

Fencing Academy Wins 11 National Colours, 13 Zone Awards, 4 Team Awards

44th Singapore Schools Sports Council National Colours Award Presentation

Jansen Yeo

Strategic Communications Senior Executive

Posted: 7 November 2014

Singapore Sports School student-athletes received a total of 92 National Colours Awards and 163 Zone Awards. The Sports School also won 40 Team Awards, presented to teams that finished in the top 4 of the national round of competition.

Shooter Martina Lindsay P Veloso capped off an excellent year when she was named Singapore Schools Sports Council's Overall Best School Girl. At 14, she became the youngest medallist in the 27-year history of the ISSF World Cup – and Singapore's only medallist in the competition – when she won the Women's 10m Air Rifle gold medal in Munich, Germany, in June. She also won the silver medal in the same event at the Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games. At the National Schools Games shooting competition, Martina won the gold medal in the "B" Division Girls' 10m Air Rifle event and led the Singapore Sports School "B" Division Girls' 10m Air Rifle team to the title in a new Championship record.

Bowler Darren Ong Wei Siong is Singapore Schools Sports Council's Best School Boy for Tenpin Bowling for the third successive year, the first Singapore Sports School student-athlete with such an achievement. Darren represented the Singapore Schools at the 15th Asian Schools Tenpin Bowling Championships in February 2014 in Jakarta, Indonesia, and was the team's sole representative in the Boys' Masters Final where he finished 10th – but with an impressive average of 244 over 16 games. He was also selected by Singapore Bowling Federation to compete at the 2014 World Youth Championships in Hongkong, China, in August.

Table Tennis player Yee Heng Hwee was named Best School Girl for Table Tennis. Heng Hwee was part of the Singapore Women's Table Tennis team that won the bronze medal at the 2014 World Table Tennis Championships. She also competed at the Nanjing 2014 YOG.

Sprinter Kugapriya d/o Chandran, who competed at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games as part of the all-Singapore Sports School national women's 4x100m relay team, was named Best School Girl for Track and Field.

Diver Fong Kay Yian was presented with the Special Award.

The recipients of Zone Awards and National Colours in the Fencing Academy are:

Individual Awards

Akira Goh Yu Xiang (National Colours, Zone Award)
Amita Berthier (National Colours, Zone Award)
Chloe Chu Min (National Colours, Zone Award)
Fong Zheng Jie (National Colours, Zone Award)
Grace Mun Si En (National Colours, Zone Award)
Jefferson Cheong Jia Hui (Zone Award)
Johnson Jade Lee (National Colours, Zone Award)
Neville Lim Woon Juin (National Colours, Zone Award)
Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan (National Colours, Zone Award)
Nicole Wee Sher Tynn (Zone Award)
Ryan Ong Ren-An (National Colours, Zone Award)
Tatiana Wong Yu Rong (National Colours, Zone Award)
Zachary Chen Yi (National Colours, Zone Award)

Team Awards

'B' Division Boys
'B' Division Girls
'C' Division Boys
'C' Division Girls

Sports School Fencers Do Well

National Trials 2014/15

Posted: 24 October 2014

David Chan

Coach, Fencing Academy

The National Senior Trials took place from 18 to 19 October 2014 and some of our Upper Secondary student-athletes participated in the event. Although the competition was a senior competition, some of our older fencers have established positions on the senior team and this competition provided ranking points for them.

In the Men's Epee event on Day 1, Zachary Chen Yi finished 30th and Neville Lim Woon Juin finished 14th out of 53 fencers. Zachary is still on the road to recovery from his injuries and will take time to regain his match fitness. Neville, unfortunately, came up against the No. 1 seed in the Round of 16, having done well in the Round of 32, beating Dimitry Ivanov who is ranked No. 6 in the Senior National Team.

In Women's Foil, Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan did well in coming in 2nd out of 17 fencers. She was unable to fence in the Final due to a back injury and had to withdraw from the match. Tatiana Wong Yu Rong finished in 9th and she was unlucky in losing to Maxine Wong in the Round of 16 after being seeded 5th from the preliminary rounds.

