

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Cycling powerhouse and 2017 SEA Games silver medalist Thailand, along with new-comers Laos, make their debut at the OCBC Cycle Speedway Southeast Asia Championship 2017**

*Eight teams from Southeast Asia will battle it out while 15 local clubs - the highest showing of clubs since the inaugural race - will vie for top honors at the OCBC Cycle Speedway Championships*

**SINGAPORE, 17 November 2017**

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

Eight teams from Southeast Asia will compete at the third edition of the OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA Championship. They are Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore.

Debutants Thailand are looking to halt Malaysia's dominance at the OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA Championship on 18 November. Defending champions Team Malaysia are gunning for their third consecutive OCBC Cycle Speedway crown, but they will face their stiffest challenge yet at the Singapore Sports Hub. Making their first appearance at the competition, Thailand has lined up cyclists who were part of the 2017 SEA Games cycling squad that recorded an impressive second-place finish overall.

The teams were introduced at the OCBC Cycle Speedway Draw held at Hotel Jen Orchardgateway Singapore. Two teams from each group will progress to the semi-finals. One team will be knocked out in the semi-finals before the top three teams battle in the finals to be crowned the OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA Champion.

They may be newcomers, but Thailand arguably possesses one of the top riding pedigree within the region. The team of mainly specialist criterium riders Adulwit Phosangda, Jetsada Janluang and Setthawut Yordsuwan will be anchored by star men, SEA Games medallists, Thanawut Sanikwathi and Yuttana Mano. They are looking to avenge the loss to Malaysia at the SEA Games, and win their first ever speedway crown.

Malaysia has named a largely unchanged team from last year, led by team captain and OCBC Cycle Speedway veteran, Muhammad Fauzan Bin Ahmad Lutfi. Joining him are returning cyclists and fellow SEA Games medallists, Nik Mohd Azwan Bin Zulkifle and Sofian Nabil Omar Bin Mohd Bakri, forming a formidable squad. Amir Mustafa Bin Rusli, who was also part of the team that won the competition last year, and Hamdan Bin Hamidun, complete the line-up.

Brunei and the Philippines both finished on the podium in the 2016 edition, and are determined to muster a much improved challenge to favourites Malaysia. Both teams engaged in back and forth battle before Brunei narrowly pipped the Philippines for second place.

Brunei have the title in their sights after impressive showings in the previous two editions – finishing third in 2015, then pulling off a second-place finish in 2016. Their form from previous editions of OCBC Cycle suggests that they have the potential to dethrone Malaysia as well. Azmi Bin Abdul Hadzid, Andrew Bin Sianong and Abdul Hadrie Morsidi are back in action for Brunei, and joining them is fellow SEA Games teammate, Ahmad Rifa'ie.

The Philippine team has taken a slightly different approach from their rivals at the speedway championship this year by replacing four out of their five cyclists. Despite this, third year veteran George Oconer will be boosted with the presence of his SEA Games teammates John Mier and Ronald Oranza,

After a second-placed display at the 2015 speedway championship, Singapore will be raring to be one of the top championship contenders this year. The returning anchor duo, Junaidi Bin Hashim and Gabriel Tan will be working with teammate Luqmanul Hakim, who took part in the 2017 SEA Games, for his valuable competition experience. Lukman Nurhakim completes the line-up for the boys in red and white.

Team Captain Junaidi said, “The level of competition is higher this year with the inclusion of teams like Thailand and Laos, but we have learnt some lessons from the past speedway races and we will give a good account of ourselves. Our preparations for the SEA Games in August were good and we hope to carry that momentum going into tomorrow’s race.”

Entering into the third edition of the tournament, many teams are placing importance on riders’ familiarity with the route and the strategies needed to overcome it. Following the trend, Cambodia and Myanmar have also opted to select a majority of their riders with at least one speedway championship under their belt.

Laos have called upon two experienced riders to overcome their unfamiliarity with the route. Much of the expectations will fall on Thavone Phonasa and Vannasouk

Lamngeune to carry them through as they raced in the same SEA Games team event and finished ahead of their Burmese and Bruneian counterparts.

The teams have been drawn into the following groups as shown:

<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>
Malaysia	Brunei
Laos	Thailand
Singapore	The Philippines
Cambodia	Myanmar

First, second and third placed teams stand to receive prizes of \$6,000, \$4,000 and \$2,000 respectively.

## **2. OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship**

The OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship will feature 15 different clubs battling for supremacy as kings of the road – the biggest participation of locally-based clubs seen since the inaugural edition. This year’s roster will see the following teams join OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship for the first time: Allied World Kemp Technologies, Cycleworx, Guerciotti Racing Team, ICH Gemini, Matador Racing, Road Brothers, Swiss Club Riders, Team BCM and TWC Racing.

Boasting a team of experienced cyclists with overseas race experience under their belt, two teams from Specialized Roval Mavericks completed a 1-2 finish at the final, more than a minute ahead of the third placed club, Swift Carbon Virgin Active.

Team captain Bastien Dohling said, “We are looking forward to racing with more participating teams this year. It has been great seeing most teams training on the course in the early morning hours over the past weeks. This will certainly raise the level of competition at this year’s event.”

The clubs participating in the race for the first time are expected to put up a good fight for the podium positions. Excitement is high amongst the new entrants about competing in a premier club-only race in Singapore for the bragging rights to be the best local cycling club.

President of the Singapore Cycling Federation, Dr Hing Siong Chen, said: “It is heartening to see the participation numbers of new locally-based clubs grow from year on year. We have witnessed some of the most exhilarating action over the past two years and this has definitely intrigued more people to join cycling clubs to be a

part of the community. Increasingly, we are also seeing more youth and women picking up the sport and participating at a competitive level.”

