

DELTA LEAGUE

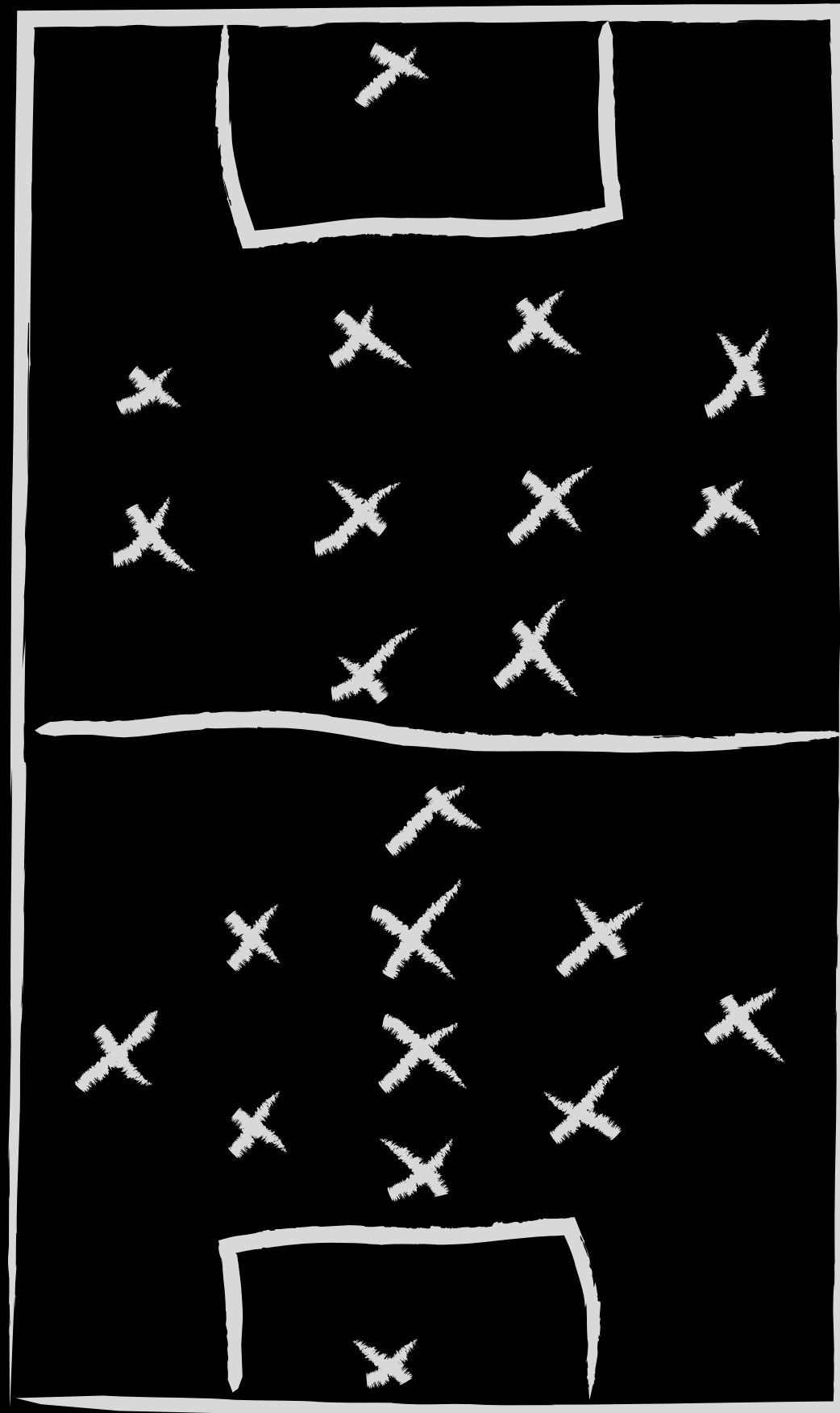


DELTA LEAGUE

Changing Lives Through Football

ALI KASIM



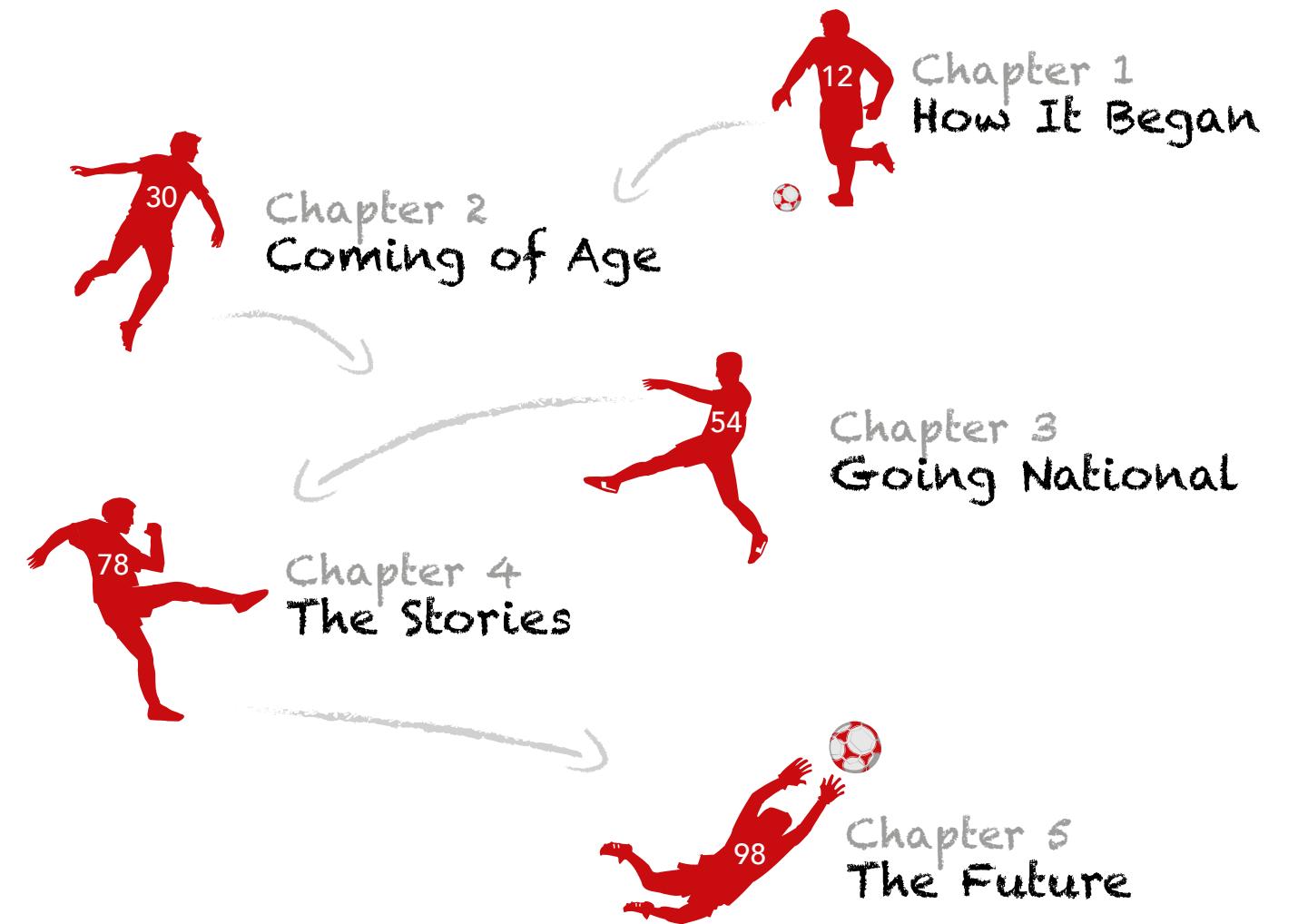


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MESSAGE BY
MR MASAGOS ZULKIFLI BIN MASAGOS MOHAMAD
SENIOR MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

In the two years since the Delta League was conceived, I am glad to say that it has achieved considerable success in its efforts to engage and shape the lives of our youths.

The Delta League has used the world's most popular sport, football, as a key medium to involve youths in healthy and meaningful activities during their school holidays, while

simultaneously promoting a series of self-improvement and crime-awareness activities. I have seen the League triple in size from 16 teams in 2011 to 48 teams across the island today. This is quite an achievement, and I hope that the League will continue widening its scope to include more youths, while staying true to its original mission of engaging youths to steer them away from crime.

The Delta League has also given our youths an opportunity to interact with Police officers and life coaches, as well as participate in community service activities. I am heartened to see the Police, the National Crime Prevention Council and other community partners working together and providing the necessary network of support that these youths require in their formative years. Through the strengthening of such support circles around them, these youths are better able to develop and mature over the course of their involvement in the Delta League. Their participation in a wide variety of programmes has allowed them to harness their talents, creativity and energy positively.

This book documents the milestones of the Delta League. The stories in the book are inspirational, heart-warming and showcase the difference that Delta League has made in the lives of these youths. I hope that there

will be many more of such achievements to celebrate in the future. This published work builds on our national efforts in partnership with the youths and is indeed an important contribution to local crime prevention literature. Everyone, including family, friends and the community-at-large, has a part to play in reaching out to youths and working with them to lead productive lives.

I hope that you will find this book an insightful and meaningful read.



FOREWORD BY
MR NG JOO HEE
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

The mission of the Police is to prevent, deter and detect crime.

Detecting crime is, of course, the most familiar and the most publicly visible thing that the Police do. A crime is committed; we are told about it or find it out ourselves; we then take action to solve the crime and endeavour to bring the offender to justice.

But in crime and public safety, as in public health, prevention is always better than cure. No one prefers to get cancer so that he can be cured of it. Similarly, in crime-fighting, prevention and deterrence are always better than detection. One more crime prevented or deterred is one less victim of crime and one less harm incurred.

This is precisely our motivation for creating the Delta League and putting it on year after year. Youthful exuberance, when coupled with aimless idleness, is often a source of much tomfoolery. It is best that the excess energies of our school-going youths during the long school breaks be channelled towards productive purpose.

