

16th Fun Cup 2015 write up

Friday February 6th, the 16th edition of the Fun Cup international charity windsurfing race commenced at Jibes Beach Club, Mui Ne. Competitors, dignitaries, sponsors and spectators were entertained in the morning by the Blue Ocean Dance Company at the Opening Ceremony and after that competitors were briefed by the race officials, lunch was served and racing got underway in the afternoon.

The afternoon racing consisted of three races, and with strong winds and big swells, the conditions ensured some great action for the spectators gathered to cheer the racers on. At the end of the first days racing, Albert Pijoan Monne of Catalonia, (Spain) was leading the men's division after taking out all three races and Maria Shapkina of Russia leading the women.

Friday evening competitors and their guests, sponsors and spectators relaxed, swapped tales of the day's action out on the water over a fine meal provided by Laurent and his staff at Tropical Mini Golf Mui Ne.

Saturday morning racers were greeted by strong winds but slightly calmer seas. Race officials gave the morning briefing and racing got underway at midday. Three races were held in the first session and then racers had a break for a well-earned lunch at Jibes Beach Club before heading out for the final three races that afternoon. Maria Shapkina still led the women's division and Albert Pijoan Monne keeping first place in the men's division firmly in his grasp.

The three races in the afternoon saw more high speed downwind slalom action with close racing ensuring spectators excitement levels were kept at a fever pitch. After nine great races over two days the final results were calculated and the 16th Fun Cup 2015 winners and place getters were as follows:

Women's:

1st Place Maria Shapkina – Russia

2nd Place Tran Thi Kim Chi – Vietnam

3rd Place Hsin Ee – Singapore

Men's:

1st Place Albert Pijoan Monne – Catalonia (Spain)

2nd Place Max Koshkin – Russia

3rd Place Truong Ky Tai – Vietnam

The Fun Cup Awards Party took place on Saturday night at Jibes Beach Club. Competitors, dignitaries and guests were entertained by the Ham Tan Orphanage and School for blind and disabled children's band then the winners and place getters were introduced to warm applause to receive their trophies and prizes from Starboard, Severne, Aeron, Dunkerbeck Eyewear, Sel Company and Slam 69. Competitors also won fabulous Luck Draw prizes, with rounds of golf from Sea Links Golf and

Country Club, Nights at Victoria Resort Phan Thiet, Coco Beach Resort, Full Moon Village, Whale Village and windsurfing gear from Aeron in the Lucky Draw.

All this made for some very happy competitors at the end of proceedings and after the formalities were out of the way competitors, sponsors and guests enjoyed more of the great food and drinks on offer and danced away to the wee small hours to the music being mixed by the resident DJ.

The Fun Cup isn't just about racing. It serves another very important purpose, charity. It's about giving back to the local community, helping those who need it. All proceeds of the Fun Cup go to the Ham Tan Orphanage and School for blind and disabled children. Through the donation box and registration fees for the Fun Cup, money is raised for this wonderful non-profit organisation and having the children here at the Awards Party performing gave people the opportunity to see where their kind donations go and meet the kids and people who work there.

The 16th Fun Cup 2015 was a great success on all levels, and it wouldn't be possible without all our sponsors so thankyou to Starboard, Severne, Dunkerbeck Eyewear, Aeron, AHI Co. Ltd, The Warehouse, Fanny Ice Cream, Le Fruit, Slam 69, Tropical Mini Golf Mui Ne, Victoria Resort Phan Thiet, Full Moon Beach Resort, Full Moon Village Resort, Coco Beach Resort, Whale Village Guesthouse, Green Spa and Cosmetology, Sel Company, Marou Chocolate, Coca Cola Vietnam and Sea Links Golf and Country Club.

A big thankyou also to Jibes Beach Club, management and staff for hosting the event, especially Adie Casket and the Watersports department, who ensured competitors made it to the racing course and returned to the beach safely and took care of all the racing equipment.

Thanks also to the Binh Thuan Sports Department for providing the race officials and to Mr Janot Prat, our race Director who ensured racing was done in a safe proper manner.

Congratulations to all our winners and we look forward to 19-20 February 2016 for the 17th Fun Cup.

:Written by Stephen Quinn, Managing Director AHI Co. Vietnam.

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