Day 1 concluded with the Men's Sabre event where Fong Zheng Jie finished 5th out of 24 fencers. Zheng Jie lost to Lam Jing Siang who is ranked 5th on the Senior Team but we believe that he will be able to consistently win medals at the Senior level soon.

Day 2 began with the Women's Epee event. Jade Lee Johnson did not have the best of days and did not qualify from the preliminary rounds. However she has shown in the past that she is capable of much better fencing and we believe that she will fence better the next time. Grace Mun Si En did not have an easy preliminary group and she lost in the round of 16 to Celine Chong who is ranked 4th on the Senior National Team. The competition was of a significantly higher level as compared to the cadet and junior events and it would have provided valuable experience still.

Amita Is No. 9 On European Cadet Circuit Ranking

European Cadet Circuit In Malinovo, Slovakia

Posted: 24 October 2014

Ralf Bissdorf
Head Coach, Fencing



Secondary 2 student-athlete Amita Berthier competed at the European Cadet Circuit in Malinovo, Slovakia, from 18 to 19 October 2014, and finished 9th out of 155 fencers from 19 countries. Some of the major European fencing countries like Russia, Ukraine, Hungary, Poland and Germany sent 20 fencers each.

The European Cadet Circuit serves as the benchmark for international youth fencers. Fencers from all over the world compete in the European Cadet Circuit, which is a series of 10 competitions in the season. The best six results of a fencer counts towards the European Cadet Circuit Ranking. Last year's Cadet World Champion, Marta Martyanova from Russia, is currently ranked 3rd. Last year's bronze medallist, Flora Pasztor from Hungary, is currently ranked 1st.

Amita fenced the poules very well and won all her six matches. After the poules, she was seeded No. 7. She had a bye to go to the Round of 64. After that, she won her match to go into the Round of 32. From then on, the competition was fenced with repechage. This is a competition formula where a fencer can lose one match and still make it to the Round of 8/Quarter-Finals. Amita's next match was a tough one, but she managed to beat Victoria Yusova from Russia. Yusova is ranked No. 7th in the European Cadet Circuit, whereas Amita was ranked 17th at the start of this competition. This victory brought Amita into the Top 24.

In the next match, Amita faced Olga Batenina, another Russian fencer. Batenina is more than 1.80m, which gives her an advantage in reach which smaller fencers have to counter with speed. Amita also won this match, which again was very physical and hard.

In the Round of Top 12, Amita faced Nora Hajas from Hungary. This match was more tactical and Amita was not able to win this match. In the repechage, she met Beatrice Kudlacek from Austria. Amita tried very hard to make it to the Top 8, but eventually, it was Kudlacek who tasted victory.

Amita's final rank 9th out of the 155 competitors – a very good result. After finishing 3rd in Manchester, United Kingdom, Amita again reached the Top 16 in Malinovo, a competition which was stronger than the one in Manchester. The competition was won by reigning Cadet World Champion Marta Martyanova, followed by Nora Hajas who defeated Amita in the Round of Top 12.

Following this competition, Amita climbed from 17th to 9th. This is the first time a Singaporean fencer is in the Top 10 of a European Cadet Circuit Ranking. Secondary 4 student-athlete Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan, who did not compete in Slovakia, is 12th, and the next Singaporeans in this ranking are Aarya Berthier at 49th and Lau Ysien at 66th. The goal for this season is to get Amita into the Top 20 of the European Cadet Ranking and we are on track to achieve this goal.

Nicole Wee Fenced Her Way into Quarter-Finals

Junior World Cup

Posted: 23 October 2014

Ralf Bissdorf

Head Coach, Fencing Academy

Secondary 2 student-athlete Nicole Wee Sher Tynn competed in the Junior World Cup in Bangkok on 11 October 2014. The competition in the Thai business capital was the third out of nine Cadet Ranking competitions of this season.