What better way, then, than to have them learn and play the beautiful game when school is out? Along the way, it is our hope that the youngsters will learn about hard work, teamwork, resilience, discipline and the rewards that come with practice.

Singaporean communities possess an inbuilt ability to discourage deviance and maintain order. And the Delta League offers a wonderful illustration of how the Police and the community – in this case, the National Crime Prevention Council, educators, professional

athletes, counsellors and other well-wishers – have come together to co-create a superior outcome for our young people.

I am really happy that the Delta League has grown, from casual kick-about between police officers at Clementi and neighbourhood kids, to become an island-wide initiative. Our challenge is to turn it into a truly national movement, using football to touch many more young lives and help keep them out of harm's way.



PREFACE BY
MR TAN KIAN HOON
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION COUNCIL

The National Crime Prevention Council has been engaging Singaporeans on the importance and the means of preventing crime for more than 30 years. While Singapore enjoys one of the lowest crime rates in the world, our programmes and the role of NCPC have evolved over the decades, as there is a need to consistently review and re-look our approach and involvement.

Partnering the Singapore Police Force to organise the Delta League is a natural and critical progression toward our common objective of raising public awareness of crime prevention. NCPC is privileged to work with SPF, especially the officers at Clementi Police Division, in the production of this commemorative book.

I am greatly heartened by the support for the Delta League by stakeholders. The most recent edition in December 2012 attracted almost 1000 youths, forming 48 teams to compete to become the champions of the League. During the finals at Jalan Besar Stadium, what I saw were not just talented football players pitting their skills against one another, but newly empowered youths charging towards a brighter and better future. There and then, they were cheered on by their relatives and friends sitting at the grandstand. NCPC recognises that family involvement, augmented by support from friends, forms an important component of Delta League's multi-pronged approach to engaging youths meaningfully and keeping them away from negative influences.

I applaud Clementi Police Division's efforts in putting together the material for this book within a short period of time. The Delta League

was launched only in 2010. The fact that a book is produced after four editions of the League is testament to the accomplishments of the programme and how it has benefited thousands of young participants. Not only does this book give insights to the variety of enriching activities organised for the youths, it also illustrates the focus on nurturing and educating them to become good citizens.

I would like to record my sincere thanks to all the partners, sponsors and volunteers who have contributed to the success of the Delta League and made a difference to its young participants. This programme is yet another fine example of NCPC and SPF working closely with the community and stakeholders to tackle crime in an ever-changing security landscape. Crime prevention is a shared responsibility, a collective effort.

I hope you enjoy this book and the messages it brings you.



HOW IT BEGAN



HOW IT BEGAN



The Delta League logo, designed by Fairuz Ariff, from Clementi Police Division. The Delta League was so named because it originated in Clementi Police Division, whose call sign is "Delta Division". Delta (Δ) is also used as a symbol in mathematics and the sciences to represent "difference" or "change" – aptly encapsulating the League's mission of changing the lives of youths through football.

THE IDEA for the Delta League sprang from a question: how could youths be meaningfully occupied during their school holidays in order to steer them away from crime?

A platform for engaging these youths was needed, preferably a healthy one that Singaporean teenagers could easily take to.

For quite some time, various youth groups had been playing ad-hoc football games with the officers from Clementi Police Division. Division Commander Melvin Yong noted visible benefits on the ground as a result of his officers' informal interaction with these young footballers. For one, the youths responded well to the mentorship of the officers, and spent their free time more constructively than they otherwise would have.

When his Division spearheaded the Ministry of Home Affairs PLUS Futsal competition for secondary schools in early January 2011, he similarly observed a heartening level of camaraderie established between the students and his officers.

This gave Yong an idea for a new way for the Singapore Police Force to engage with youths.



"Usually, our Community Liaison and Preparedness Officers engage with schools, who then identify the students whom the officers should give a talk to," he said. "But I started to question if this was truly effective. Did the students want to be engaged this way?"

"The fundamental question was raised: 'How do we bring the students to us?' When we looked at the profile of the youths involved, we found that football was something that engaged the majority of them."

The Delta League's official banner for the inaugural June 2011 grand final



Players from Queenstown Secondary School (in blue) and Queensway Secondary School (purple) in action on the field

It was then that he decided to leverage on the effectiveness of football as an engagement method, and organise a structured 11-a-side football league for youths.

The Delta League was born, and planning of its inaugural season began in March 2011. Held across the four districts of the Clementi Police Division – Queenstown, Bukit Merah West, Clementi and Jurong East – officers from the respective Neighbourhood Police Centres helped scout for and supervise four teams within their group.



Queensway Secondary School players warming up

The League's main objectives were to raise awareness of the consequences of unlawful behaviour, and to keep youths meaningfully occupied and out of trouble during the school holidays.

In June, 16 teams – all from schools within the Division's jurisdiction – kicked off the tournament. More than 200 secondary school students, between the ages of 13 and 17, took part.

The schools that helped enrol the teams ensured a teacher-in-charge served as the team's manager, while officers from the

Jurong East and Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centres served as tournament officials.

The League's main objectives were to raise awareness of the consequences of unlawful behaviour, and to keep youths meaningfully occupied and out of trouble during the school holidays. Whereas school camps last only one to three days, a football tournament spanning an entire month provided a lengthier and more fulfilling engagement for active teenagers.

"There were several principles we set for the Delta League," said Yong. "Firstly, we couldn't eliminate any team after just one game; we needed to keep them in the competition. That's why we went for a league format before the knockout stages.

Secondly, enrolment for the teams had to be free. And thirdly, our officers had to be attached to each team."

The League organisers, led by Heng Chih Yang from Jurong East Neighbourhood Police Centre, ensured that social media was a cornerstone of the tournament, and used the Delta League Facebook page to post results, match reports and photos. Within the first season, the page grew rapidly and garnered over 500 friends. To date, it has more than 2,600.

There were, of course, obstacles during the planning stages and the season proper. A shortage of sponsors – there was only one, South West Community Development Council, who donated \$5,000 to the initiative – slightly hindered the organising of the month-long tournament, which comprised 34 matches in total.

Lack of manpower, venues and first-aid coverage were other challenges that threatened to derail the project.

Matches were played at the football pitches of schools within the Division, with the kind permission of the principals. Fairuz Ariff, a Community Liaison Officer from Jurong East Neighbourhood Police Centre, who was heavily involved in organising the tournament, remarked that it was not easy getting the schools' cooperation at first.



"The Delta League project was a brand new one, so nobody knew about it at that time," Fairuz said.

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"Even the schools that did allow us to use their pitches couldn't do so permanently – because they had commitments to other events. We had to plan the matches around venue availability."

Patrick Lim, a Community Liaison Officer from Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre, who was also extensively involved in organising the first season, added: "Also, we needed school teachers to be present at every match. But because the tournament was held during the school holidays, the teachers had to help out on their own time.

"The teachers would also ask us what would happen if a student got injured while playing. Eventually, we asked students to sign an indemnity form to warrant that they played at their own risk.

"Providing first-aid stand-by for the matches was another issue because of our initial budget constraints. Luckily, we were able to engage students from the St John Ambulance Brigade."

The Delta League eventually secured professional first-aid for its third season (June 2012), when the league went island-wide.

Competition proceedings kicked off with a series of football coaching clinics conducted by S.League team Home United Football Club, an affiliate of the Police Force. The club's academy coaches helped to hone the skills of the Delta League's

Professional-grade equipment for the Delta Leagues' aspiring footballers to train with

Practising hard under the watchful eyes of the coaches

Delta League participants listening intently to their coaches

Football, however, could not be the be-all and end-all. The organisers made sure that each participant attended workshops and counselling programmes that emphasised the importance of lawful behaviour.

young participants, and even managed to talent-spot four very promising players, who were then invited for trials with the club.

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Banking on their good working relationship with various community partners, Clementi Police Division officers organised sharing sessions at which ex-offenders spoke to the teenagers about their personal experiences.

Conducting one of the sharing sessions was the Industrial Services Co-operative Society.

The speakers, who were ex-offenders themselves, related their personal struggles with crime and substance abuse, which resonated with many of the youths. The speakers' message: in spite of difficult circumstances, we can still make the right decisions and better our lives.

Positive Intentions, a social enterprise that specialises in people development, also got their hands into the mix at this early



A speaker from Industrial Services Co-operative Society giving Delta League participants a motivational talk

stage. "During the workshops and Community Day event, we gave motivational talks to the players with the key message that every action has its consequences and no one owes them a living," said CEO Ethen Ong.

"The Delta League is a good initiative to keep youths engaged, and it is very much aligned with our vision of unleashing the positive potential of individuals."



The Success and Springboard for the Future

The grand final of the inaugural season was played at Clementi Stadium on 25 June 2011. The team T-Net Leopards were crowned champions after defeating Teban Garden Youths 1-0 in an enthralling match played before a 400-strong crowd.

The tournament was a clear success, with fewer youths observed to be hanging around aimlessly in the neighbourhoods within Clementi Police Division during the June school holidays. The increased interaction between



Football and entertainment at the June 2011 grand final



Commander of Clementi Police Division Melvin Yong presenting the officials at Delta League's inaugural grand finals with a token of appreciation

the youths and the Neighbourhood Police Centre officers also allowed the youths to open up to the officers. Many of the youths shared that they looked forward to the next tournament.

Yong realised that the Clementi Police Division had something quite special on their hands. "Everyone had something positive to say about the Delta League after the first season," he said.

"What was most pleasing was that the teenagers wanted to be part of it, which satisfied our first main principle that they should



come to us. There were two clear indicators of this – the number of friends on our Facebook page (500+), and their resounding willingness to compete in the League again in December.”

With the success of the Delta League in June 2011, Clementi Police Division decided to conduct a second edition of the competition, entitled “Delta League 2 – The December Challenge”, which kicked off on 14 November. The number of teams expanded from 16 to 36, propelling participation from some 200 youths to more than 600.

Through this football tournament, the youths collectively showed a definitive red card to crime.



