

# emPOWER

ISSUE 4

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## Celebrate The Extraordinary as One Team Singapore

Held on 3 October 2017 at Swissôtel The Stamford, the “Celebrate The Extraordinary” event was organized (with the support from adidas, Deloitte, Fullerton Health, OSIM and Swissôtel) to recognise the achievements and extraordinary spirit of our athletes. More than 100 corporate representatives and 80 athletes gathered to commemorate Singapore contingent’s best home away games performance, with a total of 188 medals (57 Gold, 58 Silver and 73 Bronze)! An astonishing feat for a small country like ours indeed!

Key announcements at the event included the official launch of the One Team Singapore fund (OTSF), where Corporates and individuals can now play a direct role in cultivating the future generation of sporting heroes. The fund supports High Performance Sport in various,



areas such as coach development competition opportunities, sport science and medicine etc.

During the event, the OTSF received its first group of donations from running club Tiong Bahru Garden Joggers (\$100,000) and spexBusiness partner, Deloitte Singapore (\$150,000). Inspired by Deloitte, Fullerton Health also



pledged its support through a contribution of \$250,000. You can also do your part to support our athletes in their pursuit to achieve their sporting goals. Click [here](#) to find out how you can contribute.

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Access Team Singapore Athletes' profile through RIGHTSPOT now!

3 easy steps to access:



1 Join Rightspot [here](#)

2 Enter your Login and Password from Customer@Rightspot.co

3 Go to “Job Listings” to create available roles for athletes

## spexBusiness Advisory Board - New Members

The *spexBusiness* Advisory Board was established in 31 July 2014 with the purpose of driving effective implementation of *spexBusiness* on 2 key fronts:

To actively facilitate the transfer of knowledge, expertise and corporate experience from well-established professionals and senior management executives of both private and public sectors.

To strategically extend our capabilities through forging collaborations with the local business fraternity of companies, trade associations, chambers of commerce, business federations and public sector agencies.

It is with such focus in mind that we welcome the appointment of our new members on board the *spexBusiness* advisory board:



**Koh Ching Hong**  
Country Managing Director,  
INTERTEK TESTING SERVICES



**Jessica Shen**  
Director, HR & Organisation  
Development,  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE,  
COMMUNITY AND YOUTH



**James Tan**  
Managing Partner,  
QUEST VENTURES



**David Sin**  
Deputy Chairman and  
Director,  
FULLERTON HEALTH



**Yip Ren Kai**  
Chairperson,  
SNO CATHLETES'  
COMMISSION

## spexBusiness Networking Session: Connecting Athletes with Partners

The networking session on 25 October 2017 sees Team Singapore athletes network with our *spexBusiness* partners such as Raffles Medical, Fairmont Singapore and PSB Academy. Other *spexBusiness* partners such as DBS, NTUC Fairprice, National Youth Council, Resorts World Sentosa also joined us to hear about the career aspirations of our Team Singapore athletes.

Internships, contract and full-time employment opportunities were made available at the session.

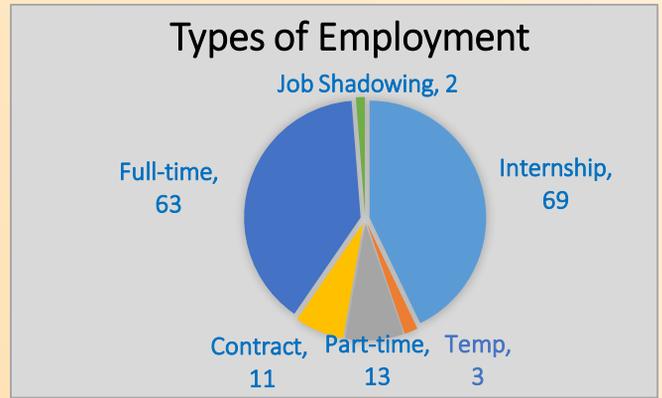
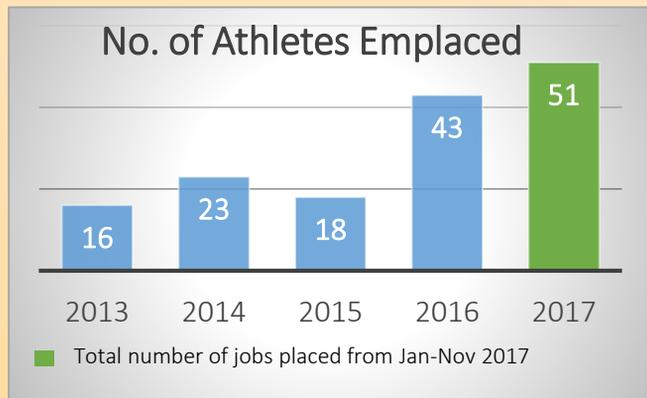


Such networking platforms are necessary as more often than not, athletes spend most of their time training to achieve their sporting aspirations and juggling between their sporting, work and study commitments as well as their own personal life.