Junior World Cup competitions are organised under the umbrella of the International Fencing Federation FIE (Federation Internationale d'Escrime). The Junior World Cup is a circuit of eight competitions around the globe and from the Round of 64, there are points for the official Junior (Under 20) World Ranking. Usually, these competitions have between 80 and 200 participants. Points for the World Ranking are only awarded if there is a minimum of five countries participating.

Unfortunately in Bangkok, there were only 18 fencers from three countries – Germany, Singapore and Thailand.

Nicole started well into the competition and won three out of her five matches in the poules. She was very focused and well-motivated. After the poules, she was seeded No. 8 in the Direct Elimination. In the Round of 16, she faced German fencer and No. 9 seed Madeline Becker. Nicole won this match impressively – 15-4. She was aggressive, courageous and very focused. In the Quarter-Finals, she met No. 1 seed Patsara Manunya from Thailand. Again, Nicole fenced a very good match but eventually lost 15-7 to the fencer, who is 4 years older than her. Her opponent went on to win the competition. Nicole finished 8th.

Despite it being a small competition, Nicole did not have it easy. She fenced well, got more international exposure and Nicole will get 63 ranking points for the Singapore Cadet Ranking.

Maiden Win For Nicole

European Cadet Circuit

Posted: 20 October 2014



Ralf Bissdorf

Head Coach, Fencing Academy

For the first time, two Singaporean fencers qualified for the semi-finals of the European Cadet Circuit Women's Foil competition, and it was Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan who overcame Amita Berthier 15-6, leaving the younger girl to settle for the bronze medal on 4 October 2014. Nicole went on to meet Yasmin Campbell from Great Britain in the final and won her first European Cadet title gold medal in a decisive 15-9.

There were 75 fencers from 13 countries in the Women's Foil event. Secondary 4's Nicole won 3 out of 5 matches, Secondary 3's Tatiana Wong Yu Rong won 5 out of 6 matches and Secondary 2's Amita Berthier won all her 6 matches to qualify for the Direct Elimination Rounds. Tatiana eventually lost her match to go to the Round of 12 narrowly by 15-13 and finished 13th. Tatiana has never reached the Round of 32 before, so getting into the Top 16 is a great step in the right direction and a very good result.

Nicole and Amita both got into the Top 8. This is a major achievement as no Singaporean fencer has ever reached the Round of 8 in a European Cadet Circuit competition. Both did not stop there. Both went on to win their quarter-finals convincingly. They both met in the semi-finals, where Nicole had the upper hand. The 3rd placing for Amita is another great result and also big step forward – her first podium in a European Cadet Circuit competition. But, that was not the end

yet. Nicole won the competition after a hard fought match in the final – a fantastic result and a moment to remember.

After fencing in European Cadet Circuit competitions for several years, not only did we have our first Top 8 finishers and semi-finalists, we actually also have our first champion. Many foreign coaches commented that “a few years ago, Singapore was not able to get fencers into the Top 32 and now you have two in the semi-finals.” For me, such remarks show that our successes are being seen and recognised by other countries.

In Men’s Foil, there were 118 competitors from 19 countries. Our Secondary 3 fencers Ryan Ong Ren-An won 5 out of 6 matches, Akira Goh Yu Xiang won 5 out of 6 matches and Brian Cheong Sze Kai won 2 out of 5 matches to pass the poules without any difficulties and all got into the Round of 64.

In the Round of 64, Brian lost to the eventual bronze medallist after a good fight. He finished 59th. For Brian, it was the first time he reached the Round of 64. Akira lost his match in the Round of 64 narrowly and came in 34th. Ryan fought his way through the various rounds and lost his match to get into the Top 8. He finished 11th, which is a great result. No Singaporean has ever reached a Round of 8 in a European Cadet Circuit competition before and Ryan was very close to making it happen for the first time.

Just Outstanding

Eurasian Community Fund Education Awards 2014

Posted: 12 September 2014

Fencer Amita Berthier and golfer Charles Benjamin Alliston received the Eurasian Community Fund Education Awards 2014 (Distinction Award), while track and field athlete Tia Louise Rozario was presented the Merit Award (Secondary School) on 6 September 2014.