Team Screw Loose in high spirits after their well-deserved third-place win



Ghim Moh United posing for a group photograph

Champions of the Delta League's June 2011
grand finals – T-Net Leopards



WE
ARE
THE
CHAMPIONS!!!



Commander Melvin Yong presenting the winner's cup to the
Delta League's inaugural champions





COMING OF AGE



COMING OF AGE

HELD DURING the 2011 December school holidays, Season 2 of the Delta League achieved a number of major breakthroughs, not least the significant increase in number of participants – from 16 to 36 teams.

The team from the Global Indian International School



With a longer vacation period this time around, more teams and matches – four groups of nine teams each – could be accommodated. And for this second season, the league featured not only teams from neighbouring schools, but also teams fielded by various youth groups and student Care Corners. International schools, such as the Global Indian International School Singapore, the Japanese Secondary School and Waseda Shibuya Senior High, were also invited to send in teams, to better promote cultural exchange among the youths.

No longer was every team required to have an elder as team manager. The youths were encouraged to manage themselves and appoint a player-manager within the team, going a long way in helping to nurture leadership qualities among them.

The increased outreach – more than 700 youths involved in the league – encouraged organisers to ramp up off-field activities.

At this juncture, Clementi Police Division Commander Melvin Yong tasked the League's officers from Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre to train their focus on the crime prevention objective. "The League needed to have a specific anti-crime focus each season," he said.



Clementi Police
Division Commander
Melvin Yong



"We needed to know which crimes were most prevalent among the youths, educate them on staying away from these crimes, and then have them disseminate the information to their peers. Our young people tend to listen better to one of their own than to uniformed policemen."

The organising chairperson of the December 2011 season, Tan Chi Chong, pointed out the rising trend of youths arrested for activities related to unlicensed money-lending.

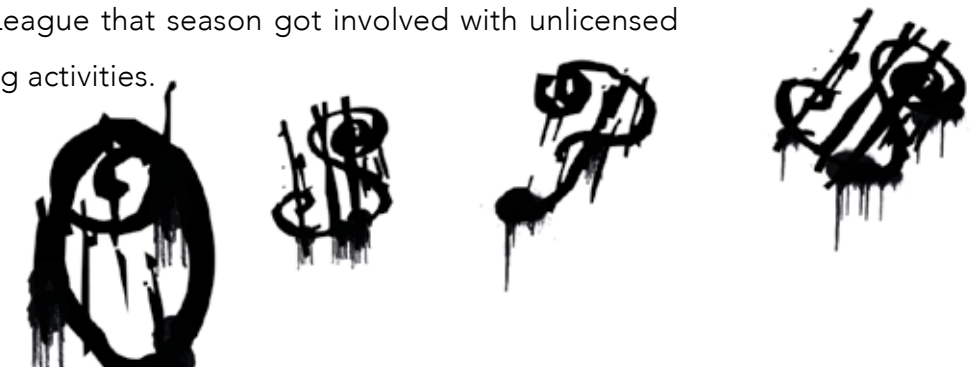
"There had just been a number of arrests of students for assisting unlicensed money-lenders to distribute fliers," he noted. "We needed to educate youths about how damaging working for unlicensed money-lenders really is."



With this in mind, the Delta League's second season was given the theme of "X Ah-Long", in conjunction with a series of off-field programmes conducted to educate youths on the consequence of being involved with unlicensed money-lenders (also known as "ah-long", or loan sharks).

"With more participants in December's Delta League, there was room to make a greater impact. More than 500 youths joined us for a range of activities and roadshows," said Tan.

"While it is not easy to measure the impact with absolute certainty, I was glad to see that none of the youths involved in the Delta League that season got involved with unlicensed money-lending activities."



"To have them work on anti-crime messages shifts their hearts and minds against such activities, and makes them think twice when offered easy cash by the unlicensed syndicates.

"Those within the youths' spheres of influence – friends, families and classmates – would also have benefited from the ripple effect of the message."

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As part of the season's programmes, an anti-crime banner competition was introduced, to tap the creativity and talents of the youths. The competition was open not just to the players but also to students from secondary schools and tertiary institutions within the Clementi

Police Division area. Forty teams of 10 youths each participated, with several innovative slogans being formulated and submitted to the National Crime Prevention Council for their campaigns.

A Community Day was held on 4 December 2011 to promote the theme, with the additional aim of creating a platform where grassroots members could get involved. Ten roadshows were held simultaneously across the Division, with the open field in front of Commonwealth MRT station used as the central venue.



The top 3 designs in the anti-crime banner competition, including the winner, "There is no king in illegal gambling"



Guest-of-honour Masagos Zulkifli flagging off the “Youth In Action” Community Day event, and interacting with participants and organisers

The guest-of-honour on the day was then-Minister of State for Home Affairs and Foreign Affairs, Masagos Zulkifli, who, in his speech, commended the concept and rationale behind the Delta League. He added that he had visited the United States and found that football (or soccer, as it is known there) was also used to get youths off the street.

Guest speakers from Industrial Services Co-operative Society and representatives from the Criminal Investigation Department, the National Crime Prevention Council and the National Council for Problem Gaming were also present, together with members and trainers from Mendaki and social enterprise Positive Intentions.



Attendance at the roadshows was a requirement for all Delta League players, who were paired with cadets from the National Police Cadet Corps to disseminate posters and pamphlets containing information on unlicensed money-lending activities. The players effectively joined in on the fight against unlicensed money-lenders by becoming “X Ah-Long” ambassadors.

The youths were also exposed to community involvement activities when they visited low-income families in



The King Edward Titans from the National University of Singapore showing off their cheerleading routine





Delta League participants of the “X-Ah Long” roadshow at Dawson Mall

Holland and Dover housing estates to distribute care packages. The packages were the result of contributions by over 30 sponsors – up from just one during the first season – such as Coca-Cola, Sunshine Bakeries and Khong Guan, to name a few. Yong observed that many of the youths in the Delta League programme came from dysfunctional families.

“Some of them had issues of low self-esteem and felt that their situation was dire,” he said. “So we sent them out to deliver

care packages to rental blocks. While doing so, they found that there were many other families like theirs, and that they were still in a position to help.”

Shortly after the Community Day activities, an Appreciation Day was arranged as a reward for the participants’ hard work. Organisers booked five cinema halls at Eng Wah Suntec City for a premiere screening of Mission Impossible 4.

At this juncture of the League, most of the work of organising Community Day, Appreciation Day and the matches themselves – including the grand final, held in style at Jalan Besar Stadium – fell on the shoulders of the officers of Clementi Police Division.

Some 20 officers had to be continuously involved with the tournament. They sacrificed many of their days off as well as time from their rigorous shifts to ensure the smooth execution of the events on and off the field. Some invested even more time, taking up basic refereeing courses in order to help officiate matches.



Delta League youths performing house visits as part of their community service

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“The Delta League is a good way to help students from dysfunctional families ... My teachers and I will support any initiative that engages youths, gives them a focus in life and helps them in the long run.”



Ang Chee Seng
Principal, Queenstown
Secondary School

With the tournament being held in December – typically a wet month in Singapore – a number of matches had to be postponed owing to rain, which meant manpower had to be constantly shuffled and venues became difficult to secure.

Fortunately, with the help of some dedicated Delta League supporters, all fixtures were successfully played. Several school principals allowed matches to be held at their school fields throughout the holidays, notably Queenstown Secondary School principal Ang Chee Seng.

“The Delta League is a good way to help students from dysfunctional families,” Ang said. “Queenstown Secondary School has similar programmes, so the Delta League is in sync with that. My teachers and I will support any initiative that engages youths, gives them a focus in life and helps them in the long run – especially when the organisers are of such repute as the Singapore Police Force.”

Home United Football Club continued to assist in conducting football clinics for the players on two occasions. Another S.League side, Tanjong Pagar Football Club, also joined in on the venture and hosted one session.

Tanjong Pagar, which plays its home matches at Queenstown Stadium, decided to offer the club’s services to the Delta League as part of their community outreach programme.

“We felt it was only right to assist the League since its organisers were within the jurisdiction, so to speak, of our football club base,” said Tanjong Pagar club chairman Edward Liu.

“The Delta League is an excellent initiative by the Police Force to engage youths to be more active on the football pitch than



Academy coaches and members
of Home United Football Club



Delta League youths hard at
work at the coaching clinic



“The Delta League is an excellent initiative by the Police Force to engage youths to be more active on the football pitch than they would be on the streets. As it continues to grow, the club is more than happy to lend its coaches towards grooming young players.”

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One of the biggest highlights of Season 2 was Delta League being showcased on Crime Watch, as part of the show’s segment on youth crime. A same-day clip of the grand final was televised on the evening of 26 December 2011.

Interviewed on the show was 17-year-old Lee Siong Chin, who has since played in all four editions of the Delta League, from June 2011 to December 2012.

Siong Chin’s team, Young Cubs FC, did not make it to the grand final in Season 2, but he was lucky enough to be selected for the all-star team the following season.

“It was my first time playing on the Jalan Besar pitch in front of over 1,000 people,” said Siong Chin, a former Queenstown Secondary School student.

“It’s a very competitive league, and every year it keeps getting tougher as more teams participate. I went through all the



Jalan Besar Stadium pitch, scene of the grand finals

workshops every year and found those to be very informative too.

“I’ve never been in trouble with the law, but I think everyone needs a reminder that no matter what crime you commit, the law will always win. So, it’s better not to try those things.”

The grand final was held in football carnival style, with entertainment for all present. Home United and former national goalkeeper Lionel Lewis was part of the halftime show, as fans attempted to score a penalty kick against him. The show also



Singapore Polytechnic squad SP Gusto – Singapore's champion cheerleading team – wows the crowd with gravity-defying moves



Exhibition booths along the stadium walkway manned by officers from the Singapore Police Force

included a performance by Singapore Polytechnic cheerleading squad SP Gusto, and a skit by the Clementi Family Violence Working Group on “No Family Abuse”.