It is through these sessions that athletes get to meet up with employers, understand their business needs and see how they can fit in and bring useful skills learnt from sport into the board room.

## Update on Job Placements

The number of athletes employed in 2017 has surpassed 2016! A total of 150 have been employed by *spexBusiness* partners on various employment terms. The *spexBusiness* team will continue to support our Team Singapore athletes on their career transitions into the workforce.



## Special Thanks to these *spexBusiness* Partners

who have hired more than 2 athletes for various work opportunities in 2017 thus far! Thank you for your continuous support in preparing our Team Singapore athletes' transit into a successful post-sporting career.

<i>spexBusiness</i> Partner	Number of athletes employed (as of Nov 2017)
<b>Deloitte.</b>	17
<b>DBS</b>	5
<b>FULLERTON HEALTH</b>	4
<b>RafflesMedical</b> <small>Your Trusted Partner for Health</small>	3

## *spexEducation*-In-Focus

Besides *spexBusiness* partners providing support to Team Singapore athletes, *spexEducation* partners also continuously garner their strong support towards student-athletes in their community. This issue's highlight:



Other than the School of Business Management, Nanyang Polytechnic has now expanded the *spexEducation* scheme to all their schools.

What this means is that now there will be more athlete-friendly educational courses made available for our student-athletes.



SIM Global Education, in collaboration with the University of Stirling, have also expanded from 1 to 4 athlete-friendly courses.

Student-athletes can now enrol in any of these four courses:

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sports Studies and Marketing
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sport Business Management
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Sustainable Events Management
- Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Retail Marketing

SIM Global Education also offer 8 scholarships which sponsors 50% of the programme fee over 2 academic years - 2018/2019 (4 scholarships) and 2019/2020 (4 scholarships) for national athletes to pursue the above programmes. Scholarship applications will open in Feb/Mar 2018.

Special thanks from Singapore Sport Institute and Team Singapore athletes to all our *spexEducation* partners for your unyielding support. Your support has been pivotal in helping student-athletes integrate their pursuit of high performance sports with their academic aspirations.

## spexEducation - Featured Athlete

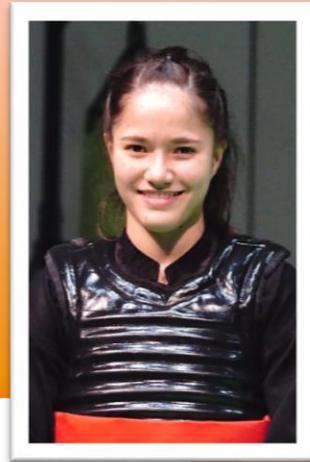
Shafiqah is currently a 3rd year undergraduate student-athlete pursuing Bachelor of Sport Science & Management Degree at NTU. She has benefitted greatly from NTU's Sport Science & Management programme through:

- Discretionary Admission Scheme
- Flexible scheduling to customise her academic workload
- Multiple leaves of absence to prepare for competitions and training camps

A big thank you to NTU for supporting Shafiqah in her sporting journey!

*"With all these support, I am able to put in 100% for both sports and academics instead of compromising on one. My time can be fully devoted to training as well as my studies."*

**Nurul Shafiqah Mohamed Saiful**  
TeamSG Silat Exponent



## Warm Welcome to Diane at our Athletes' Centre



Visitors to the Athletes' Centre will notice we have a new face at our centre. Diane Neo, Team Singapore para-bowler is now working alongside the Athlete Life team, with primary responsibility to manage the Athletes' Centre operations. Diane is very friendly, and you can learn more about her [here](#) and a poem she wrote [here!](#)

Do say "hi!" to her when you see her!



## Team Singapore Takes 1,336 Steps Towards a Sportier Singapore

The Swissôtel Vertical Marathon was held on 19 November with more than 2,000 participants, including several Team Singapore athletes, who scaled 73 storeys to reach the peak of one of Southeast Asia's tallest hotels.



*stop me, it makes me challenge the impossible,"* said Jackie, who depended solely on the strength of his left arm and leg to complete the 73-storey challenge.

To assist more Singaporeans to take greater ownership and responsibility

for their health, an Active Health booth was also set up on the event day. The booth comprised of stations where participants could obtain information on their body composition and BMI. The handgrip strength test that measures the static strength of the hand and forearm, and also predicting the functional status of older adults is also made available.



several categories.

Para-athletes Jackie and Alvina, had successfully conquered the Swissôtel Vertical Marathon seventh and eighth time respectively. Taking on the arduous challenge despite their physical limitations was their way of proving that getting active could be a way of life for everyone. *"I want to show people that people with disabilities can actually do things [in] the same [way] or even better than able-bodied people. To me, disability doesn't*

TeamSG rowers Saiyidah Aisyah and Syahir Rafa'ee, golfers Gregory Foo and Jerome Ng, track and field athlete Jackie Chionh, and shooter Alvina Neo took part in the race, while sprint legend U.K. Shyam and wushu exponent Tan Xiang Tian gave out medals to winners from



## Athletes-In-Action...

### Team Singapore Lawn Bowlers



(L-R): Bernard Foo, Pang Heng Heck, Melvin Tan, Anthony Loh

Following a triumphant return from SEA Games 2017 in KL this August, Singapore's Lawn Bowls athletes have done us proud again this time on the Asian stage! For a team largely looked upon as underdogs, they have achieved a historic gold medal this October at the Asian Lawn Bowls Championships in New Delhi! Congratulations, Team Singapore Lawn Bowlers!