Amita received “The Harry Elias Award for The Outstanding Eurasian Sports Student 2013”, and Charles was presented with “The Fredric Fox Award for the Meritorious Eurasian Sports Student 2013”.

Amita’s personal statement that accompanied her application said: “When I started competitive fencing, it was difficult to focus on two different things – sports and studies – but I am used to it now. When it is time to study, I seriously buckle down and focus on studying and I don't think about sports. Only when it is

time to train and compete do I shift my focus. I am really thankful for what I have and grateful to my parents and Singapore Sports School for shaping me into who I am today.”

Charles said 18 months ago, he did not have a handicap index but only a dream. He has since won the National Schools Championship and HSBC Junior tournament. He has worked really hard for it, starting the day at 6 am to play golf.

“Whether it’s sports or studies, my parents always encourage me to give my best in all that I do. And I would like to encourage others to do the same: Follow your dreams with your heart and hard work, realise your potential to the best of your ability. Above all, share your journey along the way with the people who care most about you and who you care for.”

6 Make It As Seniors

Singapore National Teams

Posted: 12 September 2014

Twelve fencers from Singapore Sports School have been selected for the various Singapore National Teams in the 2014/2015 Season – five up from seven in the last Season.

Joining Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan (Foil) and alumnus Cheryl Lim (Epee), who have been re-selected to the senior team, are Amita Berthier (Foil), Tatiana Wong Yu Rong (Foil), Ryan Ong Ren-An (Foil) and Neville Lim Woon Juin (Epee). This is Nicole’s third Season in the Women’s Senior Team, and Cheryl’s seventh.

The selection to the various National Teams is based on the final ranking of the previous Season. The current Season will end on 31 August 2015.

Last Season, there were three Singapore Sports School fencers in the Senior Team, four in the Junior Team and six in the Cadet Team. This Season, the numbers have increased significantly to six in the Senior Team, six in the Junior Team and 11 in the Cadet Team. The numbers include those who are in multiple teams.

The 2014/2015 Season has just begun and the results of this Season will determine the National Team line-up for the following 2015/2016 Season.

SENIOR TEAM

Men's Epee

Neville Lim Woon Juin

Women's Epee

Cheryl Lim (alumnus)

Men's Foil

Ryan Ong Ren-An

Women's Foil

Amita Berthier

Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan

Tatiana Wong Yu Rong

JUNIOR TEAM

Men's Epee

Neville Lim Woon Juin

Zachary Chen Yi

Men's Foil

Ryan Ong Ren-An

Women's Foil

Amita Berthier

Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan

Tatiana Wong Yu Rong

CADET TEAM

Men's Epee

Neville Lim Woon Juin

Women's Epee

Chloe Chu Min

Jade Lee Johnson

Men's Foil

Akira Goh Yu Xiang

Ryan Ong Ren-An

Zachary Chen Yi

Women's Foil

Amita Berthier

Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan
Tatiana Wong Yu Rong

Men's Sabre
Fong Zheng Jie

Women's Sabre
Nicole Wee Sher Tynn

13-Year-Old Amita Wins U17 Foil Title In HK

Hong Kong Junior Championships

Ralf Bissdorf
Head Coach, Fencing Academy

Posted: 12 September 2014



On 24 August 2014, our Foil fencers (Secondary 2 and older) competed in the Hong Kong Junior Championships. This competition was the first of six Cadet Ranking Competitions of the Fencing Season 2014/2015. These competitions serve to determine the National Cadet Team for the Season 2015/2016 and the fencers that will represent Singapore at the Asian Cadet and the Cadet World Championships. Hong Kong is an important benchmark for us. Hong Kong had Foil fencers competing in the recent Nanjing 2014 Youth Olympic Games, and the Men's Foilist won the Individual silver and Team gold.

RESULTS

U17 Men's Foil

All fencers cleared the poules and made it into Direct Elimination. This is very positive especially for our Secondary 2 fencers.