The Singapore Sports Council and the Football Association of Singapore showed their support for the Delta League by sponsoring the venue and tickets, while the Queenstown Citizens’ Consultative Committee sponsored attractive prizes for the lucky draw segment. The four top teams received Kappa team kits, which they donned during their final matches.

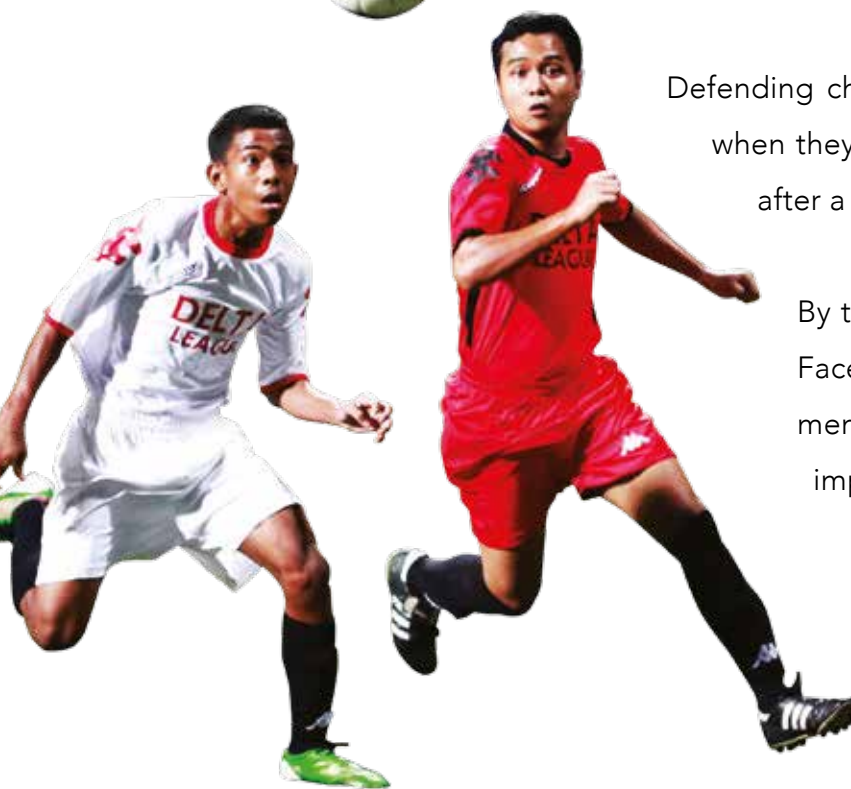




Finalists Hong Kah Sec (in white) and T-Net Leopards (red) line up on the pitch before kick-off



T-Net Leopards and Hong Kah Sec in action



Defending champions T-Net Leopards made it two for two when they defeated Hong Kah Sec in a penalty shootout after a 2-2 draw in a closely fought final.

By the time Season 2 concluded, the Delta League Facebook page had garnered more than 1,400 members. Suggestions and feedback on how to improve the tournament soon poured in.

After making huge strides from the first edition to the second, massive expectations hovered over the third installment in June 2012.



Guest-of-honour Masagos Zulkifli meets the players from T-Net Leopards



Champions T-Net Leopards in high spirits after successfully defending their title



The banner competition winners and the Delta League get together for a group photo



GOING NATIONAL



GOING NATIONAL

SEASON 2 of the Delta League had caught the attention of the media, the local football community and police headquarters.

Commissioner of Police Ng Joo Hee called the initiative a “higher level of policing”, and suggested the league expand island-wide.

Clementi Police Division Commander Melvin Yong elaborated: “The Singapore Police Force has always been good at deterring

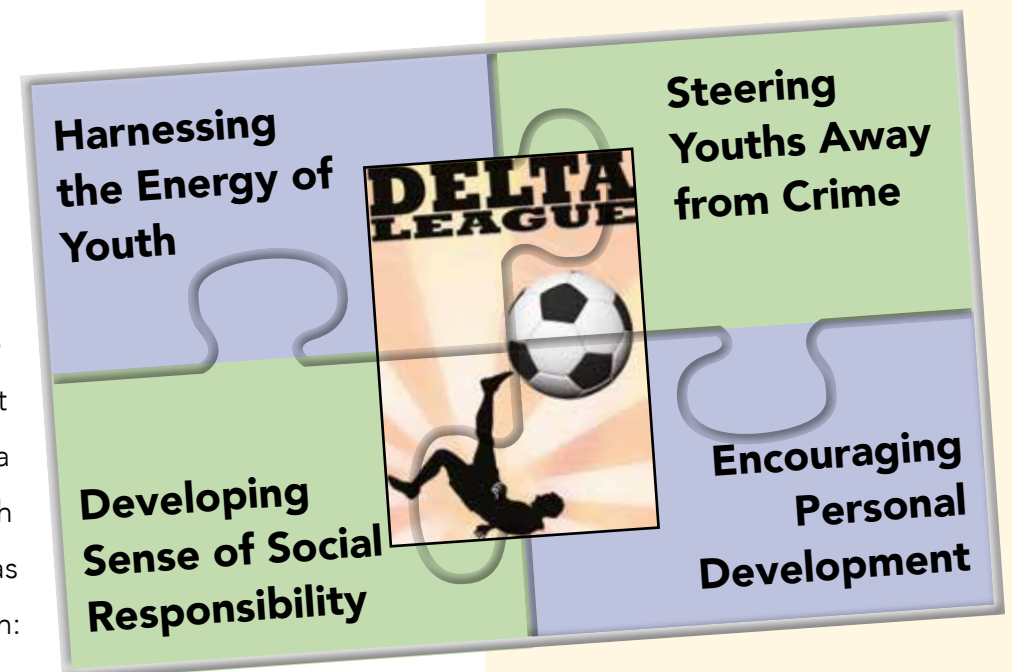
and solving crime, but the Delta League presented a whole new realm of possibility for crime prevention.

“Rather than preaching at the youths, the Delta League is about engaging them and providing an attractive platform for meaningful activities to steer them away from crime. We are intervening upstream before a crime can happen.

“When we see some of these boys get overcome by emotions as they walk out onto the Jalan Besar pitch, we know we have got something right in our outreach.”

“The Delta League presented a whole new realm of possibility for crime prevention.”

In order to expand to a national scale while remaining free of charge to participants – a cornerstone of the programme – the League would need to rope in more community partners. To attract these potential partners, a more structured approach comprising four tenets was drawn up and driven into action:



Members of Team Preeminent in high spirits



1. Harnessing the Energy of Youths

Youths have tremendous amounts of energy, and the Delta League allowed them to channel this energy to the football field during the school holidays. With their energies focused on training and matches, the youths would not have the time or energy to get involved in unlawful activities.

2. Steering Youths Away from Crime

For youths to achieve any kind of success in life, a basic requirement is staying clear of crime. Through its anti-crime themes, the Delta League educated youths on the perils of being involved with unlicensed money-lenders (Season 2), gang-related activities (Season 3) and bicycle theft (Season 4). The teenagers were then urged to spread the message, and also practise what they preached.

3. Developing a Sense of Social Responsibility

The Delta League mobilised youths to participate in events where they reached out to the community, for example through distributing care packages to needy families and distributing locks to bicycle-owners. This helped them realise that they could make a difference to the communities they were part of.

4. Encouraging Personal Development

Programmes to help the youths grow as individuals – coaching clinics, workshops with motivational speakers, free tuition classes – were also key to the Delta League. After each activity, mentors facilitated discussions amongst the teens to draw out learning points and areas for improvement.

Season 3 (June 2012)

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC), helmed by chairperson Tan Kian Hoon, came in strongly as co-organiser in June 2012, as the Delta League went nation-wide.



All-Stars (in white) vs
Teenage Boyz (red)

KEY PARTNER:

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)

Since its inception in 1981, the National Crime Prevention Council has worked actively alongside the Singapore Police Force and various community partners to achieve its vision of “Making Singapore Safe and Secure for All”.

NCPC has initiated many crime prevention activities and programmes to reach out to various sectors of the community, including youths. Some of its notable initiatives include the popular TV documentary series *Crime Watch*, the Neighbourhood Watch Zone programme, the Crime Prevention Proficiency Badge for uniformed-group students, and *Cyberonia*, a web-based game that educates children on cyber-wellness and online security.

Through its participation in the first two seasons of the Delta League, NCPC saw the potential of the programme to expand and reach out to more youths. Thus, in 2012, it readily accepted the SPF’s invitation to co-organise the League.

“We are glad to be part of this meaningful programme,” said Gerald Singham, chairman of NCPC’s Parents, Children and Youths Committee. “NCPC can help to expand Delta League further by leveraging on the extensive networks which we have established with the community and corporations.”

“Youths are our future. It is worthwhile investing our time and resources to inculcate the right values in them, care for them, and motivate them to contribute to society.”

— Tan Kian Hoon,
Chairman of NCPC



Tan Kian Hoon



Gerald Singham

For the first time, teams from all over the island were allowed to participate in the League. Each of Singapore’s Police Land Divisions sent between two to three teams to compete, and the league expanded to 48 teams. Matches, however, were still played on pitches within the Clementi Police Division boundary.

While the number of sponsors remained at around 30, the Lee Foundation chipped in with a generous \$50,000 donation to help with running costs.

The slightly bigger budget meant that fewer officers would be needed to host and supervise matches as Star Soccer Network

was roped in as the tournament vendor to provide much-needed match management, referees, and match commissioners. The vendor also provided professional first-aid services – with a medic at each game – and insurance coverage for all players.

This season, League authorities set an ironclad rule: if a player was arrested for committing crime, his team would be removed from the tournament.

Justin Wong, chairperson of the Delta League 2012 organising committee,

“We wanted them to know that if they enjoyed playing in the League, they would have to give up their errant ways completely.”

Guest-of-honour at the June 2012 grand final Dr Maliki Osman (centre) with Japanese team Waseda Shibuya



All-Star Team at the June 2012 finals





Video-making workshop for participants at TischAsia

“With programmes like the Delta League, which engages youths to participate in co-operative activities such as football and video-making, the hope is to divert the youths’ attention away from undesirable activities such as gangsterism.”

