

Media Release

World's top seeds set for Singapore Squash Open 2023

*Host Singapore to be represented by Asian Games-bound
Marcus Phua and Au Yeong Wai Yhann*



SINGAPORE, 23 SEPTEMBER 2023 – Following the immense success of the Singapore Squash Open last year, the premium squash tournament will be back this year at the Singapore Sports Hub, OCBC Arena Hall 1, from 14 – 19 November.

The VITAGEN Singapore Squash Open 2023 (SSO) will see 24 of the world's elite men's and women's squash athletes compete for a combined prize money of US\$220,000. The world's top two men's players, Ali Farag and Diego Elias, as well as women's world number four Joelle King, have registered for the PSA World Tour Gold event.

Men's world number one Ali Farag said: "I'm super excited to be coming to Singapore this year. I was bummed to miss out last year due to injury, and I can't wait, as I have heard great things from my wife (professional squash player Nour El Tayeb) and all the players who participated last year. I'm looking forward to coming to Singapore for the first time and to play in front of the great Asian crowd."

Last year's event also attracted a stellar field, with Briton Mohamed El Shorbagy and New Zealander Joelle King emerging as the men's and women's champions respectively. Both are set to defend their titles in Singapore.

Mr Patrick Thio, President of the Singapore Squash Rackets Association (Singapore Squash), said: "We are delighted to welcome back the world's best squash players to Singapore. Watching our local talents compete against top-ranked players is a boost to the local squash community,

and we hope that the excitement on and off the court will inspire our budding young squash athletes to continue their pursuit of sporting excellence.”

Veteran Marcus Phua, 34, part of the four-man squad for the upcoming 2023 Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, will be one of the Republic’s wild card entries for the SSO. The other wild card will go to Au Yeong Wai Yhann, 24, a Sport Singapore’s Sport Excellence (SPEX) scholar.

Singapore seeded ninth for Asian Games

Singapore Squash also announced the Asian Games squad today. Seeded 9th in the Men’s team event, the squad includes Phua, six-time SEA Games medallist Samuel Kang Shuan Mu, two-time SEA Games medallist Aaron-Jon Widjaja Liang and debutant Jerome Clement Aw Jin Ming, blending experience with medal hopefuls.

“We are optimistic about our chances at the Asian Games. Although we are the underdogs, we hope our resilience and grit can see us through and an upset is always on the card,” said Mr Thio.

The Men’s Team squash event will take place at Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre, with preliminary rounds taking place from 26 September to 28 September, with the finals happening on 30 September.

The Singapore team, seeded in Pool A, will face top seeds India, as well as Pakistan, Kuwait, Qatar and Nepal. At the 2018 Asian Games in Palembang, Jakarta, the Singapore Men’s Team emerged in 5th place, overcoming the likes of Qatar, Indonesia and Thailand.

In addition to the Men’s team event, Phua and Liang will be representing Singapore in the Men’s Individual event. The first rounds of the competition will commence on 1 October, with the finals taking place on 5 October.

More information about the Asian Games squad can be found in **Annex A**.



About the Singapore Squash Rackets Association

Singapore Squash Rackets Association (SSRA) is the National Sports Association (NSA) for the sport of Squash in Singapore.

Governed by Sport Singapore (SportSG), the association is a member of the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC), South East Asian Squash Federation (SEASF), Asian Squash Federation (ASF) and World Squash Federation (WSF).

SSRA was formed in 1970 and we are an Institute of Public Character (IPC) charity organisation. SSRA aims to promote, support and advance the sport of Squash in Singapore through our core values of Integrity, Teamwork and Diversity.

For media queries:

Muhd RAHMAT

Consultant

Black Dot Pte. Ltd.

Mobile: +65 9277 4846

Email: rahmat@blackdot.sg

Aidan WOODFORD



Account Director


Black Dot Pte. Ltd.

Mobile: +65 8102 6720

Email: aidan@blackdot.sg

ANNEX A

Name	Event	Biography	Accolades	Photo
Aaron-Jon Widjaja Liang	Men's Individual Men's Team	<p>Aaron Liang is one of the brightest Singaporean squash players we have seen in recent times. The 22-year-old is currently a student at Cornell University, where he also plays competitively in the College Squash Association league and trains under former world champion David Palmer.</p> <p>Aaron recently participated at his first major individual tournament at the Asian Individual Squash Championships in Hong Kong and has participated in numerous professional squash events within the Asia-Oceania region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SEA Games 2019 (Men's Team) - Bronze • SEA Games 2019 (Mixed Team) - Silver • MARIGOLD 2022 SGSquash Satellite 1 - Runner-up • MARIGOLD 2021 SGSquash Closed Satellite - Runner-up • Singapore National Championships 2022 - Runner-up • Singapore National Championship 2021 - Runner-up • Singapore National Championships 2020 - 3rd place 	
Marcus Phua Jia Hui	Men's Individual Men's Team	<p>Marcus Phua is the most experienced member of the team, having represented Singapore in team events since 2004.</p> <p>Amongst the many events that he has donned the flag include the Asian Team and Individual Championships, the World University Championships and World Junior Championships.</p> <p>Marcus is also a SEA Games gold medalist, having won the men's jumbo doubles event in 2015.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARIGOLD 2023 SGSquash Satellite 1- Champion • MARIGOLD 2023 SGSquash Satellite 4 - Champion • SEA Games 2015 (Men's Jumbo Doubles) - Gold • SEA Games 2015 (Men's Team) - Silver • Singapore National Championships 2023 - Runner-up • Singapore National Championship 2021 - 3rd place • Singapore National Championships 2020 - Runner-up 	

Name	Event	Biography	Accolades	Photo
Samuel Kang Shan Mu	Men's Team	<p>Samuel Kang is a 7-time National Champion and was captain of the Princeton University squash team, who were amongst the top colleges at the College Squash Association.</p> <p>Samuel has extensive Major Games experience, having been part of the 2018 Asian Games men's team and three SEA Games outings in 2015, 2017 and 2019, where he collected two gold medals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MARIGOLD 2022 SGSquash Satellite 1 - Champion ● MARIGOLD 2021 SGSquash Closed Satellite - Champion ● SEA Games 2019 (Men's Team) - Bronze ● SEA Games 2019 (Mixed Team) - Silver ● SEA Games 2017 (Men's Team) - Gold ● SEA Games 2017 (Men's Jumbo Doubles) - Gold ● SEA Games 2017 (Men's Individual) - Bronze ● SEA Games 2015 (Men's Individual) - Bronze ● Singapore National Championships 2018-2023 - Champion ● Singapore National Championships 2011 - Champion 	
Jerome Clement Aw Jin Ming	Men's Team	<p>Jerome is a Major Game debutant and is one of Singapore's young rising stars.</p> <p>He made his first podium finish at the National Championships this year and fought his way to two third placing finishes at the professional Satellite events in 2022 and 2023.</p> <p>He competed on the professional squash tour briefly before enlisting for National Service and placed in several events in Australia and New Zealand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MARIGOLD 2023 SGSquash Satellite 4 - 3rd place ● MARIGOLD 2022 SGSquash Satellite 1 - 3rd place ● Singapore National Championships 2023 - 3rd place 	