In a field of 61 fencers, Secondary 2's Joven Tey Qi Long finished 43rd and earned his first 8 international ranking points. Joven fought hard and was close to winning his Match in the Round of 64. Secondary 2's Brian Koh Shao Yang won his match in the Round of 64 and was eliminated by Secondary 3's Ryan Ong Ren-An. Brian finished 31st, and earned 16 ranking points; these are also Brian's first international ranking points. Brian fenced a very good competition and is improving constantly.

Secondary 3's Akira Goh Yu Xiang and Brian Cheong Sze Kai were also eliminated in the Round of 32 and I feel that both of them could have won at least one more match. Secondary 2's Yeo Jing Zhe made his way to the Top 8 and finished 8th. This is a great result for Jing Zhe as only three Singaporeans made it to the Round of Top 8. Ryan cleared the Round of Top 8 and finished 3rd, finishing as the best Singaporean fencer in this competition.

Assuming that 0 per cent of the points of the Fencing Season 2013/2014 will be carried for to the 2014/2015 Season, the current Cadet Ranking would look like this: Ryan Ong Ren-An will remain 1st, Yeo Jing Zhe will climb from 10th to joint-2nd, Akira Goh Yu Xiang will drop from 5th to joint-7th, Brian Cheong Sze Kai will remain at joint-7th, Brian Koh Shao Yang will climb from 23rd to joint-7th and Joven Tey Qi Long will climb from 35th to joint-14th.

U20 Men's Foil

Ryan Ong Ren-An finished 18th.

U17 Women's Foil

In the U17 Women's Foil event, we had four fencers competing in a field of 37. Secondary 2's Chua Yi Jia was extremely unlucky. She did not pass the poules by one single hit. Secondary 3's Tatiana Wong Yu Rong finished 10th and Secondary 4's Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan finished 6th. Tatiana could have won her match in the Top 16. Secondary 2's Amita Berthier won the competition. Amita fenced well throughout the day and did not lose a single match. For Amita, it was an important first step in order to qualify for the major competitions this season.

If we assume that 0 per cent will be carried forward, the ranking would look like this: Amita Berthier climbed from 2nd to 1st, Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan climbed from 3rd to joint-2nd, and Tatiana Wong Yu Rong from 6th to 5th. Chua Yi Jia did

not earn a point, and therefore, she will be without ranking until the Cadet Trials.

U20 Women's Foil

Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan finished 6th and Tatiana Wong Yu Rong came in 15th.

Overall, I am pleased with the performance of our student-athletes. Our Secondary 2s have fought hard and done well. The next Cadet Ranking competition will be the Cadet Trials on 13 and 14 September in Singapore.

Winning Novices

Novices Championships, Singapore

Posted: 22 August 2014

Ralf Bissdorf

Head Coach, Fencing Academy

Some of our fencers participated in the Novices Fencing Championships on 16 and 17 August 2014. The Novices competition is meant for beginner fencers with little competition experience. Only those with less than three years' competition experience are allowed to fence. Medallists from Cadet, Junior and Senior Championships or Trials, National Schools "B" and "A" divisions are also not eligible to compete.

Our fencers who competed did very well.

Secondary 2 Sabre fencer Ahmad Huzaifah Saharudin won the silver medal in a field of 43 fencers. Danial Haqim Mohammed Sophian finished 13th. Both Ahmad and Danial have fenced sabre for less than two years and it was a pleasure to see how much they have developed over the past months. From competition to competition, we can see them improving not only in technical skills but also on a tactical level. For Ahmad, it was his first medal in an individual competition. The boys train hard and the good results are well earned. Both of them have a lot of potential for further improvement.

In Women's Foil, Secondary 2's Chua Yi Jia won another silver medal in a field of 22 fencers. Yi Jia has truly stepped up her training attitude and her fencing. In the past weeks, she has been more motivated than before and the quality of her training has improved. The result clearly reflects her efforts and I am convinced that Yi Jia has a good chance to get into the National Cadet Team at the end of the upcoming season.