— Dr Maliki Osman,
Guest-of-honour at the
“Say No To Gangs”
Appreciation Night

explained that the rationale was to create an incentive for good behaviour.

“We wanted them to know that if they enjoyed playing in the League, and they wanted to continue, they would have to steer clear of crime,” he said. “We also wanted them to be aware of the impact that their actions would have on their teammates, friends and family.”

As part of the programme, a video-making competition was organised, based on the season’s theme of “Say No To Gangs”. Students in two categories – secondary and tertiary – contested



Judging process for the ‘Say No To Gangs’ Video contest



for the top prizes. The winning videos were selected by a panel of judges, which included local filmmaker Boi Kwong, a volunteer with the Prison Service teaching screenwriting and video production.

The best videos were screened during the “Say No To Gangs” Appreciation Night at Powerhouse at St James Power Station on 17 June 2012.

The event’s guest-of-honour, Dr Mohamad Maliki Bin Osman, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of National Development and Ministry of Defence, and Mayor of South East District, presented the awards and emphasised the importance of knowing the true nature of gangs.



Youths eagerly signing the 'I will not join gangs!' pledge board

Dr Maliki Osman with the pledge board at the 'Say No To Gangs' appreciation night, after presenting the awards to the winners of the video competition



"For young people, that sense of being accepted by your peers is important," he said. "That's why being part of a group is a critical and natural aspect of youth development.

"With programmes like the Delta League, which engages youths to participate in co-operative activities such as football and video-making, the hope is to divert the youths' attention away from undesirable activities such as gangsterism."

The Best Overall Film awards went to Bedok North Secondary School's Team 1 (Secondary category) and Nanyang Polytechnic's DVE Production team (Tertiary), while a Merit Award with Special Mention was presented to the Cam Rolling Studios team from ITE Balestier.

This time around, Community Day was held in cooperation with the Salvation Army and the Buona Vista Grassroots Organisation. Together with Mr Chan Chun Sing, Member of Parliament for Tanjong Pagar GRC and then-Acting Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and 50 students from Singapore Polytechnic, who acted as youth mentors, the Delta League youths helped to give out essential food items to needy families in Buona Vista Constituency.



Mr Chan Chun Sing speaking to participants at the 'Say No to Gangs' Community Day at Commonwealth Close



Chairman of the National Crime Prevention Council Tan Kian Hoon flags off the Community Day event at Singapore Polytechnic

The season brought in new partners like S.League club Albirex Niigata (Singapore), who helped to conduct a three-day coaching clinic, bringing the tally of S.League clubs involved with the League to three – alongside Home United and Tanjong Pagar. The clinic also saw motivational speakers from the CID Secret Societies Branch, The New Charis Mission and Breakthrough Missions sharing their life experiences with the youths.

Perhaps the most notable event of the season was the free tattoo-removal session offered to the members of the Delta League. Three teens from the League opted to get their gang-related tattoos removed, in the hopes of starting a new crime-free chapter in their lives.



“Some of the teenagers got their tattoos at a time when they were involved with gangs or the wrong company,” said Zulkiflie Abdul Ghani, an officer from Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre. “Later on, as they began to straighten out their lives, they wanted to have their tattoos removed. But, of course, that is an expensive procedure. When we offered them the chance to remove their tattoos for free, they were delighted.”



Tattoo-removal offered by Dr Benjamin Yim to participants in the Delta League

The tattoo-removals were performed by dermatologist Dr Benjamin Yim, who had been volunteering in the Yellow Ribbon Project, which gives opportunities to inmates in Changi Prison to have their tattoos removed, since 2009.

"This initiative by the Delta League is really an extension of my work with the Yellow Ribbon Project," Yim said. "So, when the Police Force requested my services, I was more than willing to assist."

"The service helped to remove the marks from the youths' skin, but more importantly, it demanded a commitment from them. By opting to get their tattoos removed, they made a conscious choice to change the course of their lives for the better."



T-Net Leopards (in black) defeat El Lobo (white) in the grand final to take the trophy for the third time

On the football front, T-Net Leopards continued their dominance of the Delta League. With the gripping grand final match at Jurong East Stadium tied at 2-2 after 90 minutes, they finally beat El Lobo 4-3 on penalties to clinch the winners' trophy for the third season in a row.





The Courts Young Lions presenting membership cards to the Delta League in January 2013

Season 4 (December 2012)

The Delta League received a record number of applications for its fourth installment – more than 70 in all. It was clear indication that the tournament was spreading across Singapore and into classrooms and soccer courts island-wide. The League, however, could only host 48 teams, and the organisers informed teams that were not selected to try again the next season.

The Football Association of Singapore (FAS) and the SportCares Foundation lent their support to the League, allowing the use of Jalan Besar Stadium for the grand final, printing entry tickets, and distributing Singapore Lions t-shirts, clappers, and banner towels. The association also offered the youths exclusive



Courts Young Lions membership cards for the 2013 season, giving them access to all S.League matches involving the Singapore Under-23 side.

“The Delta League is a very noble cause,” said FAS president Zainudin Nordin. “You have to admire the intention of the Singapore Police Force to help teenagers off the streets and encourage them to lead a healthy lifestyle through sports.

“The Courts Young Lions tie-up was directed towards inspiring the youths, and strengthening their skills in football. And it’s



Team Preeminent taking a commanding lead going into the second half

Guest-of-honour S. Iswaran with the Delta League 2012 December finalist teams and winners of the 'Don't Steal My Wheels' Digital Poster Competition



National team star player Hariss Harun and the Courts Young Lions parade their recently won AFF Suzuki Cup



good for the Young Lions players, too, because they get to contribute to society and be role models to others."

As three-time defending champions T-Net Leopards could no longer compete – having exceeded the age limit of the tournament – a new champion was guaranteed when the season kicked off.

After a month of keenly contested matches, two teams – Team Preeminent and WSA – emerged to fight it out for the champions' trophy.

Heading into the grand final at Jalan Besar Stadium on 30 December 2012, Aniq Ahmad, 16, and Firdaus Dulaini, 17, members of Team Preeminent, said their team were unknowns, and considered by many as the underdogs – despite having won all their seven group matches and three knockout rounds.

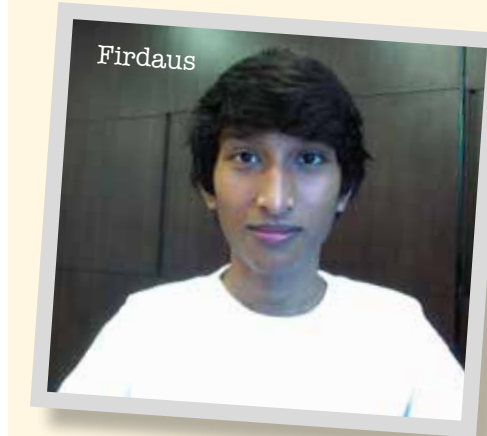
"It was only our first season in the tournament. We never expected to do so well," said Aniq, who heard about the League through friends. "We just wanted to play football and fill up our December holidays.

"We played WSA in the final, who were considered the strongest team in the competition. A few days before the match, their

Aniq



Firdaus



coach was posting on Facebook about how confident his team was of beating us. We would have been happy to finish runners-up, but I think that really motivated us to win.”

Team Preeminent eventually won the final 2-0, becoming only the second team to lift the Delta League trophy after four seasons.

The guest-of-honour for the grand final was S. Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office, and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry, who witnessed the game and presented the trophy to the winning team. He commended the Delta League initiative, and said it was important for the government, families and the community to work together to keep youths away from crime.

In addition to a wushu performance by Singapore Polytechnic, national football team star Hariss Harun paraded the recently won AFF Suzuki Cup trophy in the centre of the pitch as the two final teams lined up. Later, along with four players from the Courts Young Lions, Hariss took photos with and signed autographs for some of the 1,000 fans present.



Hours after the game, Aniq was thrilled to see himself and his teammates on television as Channel NewsAsia showed a 50-second clip of highlights from the game.

“The best part about the Delta League is how popular it is,” Aniq said. “Everyone knew that we reached the final when news spread across the Internet.

“It was also the first time any of us had played in Jalan Besar Stadium, with 1,000 fans watching and music blaring as we entered the pitch. It was truly a great experience.”

Aniq and Firdaus, both students from Dunearn Secondary School, had never run into trouble with the law. Nonetheless, they both attended the workshops, Community Day and roadshow events for the season – under the theme “Don’t Steal My Wheels”, which warned the youths against bicycle theft.

The season’s theme was chosen because youths had been observed to be involved in bicycle theft. Community Day

Wushu demonstration by Singapore Polytechnic students at Jalan Besar Stadium – part of the entertainment at the December 2012 grand final





was launched at Singapore Polytechnic, with the support of Togoparts.com, an online cycling portal, and the Singapore Polytechnic Cycling Club. Roadshows were held, targeting housing estates in the southwest region such as Jurong East, Clementi, Dover and Bukit Merah. Youths who brought their bicycles to the event received free bicycle locks. A poster design contest was also held in accordance with the theme.

Aniq and Firdaus did their part in distributing flyers during the event. While they acknowledged that the workshops and off-field events were informative, they felt their most important lessons were learnt on the football pitch.



Spreading the message on wheels



Volunteers at the "Don't Steal My Wheels" Community Day share bike-safety tips with members of the public

"During one of the matches, our team got into a fight with our opponents," recounted Firdaus. "The organisers managed to stop the fight, but they warned us that if we fought again, regardless of who started it, we would be disqualified. Since all of us really wanted to keep playing in the League, we had to make sure to control ourselves.

"I see now that learning to control your temper helps not only on the football pitch but in all aspects of life."



NCPC Chairman Tan Kian Hoon (left) and Clementi Police Division Commander Melvin Yong (right), labelling bicycles



THE STORIES



THE STORIES



LIM CHIN HENG, 16

For six months, Lim Chin Heng searched for a school that would give him a second chance.