The teams have been drawn into the following groups as shown:

<b>Group 1</b>	<b>Group 2</b>	<b>Group 3</b>
Specialized Roval Mavericks	Geylang Cycling Team	30 Forty Cycling Team
TWC Racing	ANZA	Allied World Kemp Technologies
ICH Gemini	T3 Team Turtle Racing	Team BCM
Swiss Club Riders	Roadbrothers	Guerciotti Racing Team
Ascenders Team	Cycleworx	Matador Racing

The OCBC Cycle Speedway Club and SEA Championships will commence at 6.30am this Saturday.

More details can be found on [www.ocbccycle.com](http://www.ocbccycle.com).

###

**ANNEX A**
**Participating nations at the OCBC Cycle Speedway SEA Championship**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Cyclists</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Brunei</b>	Andrew Mikha Bin Sianong Abdul Hadrie Morsidi Ahmad Rifa'ie Bin Haji Johor Muhammad l'mmadi Bin Abd Aziz Azmi Bin Abd Hadzid
<b>2</b>	<b>Cambodia</b>	Kim San Nhonh Lenh Phoung Sophy Sang Seyha Yoeun Phyuath
<b>3</b>	<b>Laos</b>	Thavone Phonasa Thavisack Souvannarath Vannasouk Lamngeune Piempanya Soulivong Choummaly Dodo
<b>4</b>	<b>Malaysia</b>	Hamdan Bin Hamidun Amir Mustafa Bin Rusli Muhammad Fauzan Bin Ahmad Lutfi Nik Mohd Azwan Bin Zulkifle Sofian Nabil Omar Bin Mohd Bakri
<b>5</b>	<b>Myanmar</b>	Aung Phyo Min Aung Phyo Paing Zin Lin Ko Thaw Zin Do Thant Thiha Dway
<b>6</b>	<b>Philippines</b>	George Luis Oconer John Renee Sadaya Mier Ronald Nozuelo Oranza Virgilio Dionco Espiritu Jhon Mark Adlawon Camingao
<b>7</b>	<b>Singapore</b>	Junaidi Bin Hashim Luqmanul Hakim Bin Othman Lucas Lee Jun Hui Gabriel Tan Choon Howe Lukman Nurhakim Bin Noordin

<b>8</b>	<b>Thailand</b>	Thanawut Sanikwathi Setthawut Yordsuwan Thanawut Sanikwathi Yuttana Mano Adulwit Phosangda Jetsada Janluang
----------	-----------------	--

**Participating clubs at OCBC Cycle Speedway Club Championship**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Club</b>	<b>Cyclists</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>30 Forty Cycling Team</b>	James Lee Benjamin Tay Linden Daniels Nicolaus Edrmann Stefan Ansorge
<b>2</b>	<b>Allied World Kemp Technologies</b>	Sofiane Behraoui Pierre Alain Scherwey Hish Scarff Mike Koreneff Male Nelson
<b>3</b>	<b>ANZA</b>	Reuben Baker Roland Peer James Walls Steve Davidson Jonas Trindler
<b>4</b>	<b>Ascenders Team</b>	Lukman Nurhakim Noordin Kelvin Liew Patrick Tan Chee Hock Brian Christopher Johnsen Ivan Tay
<b>5</b>	<b>Cycleworx</b>	Jason Yeo Kenneth Tan Neo Ting Yong Ang Kee Meng Noel Teh Jing Long
<b>6</b>	<b>Geylang Cycling Team</b>	Muhammad Ghaffari Muhammad Haikal Muhammad Ghazzi Kenneth Chia Noorhakim Bin Kamil
<b>7</b>	<b>Guerciotti Racing Team</b>	Lionel Boey Chua Min Zhe Lloyd Reynante Wee Jun Hong Brian Ng

<b>8</b>	<b>ICH Gemini</b>	Kelvin Teo Francis Ong Leslie Tan Kang Wee Ryan Loh Chin Leong Ray Ng Weng Loon
<b>9</b>	<b>Matador Racing</b>	Kelvin Khoo Jun Khen Michael Naert David Strooper Rick Dumpleton Benedikt Schneider
<b>10</b>	<b>Road Brothers</b>	Mohamed Fathul Rahman Abdillah Bin Haroon Mohd Fadely Bin Mohd Effendy Sheikh Ahmad Muhd Faris
<b>11</b>	<b>Specialized Roval Mavericks</b>	Bastien Dohling Matt Le Cornu Benjamin Paul Arnott Matt Lodge Richard Paine
<b>12</b>	<b>Swiss Club Riders</b>	Steve Knabl Frederic Shaaf Felix Kobel Thibaud Grizard
<b>13</b>	<b>T3 Team Turtle Racing</b>	Hussain Bin Mohd Nor Nicholas Chia Raphael Chew Hussein Taufik Saniy Auf
<b>14</b>	<b>Team BCM</b>	Jackie Ong Chee How Alex Lin Dennis Theng Reece Tan Shawn Chow
<b>15</b>	<b>TWC Racing</b>	Luqmanul Hakim Firoz Loh Tan Say Wei Liew Keat Ken Chua Wee Siong



**OCBC Cycle 2017 Programme Schedule**

<b>18 November, Saturday</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
OCBC Cycle Speedway Championships	Stadium Drive	6.30am – 2.10pm
OCBC Cycle Speedway Championships – Victory Ceremony	OCBC Arena Hall 2	2.30pm – 3.00pm
Mighty Savers <sup>®</sup> Kids and Family Rides	Stadium Drive	3.15pm – 6.30pm

<b>19 November, Sunday</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
The Sportive Ride (42km)	Nicoll Highway	5.15am
The Straits Times Ride (23km)	Nicoll Highway	7.00am

## 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).

---