In Men's Epee, Secondary 2's Ryan Yeo Yuan Zhen finished 30th in field of 63 fencers; Justin Lim came in 24th. For Ryan, this is another step forward in his development. Ryan's training attitude is really outstanding. He is constantly closing the gap to the fencers with more experience and there is constant progress. Justin has been doing additional training over the past weeks and he will benefit from this additional training in the future.

Our Men's Foilists competed in a field of 28 fencers. Brian Koh Shao Yang left happy with a gold medal; Joven Tey Qi Long finished 14th. Both fencers are among the hardest working in the Fencing Academy. They never fail to come early for training.

Joven was nervous at the beginning of the competition due to little competition experience and lost one or two matches in the poules that he could have won. Unfortunately, he met Brian in the Direct Elimination in the Round of 16. Brian won the match 15-12. But Joven scored the most points against the eventual champion and the quality of his fencing was good.

Brian fenced extremely well on that day – lots of different ways of scoring, hard fighting, good footwork, great attitude. He was the best fencer of the Men's Foil competition and rightfully, he emerged champion. Brian used a lot of the skills that he learnt in the past months. Both fencers keep getting better and I am sure with the hard work both are putting in we will see further improvement.

Ryan Wins His First Medal In A Senior Competition

Singapore National Individual Championships

By Ralf Bissdorf

Head Coach, Fencing Academy

Posted: 13 June 2014

Some of our upper secondary student-athletes competed in the Singapore National Individual Championships, a senior competition, from 29 May to 1 June 2014. In Sabre, Nicole Wee Sher Tynn reached the Round of 32. Fong Zheng Jie reached the Round of 16, where he got knocked out by the eventual silver medalist. The competition was won by David Chan Wei Ren, our Sabre Coach.

In Epee, Jade Lee Johnson reached the Round of 32 and Grace Mun Si En, the Round of 16. For Grace, it is a good result in the senior category. Neville Lim Woon Juin reached the Top 8 and was only knocked out in the Quarter-Finals. This is a great result for Neville in this age category. He has never reached the Top 8 in a national senior competition before.

In Foil, Tatiana Wong Yu Rong and Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan reached the Top 8; they were knocked out by the eventual silver and gold medallists, for both that is a very good result. The competition was won by our former Assistant Coach Wang Wenying. In the Men's event, Brian Cheong Sze Kai reached the Round of 32, Akira Goh Yu Xiang and Yeo Jing Zhe the Round of 16. Ryan Ong Ren-An won the bronze medal, a great result for Ryan, and his first medal in a national senior championships.

Overall, we are happy that everybody was able to qualify for the Direct Elimination and with four fencers reaching the Top 8 in three different categories, we achieved more than we expected.

Festival of Sports, Hongkong

Our Secondary 2 Epeeist Jefferson Cheong Jia Hui competed in the Festival of Sports in Hongkong, an U14 competition, on 1 June 2014. Jefferson did very well and won a bronze medal. He was beaten narrowly 15-14 in the semi-final. Hongkong is an important benchmark for us and Jefferson's result is encouraging for the future and for our lower secondary epee fencers.

Fetes des Jeunes (Youth Festival), Paris

Our Secondary 2 Foilist Amita Berthier competed in Paris, France, in the Fetes des Jeunes (Youth Festival) from 31 May to 1 June 2014, an event that brings together almost 1,000 fencers in all the different categories over one weekend. She won a silver medal, giving this coach a sleepless night as he was watching the live broadcast way past midnight on the Internet.

Division Titles Grow With Expanding Academy

National Schools Championships

Ralf Bissdorf

Head Coach, Fencing Academy

Posted: 23 April 2014



Overall, we won two Division Titles and 16 medals in the different individual events at the National Schools Championships held at Singapore Sports School from 14 to 16 April 2014.

I had predicted two Division Titles and 12 individual medals, 5 of them gold. Our fencers achieved beyond expectations when they returned with 4 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze medals. We won four medals more than expected, but we also had a shortfall of one gold medal.