The 16-year-old had dropped out of secondary school at the age of 13 because of poor attendance. He would hardly turn up for classes, choosing instead to play truant with his older friends from his neighbourhood.

Every principal he spoke with gave him the same answer – if Chin Heng wanted to start school again, he must remove his four tattoos.

Who would have thought that participating in the Delta League would give him the opportunity to do just that?



**SAY NO
TO
GANGS!**

In June 2012, during the third season of the League, Chin Heng availed himself of the free tattoo-removal service offered by the Delta League and underwent laser therapy to remove the body art from his upper arms and thighs.

"I had a tattoo of an 'alpha bird' on my left arm, and images of a demon head above a lotus on both legs," Chin Heng said.

"Everyone used to think that my tattoos meant I was part of a gang, but I never joined one. I just got mixed up with people who were. And when I saw their tattoos, I wanted to copy them.

"My parents were furious when they saw my tattoos, but at the time I didn't really care. Then when they found out I got the tattoos removed, they asked me if it hurt. I said yes, and they replied – good."

When they found out I got the tattoos removed, they asked me if it hurt. I said yes, and they replied – good.

It was by all appearances a simple removal of ink from his skin, but the soft-spoken teenager regarded it as no less than a "soul cleansing."

Chin Heng added that he would be always grateful to the Delta League for giving him the chance to remove his tattoos. After

just three of the six sessions with dermatologist Dr Benjamin Yim, his body art had mostly faded and was hardly visible.

"Never again will I get a tattoo," the teenager vowed.

Chin Heng's other promise to himself was to stay out of trouble with the law. At the age of 14, he had dabbled in petty theft – shoplifting from department stores. A year later, in 2011, he was arrested for stealing a cashcard from a vehicle. He was then remanded at a boys' home for four months before being transferred to the Singapore Boys' Hostel at McNair Road.

At the Hostel, Chin Heng, with the help of a "life coach", began to reflect on his life and where it was headed. It was also there that he heard about the Delta League.

Together with boys from the Hostel, he formed Team PSB in June 2012 and enrolled in the tournament through the hostel's engagement with the then-Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports (now the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth). His team reached the second round of the competition.

"I've always loved playing football," said Chin Heng, who had

been a defender for his school team when he was 13. “The Delta League is a tough competition. I was surprised at how good some of the other teams were. The best part was that I made a lot of friends through the League, and I learned how to be a team player – on and off the pitch.”

Chin Heng was discharged from the Hostel in December 2012. He still plays football and sepak takraw regularly with his neighbourhood friends – every night if he gets the chance. While still under probation, he is undergoing a Workforce Skills Qualifications course at a private institution. His dream is to work in Paris, in the tourism industry, some day.



AFIQ YUSMAN, 18

Afiq Yusman was arrested in 2010 for stealing a mobile phone. Three years after that incident, he gave “turning over a new leaf” a whole new meaning when he helped to apprehend three men for attempted robbery.

The 18-year-old was walking home one evening when he noticed three men beating up an elderly man with their fists at the void

deck. They were trying to rob him. The man caught sight of Afiq and shouted for help, causing the three males to flee.

Afiq saw that the man was bleeding from a gash above his eye. He called a friend to accompany him as he set out to look for the assailants. An hour later, he spotted two of them outside a school. Though he feared he might have to physically defend himself against the bigger duo, he mustered up the courage to approach and question them.

“I asked them why they did it,” Afiq said. “They denied it and said they were innocent. So I called the police and told them to wait.

“Why did I do it? I just felt I had to help that old man. It was my first time doing something like that. I was definitely afraid because those guys were older and bigger than me. Luckily they didn’t try to ‘hammer’ me and my friend.”

Afiq was commended by the Police for his public spiritedness.

“I don’t think what I did was a big deal. Many others would have done the same and helped as well.”





Afiq had joined a gang when he was 15 – the same year he was arrested for theft. He skipped school, got involved in fights with other teens, and even got a tattoo on his forehead – a circular symbol that marked him as a “fighter”. Almost everyone in his gang had one.

Afiq left the gang soon after his arrest, and thankfully, his tattoo has also faded considerably. He spent a year in the Singapore Boys’ Hostel, where he received guidance on how to get back on the right path.

“One thing’s for sure, I won’t be getting arrested again. Now that I know how it feels to be on both sides of the law, I can say that being on the good side feels much better.”

“As I spent time in the Hostel, I had time to think about my life and what I had done,” he said.

“I decided to leave the gang and step out of bad company. Luckily, I didn’t have much trouble getting away from my old friends.”

Afiq made several new acquaintances in the Hostel. He formed a team – World United – that competed in the Delta League and reached the quarterfinals in the December 2011 tournament. He impressed many with his skills on the pitch that season, and



was selected to play in the all-star game at Jalan Besar Stadium against one of the losing semi-finalists.

“I really enjoyed playing in the Delta League, especially meeting new people and getting closer to friends because of football,” said the teenager, who scored 10 goals over two seasons.

“I didn’t attend most of the workshops, to be honest, but the football kept me occupied for sure. You could say it kept me out of trouble.”

Afiq, the youngest of three siblings, now lives with his mother. Owing to a knee injury, he has unfortunately not played much

football since the Delta League. He has been working as a packer at a warehouse in Pasir Panjang while awaiting enlistment into national service.

“I’m not yet sure what I plan to do with my life after NS, but I have a lot of time to think about that,” he said.

“One thing’s for sure, I won’t be getting arrested again. Now that I know how it feels to be on both sides of the law, I can say that being on the good side feels much better.”

MOHD FAHMI AMIT, 26

No one has had more satisfaction and fun in the Delta League than Mohd Fahmi Amit.

The 26-year-old is way over the age limit for players in the under-17 tournament, but that has not stopped him from getting involved.

His role? Team manager and coach of Teenage Boyz, the team that finished in third and fourth place in the June 2012 and December 2012 seasons respectively.



Like a number of the teams in the League, Teenage Boyz comprised several teenagers with troubled pasts and lengthy police records. They were all recruited by Fahmi specifically for that reason.

“I wanted to get the boys off the streets and out of trouble. I wanted to engage them in football, hoping that would keep their minds busy,” Fahmi said. “That way, they would stop mixing with the wrong company.”

One of the 20 “delinquent” players was Fahmi’s younger brother Izwan Abdul Rahman. In September 2012, the 17-year-old was involved in a gang and arrested for rioting.

To help Izwan get back on the right path, Fahmi knew he had to keep close tabs on him. There was no better way than to get him down for training and football matches at the open field near Safra Jurong several times a week.

Fahmi supervised and managed all 20 players as they prepared for and competed in the League. It was hardly an easy task.

“The biggest challenge was getting them to be disciplined on and off the pitch,” he said.



“I had to make sure they stayed committed to the team and the tournament, and that they came regularly for training and matches.”

During both seasons, Teenage Boyz attracted much attention with their talent. But they also raised the concern of League officials with their violent conduct during matches. On more

than one occasion, members of the team were involved in fights with their opponents.

Fahmi, referred to as Abang (“big brother” in Malay) by his team, had to step in and stop the fight each time.

“I told them it was shameful to fight during a match,” he said. “Sometimes it

wasn’t us who started it, but I kept reminding the boys that they must never retaliate. They listened to me. After a few games, we stopped with the fighting.”

In the December 2012 tournament, Teenage Boyz suffered an agonising penalty-shootout defeat to El Lobo in the semi-finals.

“I wanted to get the boys off the streets and out of trouble. I wanted to engage them in football, hoping that would keep their minds busy. That way, they would stop mixing with the wrong company.”



Team Teenage Boyz



Izwan Abdul Rahman

When asked how disappointed he and his team were after that match, Fahmi simply shook his head. "We are definitely coming back next season. We finished third and fourth already. Now we have to try and win it," he said.

"But most of my players have already turned 18, so I will have to put together a new team."

Izwan is no longer eligible to play in the League because of his age, but Fahmi plans to keep the family connection going by roping in his youngest brother, Rudy Irwan, 14, for the June 2013 season.

Izwan, meanwhile, has advanced his footballing interests by joining S.League side Woodlands Wellington's under-18 team. He was scouted by Woodlands coaches while playing in the Delta League.

"My brother wanted to turn over a new leaf, and I'm glad I've been helping him do that," Fahmi said. "He's more into football now, and no longer with a gang. I still keep an eye on him when he works with me (at a restaurant in J-Cube shopping mall). I tell him he must follow his dreams."

MD HERRY HARYADI

Bukit Merah West Neighbourhood Police Centre



As the Delta League geared up to go national in 2012, more manpower had to be roped in to bolster the ranks of officers mentoring the youths. Among the first officers brought on-board was Md Herry Haryadi, a Community Liaison Officer from Bukit Merah West Neighbourhood Police Centre.

As the officer in charge of Delta League matters in his Police Centre, Herry was able to observe first-hand as the youths gradually opened up to their Police mentors and shared more information about themselves. The programme helped quickly eliminate any negative or "scary" impressions of the Police, allowing the youths to start trusting them as well as learning the roles police officers play.

"While my main role was to identify the target youths and help facilitate their involvement, I have gained a great sense of satisfaction after working the ground with these youths," said Herry.

"I have also grown to better understand them, know their individual interests, and gain their respect."



FELICIA TEH

Clementi Neighbourhood Police Centre

Felicia Teh, an officer from the Community Policing Unit of Clementi Neighbourhood Police Centre, found the mentoring experience a memorable one, especially seeing the youths under her care help out with various community service activities.

"When we were going door to door for house visits in Ghim Moh, they worked tirelessly under the hot sun, visiting every household from the 14th floor all the way down to the first without a word of complaint," she said. "Their enthusiasm lasted long after the event had ended, and they were still happily chatting and snapping photos with their new-found friends."

After just one season, Felicia grasped the huge impact the Delta League was having on both youths and officers alike.

"The youths gained a lot of self-confidence after they realised that they had it in them to make a difference to those around them," she said.

