

## Letter of Appreciation – 42<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Open Windsurfing Championship 2023

With the opening-up of our borders in April 2022, we were all very excited to get the Singapore Open Windsurfing Championship to be a 'real Open event' again – with both local and international sailors competing side by side here in sunny Singapore.

Planning for the 42<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Open started in October 2022.

The first NoR was released on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022, followed by the revised one on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2022. Enquiries on our event from overseas slowly trickled in– we were very excited when Hongkong showed great interest and planned to send a contingent of 12 sailors. This was followed by interest expressed by Thailand, Cambodia, Macau, Malaysia & Indonesia.

In the last month leading to the event, things were humming along well with most logistics planned and executed. Regular progress reports kept a tab on things and also kept all members of the organising committee informed.

About a week to the start of the event, a major issue was flagged – the unavailability of Race Officers (RO). This immediately triggered a flurry of activity and all hands were on deck to look out for RO. But by then, most of the RO were either engaged in other events or were not available. In comes our hero(s) of the event – Max and Joe Chua! Max managed to persuade JunHao, who was supposed to participate (and do very well in the races) to come on board as RO for 4 days. Joe managed to rally 2 lao behs aka veteran windsurfers to work under the rain and sun as RO. Laobeh Jason Lim who not only was on MC, but also had to ditch his regular karaoke sessions to help out. Second laobeh Kah Soon had to take time off his busy work schedule to be RO. Kudos to all – in times of a crisis, true windsurfing camaraderie, selflessness and sacrifice is best illustrated in this example.

There are many more examples of acts of selflessness and kampong spirit seen in organising this event. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the following:

- 1) Rohaizan & Shawal of SingaporeSailing – they had to do a 'back-to-back race' of working on this Singapore Open immediately after the completion of the SB20 sailboat event. And special thanks to all boat drivers namely Yong Shou Choong, Michael Sua, Peter Goh, Joseph Lee, Jimmy Thia, Melinda Goh, Gwen Neo, Philip Ng, Xing Yun and Adrian.
- 2) The university student leaders comprising of Huda (SIM) who kept the competition status alive by updating WAS website, Andrew (NTU), Kyson and Keegan (SMU) who rallied their fellow students and braved the cold Saturday afternoon at sea, helping with race officiating. Many thanks to student helpers namely: Wan Yi, Victoria, Qi Ying, Chesna, Gloria, Jia Yuan, Winkyi, Rachel, Chok, Andrew, Nuran, Fidel Lim- Brooks and others who helped but I may not know.
- 3) Coach Tan Ching (TC) and Sakda Sakulfaeng (Khai) who doubled up to lay marks as well as taking care of their respective sailors
- 4) Jury Joe Chan and Ngak Hoe – thanks for being 'operational ready' and stepping up to the job despite deployment at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour
- 5) Team at SingaporeSailing with special mention to Joa, who worked expeditiously and quietly in the backroom (in some remote places, I was told).
- 6) Team at Aloha, headed by Ah Loh & Max and their team of fantastic people like Jerroll and the part-timers.
- 7) Team at Constant Wind headed by Joe Chua & Kah Soon and their team of all hands-on-deck helpers such as Wilson, Anne and Sheila
- 8) Our sponsor, Mr Gordon Tang who have been generously supporting this event for the last 9 nine years and his aide, Meng.

- 9) Corporate sponsor, Starboard for their generous product prizes
- 10) Finally, to all the hardworking WAS committee members who contributed in various ways and forms.
- 11) And many others who have contributed to the success of this event, such as the competitors themselves, friends and supporters of this event.

The outcome of the event is great – and could be even better if not for the incessant rain on some days and light breeze when the NE monsoon wind should be blowing full force at this time of the year. Working with the wind, weather and water (current) can be unpredictable and I guess we just have to manage what we can control and leave the rest to mother nature.

The prize giving ceremony was a big bash, attended by Mr Gordan, Mr Jevan, Mr Pei Ming, and the king of kite surfing world champion Max Maeder, friends and his coach, Johnny. Thank you very much for coming and gracing this event. We look forward to a bigger, better and fun-filled event next year!

Cheers, Lemmy

