



Home

Life

Running

Photos

Musings

[Home](#) > [Running](#) > [Race Reports](#)

NIKE PACESETTERS 15K by Jamie Pang

[More race reports!](#)

Read [articles on running](#)

Saturday

My sense of awe keeps increasing the longer I work with the Pacesetters Committee and volunteers. Case in point was the recently concluded Nike Pacesetters 15K Run held on May 23rd 2004. Being new to the Committee, I felt a little like fish-out-of-water and always felt (even now) as if my role dwarves that of the seniors'. Raw as I was, all I could do was to make myself useful in anyway I thought I could contribute. I was tasked with getting the results out to the press (I was to work with Uncle Sonny on that) and website, and coordinate the photographers.

Wanting to help more, I made myself available on the eve of race day and by 9:45am, was already at the Bib Collection post at Lake Gardens. The sun was already blazing and I was surprised that Uncle Sonny, his wife and nephew, Munning and the workers from 100Plus were already on-site unloading the cartons of drinks. I immediately set to work helping with the unloading and general set up of the booths.

A little while later runners began trickling in for the bib and vest collection. While Uncle Sonny and wife handled the pre-packed (they were at Munning's the day before to have this done) race kit containing the vest, bib, pins and info sheet, I tried selling the membership and some club merchandise to the runners. Then Francis arrived with his speaker system and got down to work setting them up.

Lawrence and Lay then arrived to reinforce the team and things began to heat up literally. The temperature must have hit 33C as more runners came in. A handful of runners who hadn't receive their reporting cards came by and were reissued by Munning. The sales of the club socks, Nike vests and Pegasus Lite shoes were quite good.

Wendy and CS separately tried out the digital clock but found viewing it in daylight an impossible task. The red LED display washed out in the sunlight and nothing can be read by the naked eye much less the camera lenses. Disappointed we decided to abandon the clock and focused on exploring the various shooting angles.



Practising for a dramatic finish



Tucking into the sumptuous chicken rice

Just about lunch time, about 30 packs of chicken rice put together by the famous Chicken Rice Yong arrived and everyone tucked in. By then more reinforcements had arrived to help out and Kelvin's familiar cheery voice could be heard around the area. Ronnie also arrived, wanting to take part in the Powerbar photo shoot. I left just after the Powerbar shoot to pick up my wife from the office - by that time, it was already 2:40pm.

Race Day

By 5:45am, I was back at Site A. Everything looked nearly ready and everyone there were either busy or bored.



All tensed up - hoping that I do my duties well

Those busy would be the organisers, officials and helpers naturally. In any case, the boredom proved short-lived as the President issued a request for help to move the crates of fruits and water to the respective stations. It was then that I witnessed the most amazing sight of runners and helpers lugging cartons of items in lines hefting the considerable number of load to and fro.

At the food stalls, workers were busy getting the food and other snacks ready. Ken, the club Treasurer, made sure the activities were captured on video.

A short while later the number of runners increased and after securing Mei Jyn's (who was captured on video heading towards the finish line) camera for safe-keeping, I got a call from Cheong who had to pick up his race bib from me. I still couldn't spot Newton and suspected that he had given this race a miss.

After setting up the notebook from which to compile the race results and website content, my next task was to run to

the starting line to prime the digital clock (yes, we put it up anyway for effect) for the flag off. Had some difficulty resetting it but thankfully got it right just in time.



CS with his camera



Caught up with Cheong at the finish line

This was the first time I was on the other side of a major event. "On the other side" in this case was standing in front, facing the front runners and the elite racers, next to the police outriders. The atmosphere was electrifying. The police radio squawk added the sense of tension. Everyone in the organizing committee was holding their breath, praying that nothing will go wrong. The 4 photographers (Amir, CS, Wendy and Chan WK) were also ready - perched on high ground. The President made an obligatory short speech and then the runners were off!

I spotted [Kelvin](#), the [Permaisuri Group](#). Who couldn't? He was waving and shouting "Jamie, Bye Bye!". Then I saw Cheong followed by Newton (he made it after all!). Both were also waving their hands in the air, quite happy to be part of the action.

The Lull

Once all the runners were through, it was time to hit the food stalls. It was then or never. I finally had the chance to savour the chicken porridge prepared by Chicken Rice Yong and also the smooth Tau Foo Fah. That was some breakfast! I also made sure CS ate before the frenzy later. Energized, I helped the FTAAA and Lai Huat to move the traffic cones in the finishing chutes. I underestimated the weight of the cones and several crashed and scraped the skin off my right ankle. It hurt like crazy and after completing the setup, I sought out the medics to clean up the wound.

Here they come!

Before long, the first man came in, not surprisingly it was Arul Thevar who improved his last year's time to below 1 hour. 150 metres behind was Paul Thompson. A few minutes later more and more crossed the line in quick succession - [Gavin](#), Vincent, [Ronnie](#) and more. I believed all improved their timings. Gavin who ran "easily" did a very fast 1:01 plus. I guess speed is relative.

Post Race

In between the compilation of the results (which needed my repeated promptings to the FTAAA officials), there were plenty of photo opportunities with the [Penguins](#), [Mei Jyn](#), Ronnie, Newton and Cheong all popping by my tent. Li Sar and her team were getting the runners' feedback which were generally positive. Many were happy with the event and would return the next year. There were many participants from big corporations (ie Shell) as well as expatriates. Awhile later was the prize presentation - even the last man and woman received hampers!

Then it was cleaning up time! All the club's helpers moved quickly to clean up the garbage and mess while the contractors removed the A-Boards and signages. City Hall officers were hovering around the area to supervise the "evacuation". I left soon afterwards after assisting in the packing and garbage disposal.

All in all, it was an eye-opening experience for me from the race management side of things. Of course, it was

frustrating not being able to run, especially when your nice bib number (A0001) was given to the country's top runner but after witnessing so many satisfied runners and the monumental effort the committed members put in, I'm pleased that for once, I got to be on "the other side".

The journey continues...
Jamie Pang, Mar 14th, 2004