"As for the officers, we learned a skill that cannot be taught – how to reach out to these youths and communicate better with them. Through our constant interaction with them both on

and off the pitch, I have a better grasp of what it takes to get messages across to them, and lay the foundations for building trust and rapport."

RABITAH MOHD SIDIK

Rochor Neighbourhood Police Centre

Rabitah, an officer from Rochor Neighbourhood Police Centre in the Central Police Division worked with Team Kampong Youths over the course of the season, and keeps in touch with the players to this day

"I have been involved with a number of youth programmes, but the Delta League initiative stands apart in offering more extensive opportunities to take youth engagement to the next level," Rabitah commented.

"Seeing the kids regularly allowed us to interact with them on a more personal level. We generated so much enthusiasm that the youths wanted to be kept informed of the next competition and all future activities.

"The fact that they trust the Police is testimony to how effective the Delta League has been in promoting bonding between the Police and youths."



A PARENTS' LETTER:

"Thank you, Delta League!"

"Our son Muhammad Aniq and his teammates from Team Preeminent took part in the Delta League in December 2012 and emerged champions during that season. Needless to say, the boys were ecstatic to win the Cup against stiff competition from the other teams.

"We, as parents, were proud and happy for them, having supported the team throughout the competition. We are indeed grateful to the Singapore Police Force for organising this tournament, which reached out to many teenagers and gave them an avenue for channelling their passion and interest in soccer.

"We also noted that community involvement programmes were incorporated into this event. These were very good initiatives, which helped to keep the youths occupied with meaningful activities during the school holidays.

"We would like to thank the organising committee, especially Zulkiflie Abdul Ghani and his colleagues who spent considerable time planning and supervising the Delta League.

"We hope SPF will continue such outreach programs through which youths can interact with one another, contribute to society and enjoy themselves through sport."

Mimi Suzana & Iskandar





THE FUTURE



THE FUTURE

AFTER FOUR SEASONS, the Delta League has touched the lives of youths all over Singapore.

Critical to this success has been the support of the community, alongside the hard work put in by the organisers in planning and executing the League's programmes.



Delta League activities have also received good coverage in the media, and garnered a lot of positive feedback from parents.

More importantly, the youths have shared that the League has made an impact on their lives in a multitude of ways. Beyond the stories captured in this book, the organisers have seen many instances of youths who have learnt skills, become more responsible and disciplined, and realised that they can do more to better themselves – as a result of what they went through in the Delta League.

One wish expressed by all participants has been for the Delta League to continue, as it is unique in its format and its purpose.

For one, the Delta League is the only month-long football league in Singapore that youths can take part in during the school holidays without having to pay a cent.

The round-robin nature of the League also means that the youths continue to play even if they do not win the matches they play in. This was something the youths appreciated as it allowed them to play the game they love through a big part of the holidays.



The Delta League is also unique for the opportunities it provides the youths. The participants shared that being able to play the grand final at Jalan Besar Stadium – on the same pitch as the national team – was a mere fantasy before the League was created.

Taking part in the various Community Day events has allowed the teenagers to interact with those whose circumstances are worse off than their own. It has given them a much deeper and broader insight to society, and encouraged them to develop socially responsible behaviour and aspirations. These experiences have also helped motivate them to believe in themselves and invest in their own education.

Given the scale of the Delta League, one of the challenges ahead is sustaining the initiative. A significant amount of resources, both in terms of finances and manpower, is required to organise every edition.

Youths equipped with food supplies ready to be distributed to the needy



“The challenge for us now is how to scale up the Delta League so that we can reach out to even more youths.”

“A lot of work goes into every Delta League edition,” said Justin Wong, the organising chairperson of the 2012 Delta League. “My team has to work with many partners to ensure that the youths have a fun, meaningful and enriching experience. The challenge for us now is how to scale up the Delta League so that we can reach out to even more youths.”

To fulfil its mission of changing lives through football, the Delta League is looking at expanding its outreach. To do so, many overseas models have been studied.

One such model is America Scores, which, similar to the Delta League, uses football (“soccer”) to reach out to youths.

As part of the programme, the youths are mentored and take part in activities like reading poetry and playing musical instruments.

The programme, developed in 1994 in Washington D.C., began with the same questions: how does a community positively engage youths at risk of gang or criminal activity? More importantly, what are effective ways of getting the youths to participate willingly?



Delta League 2012 organising team, with chairperson Justin Wong (standing first from left)



Set up and run as a non-governmental organisation, America Scores now has offices all over the country and a wide network of volunteers helping to run the programme in 14 U.S. cities. To date, the programme serves more than 8,000 youths across 150 schools.

The America Scores model holds many learning lessons for the Delta League. For one, being run by a dedicated non-governmental organisation means the programme can operate the whole year round, instead of just during the school holidays. More focus and attention help develop a comprehensive mentoring programme for the youths involved. Dedicated individuals, with an interest in working with youths, are given the opportunity to turn their interest into a full-time career – as seen by the group of dedicated employees who help to sustain the America Scores initiative.

The work done by the Delta League is not easy, but the knowledge that the work makes a difference to the lives of the youths in the programme helps drive the organising team.

Players shake hands before and after every match, symbolising fair play and sportsmanship

“The Singapore Police Force and the National Crime Prevention Council have devoted energy and resources to this initiative because we have seen how football can help to change lives.”

“The Singapore Police Force and the National Crime Prevention Council have devoted energy and resources to this initiative because we have seen how football can help to change lives,” said Justin Wong.

“Through mentoring and the specially designed activities, we help youths realise that they can do more with their lives, and prevent them from going into crime. Of course, there will be instances where our youths still succumb and commit crime. For these instances, we will still work with the youths to try and positively influence them.

“We may not have a 100% success rate, but that should not discourage us from continuing with this initiative. For every life that is touched by the Delta League is one more than there would have been without the programme.”

Four seasons in, the Delta League has achieved a lot of recognition and success. But in terms of its potential, it remains

Commander Melvin Yong
addressing the crowd during
the December 2012 grand final



in its infancy, and there is a lot more that can be done for it to achieve its full potential to change young lives through football.

Melvin Yong, Commander of Clementi Police Division, insists that the League organisers must continue to innovate and expand in order to fulfil its main principle of attracting youths and steering them away from crime.

The League is certainly growing, but I have to keep emphasising that we must not lose focus as it gets bigger. We must remind ourselves that it's not only about the football.

"The Delta League is island-wide now, but still heavily concentrated in the southwest area. The idea is to spread out and play evenly in every constituency," he said.

"We plan to work towards the football development aspect of the League as well, through more tie-ups with the S.League clubs and the Football Association of Singapore (FAS). For example, we notice many parents doubling up as team coaches. So, we are working with FAS to hold elementary coaching courses for these parents.

"Then there is also the free tuition programme that is still a work in progress. For many of these youths, academic study is not one of their strengths and I want to help raise their confidence in their school work. You want to play football with us, you also need to do well in your school work.

"The League is certainly growing, but I have to keep emphasising that we must not lose focus as it gets bigger. We must remind ourselves that it's not only about the football."

To use a footballing analogy, the Delta League has built up a strong team of players in the form of youth and community partners, and it has scored some wins early in the tournament. The task now remains for the Delta League to strengthen its team and push hard towards its goal of changing lives through the power of football.

GOAL!

GOAL!

GOAL!





Team Preeminent, champions in the December 2012 edition of the Delta League

APPENDIX:

FINAL STANDINGS AND RESULTS

SEASON 1: JUNE 2011

Champions: T-Net Leopards | 1st Runner-Up: Teban Garden Youths | 2nd Runner-Up: Commonwealth | 3rd Runner-Up: Fairfield Methodist

Jurong East District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Commonwealth	3	3	0	0	28	1	27	9
Teban Garden Youths	3	2	0	1	9	7	2	6
Faith Acts	3	1	0	2	4	15	-11	3
Hasanah Mosque	3	0	0	3	2	19	-17	0

Queenstown District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Fairfield Methodist	3	2	1	0	12	0	12	7
Queensway Sec	3	2	0	1	19	1	18	6
Queenstown Sec	3	1	1	1	11	1	10	4
Newtown Sec	3	0	0	3	0	36	-36	0

Clementi District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
SCS Teban Utd	3	2	1	0	23	2	21	7
SCS Ghim Moh United	3	2	1	0	14	4	10	7
SCS West Utd	3	1	0	2	5	14	-9	3
Boomerang Utd	3	0	0	3	2	24	-22	0

Bukit Merah West District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
T-Net Leopards	3	3	0	0	33	1	32	9
T-Net Tigers	3	1	0	2	9	11	-2	3
Nurabitah FC	3	1	0	2	10	19	-9	3
Warriors FC	3	1	0	2	6	27	-21	3

N.B. Final points are calculated on games results less any penalty deductions imposed

SEASON 2: DECEMBER 2011

Champions: T-Net Leopards | 1st Runner-Up: Hong Kah Sec | 2nd Runner-Up: Screwloose Youth | 3rd Runner-Up: Freestyler B

Jurong East District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Hong Kah Sec	8	7	1	0	48	5	43	20
Screwloose Youth	8	6	1	1	32	11	21	19
O'tai Liga	8	6	1	1	29	8	21	19
West J	8	4	1	3	17	17	0	13
Jurongville	8	3	2	3	17	15	2	10
Junior Boyz	8	2	1	5	18	26	-8	7
West Siders	8	2	0	6	8	41	-33	6
Imtiyaz	8	1	2	5	10	29	-19	1
Shuqun	8	0	1	7	3	29	-26	1

Queenstown District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
World United	8	6	1	1	22	6	16	18
ESSW	8	5	2	1	16	7	9	17
Ottawa Redhill	8	4	2	2	22	19	3	14
Fairfield Methodist	8	3	1	4	18	14	4	10
Positive Intentions	8	4	2	2	16	14	2	10
Global Indian Int	8	3	1	4	11	15	-4	10
Faith Acts	8	3	0	5	15	25	-10	9
Newtown	8	2	0	6	7	20	-13	5
Queenstown	8	1	1	6	12	17	-5	4

