

# LIEW IS THE NEW LEADER OF THE PACK

Mok soldiers on for third; Qi fastest woman but runner-up yet to be verified

By WALTER SIM & MAY CHEN

THE baton has been passed and a new face crowned the fastest local man at the Standard Chartered Marathon Singapore (SCMS).

Yesterday, Ashley Liew clocked 2hr 45min 6sec to clinch his first SCMS title, beating three-time Singapore Men's champion Mok Ying Ren, who was

third.

Liew, 25, went into the race with a strategy – to rely on the elite women runners as pacers – but he soon ran out of steam.

“I was struggling a bit when I left East Coast Park (at the 32km mark) but I just dug very deep,” said the Singapore Management University graduate who will be going for further studies in chiro-



practic. “Images of my bad races in 2010 and 2011 flashed in my mind.”

Liew was seventh last year and

second in 2010.

Secondary school teacher Ang Chee Yong, 33, the 2011 runner-up, finished second again, with a time of 2:54:16, which he felt was a “big disappointment”.

He had gone into the race hoping to improve on his personal best of 2:48.

“I had a lot of expectations riding on this and could not sleep well the night before,” he said.

“I thought I stood a decent chance because, from what Mok said, he hadn’t trained very well, and Ashley was a question mark.”

Mok, 24, who clocked 2:54:57 despite not being in the best of health, said: “I was already feeling unwell at the 10km mark.

“But I didn’t want to give up. If you quit one marathon, you might develop a habit of quitting.”

Personal trainer Anne Qi Hui, 32, retained her Singapore Women’s title for the fourth consecutive time in 3:17:06.

But hers was the only confirmed podium result for that category. At press time, race officials were still verifying the results of this category after being made

aware of a possible infringement of competition rules.

When contacted, Neo Jie Shi, 27, who was initially named as the third-place finisher, was unaware that the race results had not been verified.

However, she told The Straits Times that Josephine Wang, 25, who was second, was not present at the prize presentation ceremony. Neither Wang nor Qi could be reached for comment on this development last night.

[✉ waltsim@sph.com.sg](mailto:waltsim@sph.com.sg)  
[✉ maychen@sph.com.sg](mailto:maychen@sph.com.sg)