In 2012, our fencers won 4 individual medals and 1 Division Title. In 2013, we won 8 individual medals and 1 Division Title. In 2014, we won 16 individual medals and 2 Division Titles. With a growing academy, we are also able to grow the number of medals and titles.

RESULTS

'C' Division Girls (2 Gold, 2 Bronze Medals)

Foil

Gold – Amita Berthier

Bronze – Chua Yi Jia

Top 8 – Thhivya Ashti Siva Kumar, Eleanor Tan Shu Ya and Nicole Wee Sher Tynn

Epee

Bronze – Chua Yi Jia

Top 8 – Eleanor Tan Shu Ya

Sabre

Gold – Nicole Wee Sher Tynn

Top 8 – Amita Berthier

Overall 'C' Division Girls – Champions with Amita Berthier, CHua Yi Jia, Jackie Grace Lau, Thivvya Ashti Siva Kumar, Eleanor Tan Shu Ya, Veralyn Tan Chou Xin and Nicole Wee Sher Tynn.

'C' Division Boys (1 Gold, 1 Silver and 3 Bronze Medals)

Foil

Top 8 – Yeo Jing Zhe

Epee

Gold – Jefferson Cheong Jia Hui

Bronze – Justin Lim

Sabre

Silver – Yeo Jing Zhe

Bronze – Danial Haqim Mohammed Sophian

Bronze – Ahmad Huzaifah Saharudin

Overall 'C' Division Boys – Runners-Up (behind Hwa Chong Institution) with Xaviar Chan Jun Xi, Jefferson Cheong Jia Hui, Brian Koh Shao Yang, Justin Lim, Danial Haqim Mohammed Sophian, Ahmad Saharudin, Zabedee Tan Jing Long, Joven Tey Qi Long, Yeo Jing Zhe, Nicholas Yeo Xue Wen and Ryan Yeo Yuan Zhen.

We had a great opportunity to win this title for the first time. We were leading after the Epee (who fenced up to expectation) and Sabre (who fenced beyond my expectation), but we could not maintain the lead in Foil and lost the title narrowly to Hwa Chong Institution. It feels like a lost opportunity to win an unexpected title, despite great results in Sabre and Epee.

'B' Division Girls (1 Gold, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals)

Foil

Gold – Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan

Bronze – Tatiana Wong Yu Rong

Top 8 – Chloe Chu Min

Epee

Silver – Chloe Chu Min

Bronze – Grace Mun Si En

Top 8 – Jade Lee Johnson

Sabre

Top 8 – Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan

Overall ‘B’ Division Girls – Champions with Chloe Chu Min, Jade Lee Johnson, Grace Mun Si En, Michelle Lee Chuan Ling, Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan and Tatiana Wong Yu Rong.

After winning our very first “C” Division Title two years ago, our girls successfully clinched the “B” Division Title. It is remarkable that we won this title with six fencers only – one of them, Michelle Lee Chuan Ling, “borrowed” from the Swimming Academy.

‘B’ Division Boyss (2 Silver and 2 Bronze Medals)

Foil

Bronze – Ryan Ong Ren-An

Top 8 – Akira Goh Yu Xiang

Epee

Silver – Neville Lim Woon Juin

Bronze – Zachary Chen Yi

Top 8 – Akira Goh Yu Xiang

Sabre

Silver – Fong Zheng Jie

Overall ‘B’ Division Boys – Runners-Up (behind Hwa Chong Institution) with Zachary Chen Yi, Brian Cheong Sze Kai, Fong Zheng Jie, Akira Goh Yu Xiang, Manoj Jeyapala, Neville Lim Woon Juin and Ryan Ong Ren-An.

I had some hope that we could win this title in 2014; the boys tried hard and I am certain next year’s team will try even harder.

Overall, I am happy and pleased with the results and I want to use this opportunity to thank our fencers. In coaching, there are always ups and downs, great victories and painful defeats. In three days, we experienced both the victories and the defeats. We had fencers who were proud and happy and we had some who were sad, disappointed and crying bitterly. We had fencers that shared

my feelings – that we missed a great opportunity to win the Boys “C” Division; they shared their thoughts and feelings with me after the competition.