Clementi District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Waseda Shibuya	8	6	1	1	32	5	27	19
Kent Ridge Sec	8	6	1	1	30	10	20	19
Tanglin 2	8	6	0	2	22	9	13	18
Ghim Moh Utd	8	6	0	2	22	12	10	18
West United	8	4	1	3	18	14	4	13
Teban United	8	2	1	5	22	26	-4	7
Japanese Secondary	8	1	1	6	13	31	-18	7
Tanglin 1	8	1	1	6	5	31	-26	4
Clementi Utd	8	1	0	7	18	42	-24	3

Bukit Merah West District								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
T-Net Leopards	8	8	0	0	69	3	66	20
Freestyler FC B	8	6	0	2	27	10	17	17
Henderson Youngsters	8	5	1	2	17	9	8	16
Newton Heath FC	8	4	2	2	25	10	15	14
Nurabitah B	8	4	2	2	16	32	-16	13
Lite Ace Galaxy	8	2	2	4	12	18	-6	8
Freestyler FC A	8	2	0	6	12	23	-11	5
Nurabitah A	8	1	1	6	10	32	-22	3
Furia Blazers	8	0	0	8	5	56	-51	-2

N.B. Final points are calculated on games results less any penalty deductions imposed

SEASON 3: JUNE 2012

Champions: T-Net Leopards | 1st Runner-Up: El Lobo | 2nd Runner-Up: Teenage Boyz | 3rd Runner-Up: Waseda Shibuya

Jurong East District Group A								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Hentam United	5	4	1	0	13	5	8	13
Eximius Sidera	5	4	0	1	11	5	6	12
Woodlanderz	5	3	0	2	11	6	5	9
Jurong Warriors	5	2	0	3	8	9	-1	6
West J United	5	1	1	3	6	15	-9	0
R4L	5	0	0	5	5	14	-9	0

Queenstown District Group C								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Junior Soccer FC	5	5	0	0	21	8	13	15
Teenage Boyz	5	4	0	1	23	11	12	12
Tora Juniorz	5	3	0	2	13	8	5	5
World United	5	2	0	3	13	22	-9	2
Fairfield	5	1	0	4	16	16	0	0
Istiqamah FC	5	0	0	5	10	31	-21	0

Clementi District Group E								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Waseda Shibuya	5	5	0	0	41	0	41	15
De Puerto FC	5	4	0	1	17	7	10	12
Devilz FC	5	2	0	3	6	22	-16	6
Wooden Legs FC	5	3	0	2	13	16	-3	5
Coral FC	5	0	0	5	0	15	-15	0
Brazillians	5	1	0	4	6	22	-16	0

Bukit Merah West District Group G								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
T-Net Leopards	5	4	1	0	46	4	42	11
T-Net Lions	5	4	1	0	23	4	19	9
Amigoz FC	5	3	0	2	14	12	2	5
EFC 1	5	1	0	4	7	19	-12	1
Warriors United	5	0	1	4	2	31	-29	0
EFC 2	5	1	1	3	3	25	-22	0

Jurong East District Group B								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
El Lobo	5	5	0	0	45	4	41	15
Real Diabolos Rojos	5	4	0	1	37	5	32	12
AEON FC	5	2	0	3	16	11	5	6
Yuhua CSC	5	2	0	3	6	31	-25	6
Yuhua Lions	5	1	0	4	6	14	-8	3
CWD United	5	1	0	4	2	47	-45	0

Queenstown District Group D								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Queenstown	5	4	0	1	26	4	22	12
KG Utd	5	5	0	0	17	5	12	11
BDM Utd	5	3	0	2	24	9	15	9
Outram FC	5	2	0	3	13	24	-11	6
BlueXephos	5	1	0	4	10	17	-7	0
Westeel	5	0	0	5	9	39	-30	0

Clementi District Group F								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Gamebreakers XII	5	5	0	0	22	5	17	15
Team PSB	5	3	1	1	27	7	20	10
DTY	5	3	1	1	12	4	8	10
Raiders United	5	2	0	3	6	3	3	6
Diamonds	5	1	0	4	11	13	-2	3
SST	5	0	0	5	14	37	-23	0

Bukit Merah West District Group H								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Newton Heath Excellence	5	5	0	0	32	3	29	12
Ottawa Serpents	5	4	0	1	24	13	11	10
PGL 1	5	3	0	2	13	25	-12	9
PGL 2	5	1	0	3	12	39	-27	3
Newton Heath Prodigy	5	2	0	2	13	11	2	2
WWFC	5	0	0	5	0	15	-15	0

N.B. Final points are calculated on games results less any penalty deductions imposed

SEASON 4: DECEMBER 2012

Champions: Team Preeminent | 1st Runner-Up: WSA | 2nd Runner-Up: El Lobo | 3rd Runner-Up: Teenage Boyz

Jurong East District Group A								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Otai Liga	7	7	0	0	41	1	40	19
PGL	7	6	0	1	33	12	21	16
West J United	7	4	0	3	36	10	26	15
Hong Kah Boyz FC	7	4	0	3	18	12	6	15
Table Turner	7	4	0	3	17	26	-9	10
Nurabitah Youth	7	2	0	5	17	18	-1	4
AR Tigers	7	1	0	6	19	34	-15	1
Istiqamah FC	7	0	0	7	4	77	-73	-4

Clementi District Group C								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
El Lobo	7	7	0	0	62	4	58	24
Adelante Rovers FC	7	4	1	2	15	16	-1	16
Taman Jurong Green	7	6	0	1	37	8	29	14
Team GB	7	3	2	2	28	14	14	7
Devilz FC	7	2	0	5	12	49	-37	6
Tanglin	7	2	1	4	24	34	-10	4
Kun FC	7	2	0	5	13	21	-8	2
Lectro Boyz	7	0	0	7	1	49	-48	-2

Bukit Merah West District Group E								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Teenage Boyz	7	5	2	0	22	5	17	20
Aeon	7	5	2	0	14	5	9	20
De Puerto	7	4	2	1	22	10	12	17
T-Net Lions	7	3	1	3	15	4	11	13
Young Cubs FC	7	3	1	3	17	10	7	13
Royal Flush	7	2	0	5	9	18	-9	2
Granchio Rosso FC	7	1	0	6	9	30	-21	0
OLMS	7	0	0	7	1	24	-23	-4

Jurong East District Group B								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Newton Heath FC	7	7	0	0	35	9	26	24
World United	7	6	0	1	25	10	15	21
Crossroad YC	7	5	0	2	23	7	16	18
CPT Boys	7	3	0	3	12	12	0	12
Mexican Aces Jr	7	4	0	2	11	14	-3	8
Crescent United	7	2	0	5	9	25	-16	2
Blazoid FC	7	1	0	6	11	23	-12	-1
Shuqunite Rovers	7	0	0	7	9	31	-22	-2

Bukit Merah West District Group D								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
WSA	7	6	1	0	31	3	28	22
Le Kickerz	7	5	0	2	23	12	11	18
Dream Team FC	7	5	0	2	18	14	4	18
Real Diabolos Rojos	7	4	1	2	21	11	10	16
HG Warriors	7	3	0	4	14	17	-3	12
Ottawa Serpents	7	3	0	4	14	24	-10	5
Kuda Muda	7	1	0	6	5	31	-26	1
Granada Clique	7	0	0	7	7	33	-26	-4

Queenstown District Group F								
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	P
Team Preeminent	7	7	0	0	51	6	45	19
The Strybers	7	5	0	2	18	10	8	18
KG Youths	7	5	1	1	42	13	29	12
Outram FC	7	3	0	4	13	30	-17	12
El Magnifico	7	2	2	3	12	14	-2	11
Quest B	7	3	0	4	10	29	-19	5
Tackling Faith	7	1	1	4	8	30	-22	0
Teens Network East	7	0	1	6	7	32	-25	-3

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The following have contributed invaluable assistance towards the publication of this book – thank you all!

- Justin Wong, Patrick Lim and Md Zulkiflie Abdul Ghani, who helped greatly in the research
- Benjamin Lim, who helped with captioning the photographs and running through the initial drafts
- Melvin Yong, who initiated the idea for the book

Supporting Partners

- Albirex Niigata Football Club (Singapore)
- Anchorpoint Shopping Centre
- Boey Kong (Nanyang Polytechnic)
- Buona Vista Citizens' Consultative Committee
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- The Clementi Mall
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- The New Charis Mission
- The Salvation Army
- Tisch School of the Arts Asia, New York University
- Togoparts Pte Ltd
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- Yayasan Mendaki
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Police Headquarters Level 4
New Phoenix Park Tower P
28 Irrawaddy Road
Singapore 329560

Website: www.ncpc.gov.sg

Published by Marshall Cavendish Editions
An imprint of Marshall Cavendish International
A member of Times Publishing Limited

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Marshall Cavendish Corporation. 99 White Plains Road, Tarrytown NY 10591-9001, USA • Marshall Cavendish International (Thailand) Co Ltd. 253 Asoke, 12th Flr, Sukhumvit 21 Road, Klongtoey Nua, Wattana, Bangkok 10110, Thailand • Marshall Cavendish (Malaysia) Sdn Bhd, Times Subang, Lot 46, Subang Hi-Tech Industrial Park, Batu Tiga, 40000 Shah Alam, Selangor Darul Ehsan, Malaysia

Marshall Cavendish is a trademark of Times Publishing Limited

National Library Board Singapore Cataloguing-in-Publication Data:

Ali Kasim.

Delta League : changing lives through football / Ali Kasim. – Singapore : Marshall Cavendish Editions, 2013.
pages cm

ISBN : 978-981-4484-12-1 (paperback)

ISBN : 978-981-4484-20-6 (hardcover)

1. Delta League (Singapore). 2. Soccer teams – Singapore. 3. Soccer – Singapore.
4. Juvenile delinquency – Prevention. 5. Recreation and juvenile delinquency – Singapore. I. Title.

GV943

796.334095957 – dc23

OCN 843742268

All images from the National Crime Prevention Council

Printed in Singapore by KWF Printing Pte Ltd