championship

Position	Team	Time
1	SCDF	20:42.20
2	OCBC Pain Train	20:42.30
3	GlaxoSmithKilne	20:42.90

## Programme Schedule

Sunday, 19th November 2017

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