At the end of the day it is the fencers that keep me motivated as a coach. Coaching is not an easy job at times, but coaching young fencers can be full of magical moments – on the strip and beside the strip, when you win and even when you lose.

I also want to thank the parents for their trust in our School and our fencing programme, my colleagues for the outstanding support – especially my new coaching colleagues, Giorgio Guerrini and David Chan Wei Ren. Last but not least, our General Manager, Loo Zhao Rong Luan, for her work “behind the scenes” which can’t be always seen, but which is essential for all of us.

Click [here](#) for more images from the National Schools Fencing Championships 2014

Debutants At Sea Championships Cut A Class Act

Jansen Yeo

Strategic Communications Executive

Four debutantes at the South-East Asian Fencing Federation Championships held from 17 to 27 January 2014 returned from Putrajaya, Malaysia, with one team and four individual medals.

Amita Berthier won the Women’s Foil Cadet Individual silver medal, while Ryan Ong Ren-An won the Men’s Foil Cadet Individual bronze medal and Jade Lee Johnson, the Women’s Epee Cadet Individual the bronze medal. Neville Lim Woon Juin won the Men’s Epee Cadet Individual silver medal; he was also part of the Men’s Epee Junior Team that won the Team bronze medal.

“To be making their debut against the top fencers in their age-group, and to come out with medals, is an indication of their talents and demonstrates their determination to succeed,” said Fencing Academy Head Coach Ralf Bissdorf.

Zachary Chen Yi, who had competed in the 2013 edition of the region’s premier age-group competition in Brunei, also won a bronze medal in the Men’s Epee Junior Team event. Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan, who had also competed in Brunei in 2013, finished 10th in the Foil Senior Individual event.

Eleven student-athletes were selected by Fencing Singapore to compete at the

SEAFF Championships. Among them, nine were making their debut – Akira Goh Yu Xiang, Amita, Chloe Chu Min, Fong Zheng Jie, Grace Mun Si En, Jade, Neville, Ryan and Tatiana Wong Yu Rong.

All the fencers returned with at least a top-16 position and Head Coach Bissdorf was proud of his fencers' achievements. He said: "Last year, we won five medals in Brunei, with two of them in the Cadet Team events. This year, there was no Cadet Team event but we still managed to win six medals, including four individual medals.

"The organisers of the competition increased the number of fencers per country per weapon group from four to eight and this was a wonderful opportunity for many of our fencers. It was the first time many of them, including our four individual medallists, were selected by Fencing Singapore to represent Singapore at the Southeast Asian level and they have done very well."

Head Coach Bissdorf said a medal at the SEAFF in the Cadet level is the very first step in a career of a Singaporean fencer.

"The next step is to win a medal in an individual event at the Asian Cadet level. We are working towards this next step of a very long journey towards the Olympic Games."

RESULTS

Silver

Neville Lim Woon Juin (Epee Cadet Individual)

Amita Berthier (Foil Cadet Individual)

Bronze

Ryan Ong Ren-An (Foil Cadet Individual)

Jade Lee Johnson (Epee Cadet Individual)

Neville Lim Woon Juin and Zachary Chen Yi (Epee Junior Team)

Top 8 Finishes

Amita Berthier (Foil Junior Individual, 6th)

Tatiana Wong Yu Rong (Foil Junior Individual, 8th; Cadet Individual, 6th)

Zachary Chen Yi (Epee Cadet Individual, 6th)

Top 16 Finishes

Fong Zheng Jie (Sabre Junior Individual, 15th; Cadet Individual, 12th)

Akira Goh Yu Xiang (Foil Cadet Individual, 13th)

Zachary Chen Yi (Epee Junior Individual, 10th)

Chloe Chu Min (Epee Cadet Individual, 10th)
Grace Mun Si En (Epee Cadet Individual, 12th)
Nicole Mae Wong Hui Shan (Foil Senior Individual, 10th)

Top 32 Finishes

Neville Lim Woon Juin (Epee Junior Individual, 21st)