### Team Singapore Fencers



(L-R): Jonathan Au Eong, Darren Tan, Coach Andrey Klyushin and Yeo Jing Zhe

Singapore's Fencers broke through for their first ever podium at the Junior World Cup (JWC) circuit after the Men's Foil Team finished runner-up to France in Bangkok on 8 October. The silver medal finish represents Singapore's all-time best showing at the prestigious circuit for any weapon. Well done, Team Singapore Fencers!

## Shining Young Athlete Stars



"If you want to do something, just do it. Don't let the fear of failure or what might happen stop you from what you want to do. It's important to take that crucial step forward for the goal you want to achieve"

**MR MAXIMILLIAN TAN**  
SYA 2017 FINALIST



"You don't need someone who gives you answers, but I feel that it is important for someone to help you see things in another aspect – to help you look for the answers yourself, to guide you through"

**MS NG LIN ZHI SHAYNA**  
SYA 2017 FINALIST



The nation's highest accolade for youths, the Singapore Youth Award (SYA) honours exceptional young people who enrich the hearts and souls of the community and bring distinction to the nation. This year, Team Singapore equestrian, Maximillian Tan and Team Singapore Bowler, Shayna Ng are the finalists for the award. Past recipients include Paralympic gold medallist Yip Pin Xiu, Olympic silver medallist Li Jiawei and filmmaker Anthony Chen. Kudos to Maximillian and Shayna for doing us proud!

## Athlete-In-Focus...



Team Singapore Archer, Christina Gunawan, only started Archery when she was 17 years old. Nevertheless, she picked up the sport really quickly and even represented Singapore for SEA Games 2015, her first ever major game. For Christina, it was a

tough period then as she had to juggle between school and sport. Thankfully she had the support of NTU, our spexEducation partner, who provided her with leaves of absence as well as making exceptions to bring her exams a week forward so that she could concentrate and compete for SEA Games 2015.

Fast forward 2 years later, Christina is now currently working in KPMG, our spexBusiness partner. Christina first found out about the job through a spexBusiness networking session.



Additionally, she received constant support from KPMG where she received a month of Full Pay Unrecorded Leave (FPUL), a month of sabbatical leave and 10 days of additional paid leave to train and compete for SEA Games 2017. All these trainings have not gone down the drain as Christina had recently earned a Silver for Compound Archery in the 6<sup>th</sup> SEA Open Championships for Archery held in Myanmar. Well done, Christina!

*"Archery is a sport that requires a lot of muscle memory. Once you stopped training, your results will deteriorate. Hence, I really appreciate the additional support that KPMG provided me that allows me to continue with my sporting aspirations as well as achieving my career goals."* - Christina Gunawan, Team Singapore Archer



# OLY post-nominal letters to honour Olympians

On 11 November 2017, World Olympians Association (WOA) unveiled its landmark OLY post-nominal letters initiative at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Olympic Committee (IOC) International Athletes' Forum in Lausanne. The initiative allows all Olympians around the world to sign-up through WOA to use "OLY" after their names, in a similar fashion to other post-nominal designations such as PhD.

Serving as a symbolic recognition of an Olympian's status in society, the OLY lettering will help to promote an Olympian's social, charitable, professional and community-based work, acting as a unifying reminder of their achievements and responsibility to embody the values of Olympism in everyday life. The OLY lettering offers Olympians:

- A professional tool, showing off the highly transferable skills of being an Olympian and competing at the highest level
- A symbol of their dedication, concentration and commitment to sport and success
- A link to the global network of Olympians

As shared by WOA President, Joël Bouzou, Olympians have achieved something unique by participating at an Olympic Games, and for that they must be recognised. Olympians are truly leaders and role models in society and ambassadors of the Olympic Movement. Much like a doctor, a lawyer or a university professor, becoming an Olympian takes many years of hard work and requires a diverse range of skills. This initiative will provide Olympians with the professional recognition they deserve.

## Upcoming Events and Major Games

1. Celebrate What's Right (Annual *spexBusiness* and *spexEducation* Partners Appreciation Event) (28 March 2018)
2. Commonwealth Games 2018, Gold Coast, Australia (4 – 15 April)
3. Asian Games 2018, Jakarta Palembang, Indonesia (18 August – 2 September)
4. Youth Olympic Games 2018, Buenos Aires, Argentina (6 – 18 October)
5. Asian Para Games 2018, Jakarta, Indonesia (8 – 16 October)

## A Big Thank You to All Our *spexBusiness*, *spexEducation* and TS Card Partners

