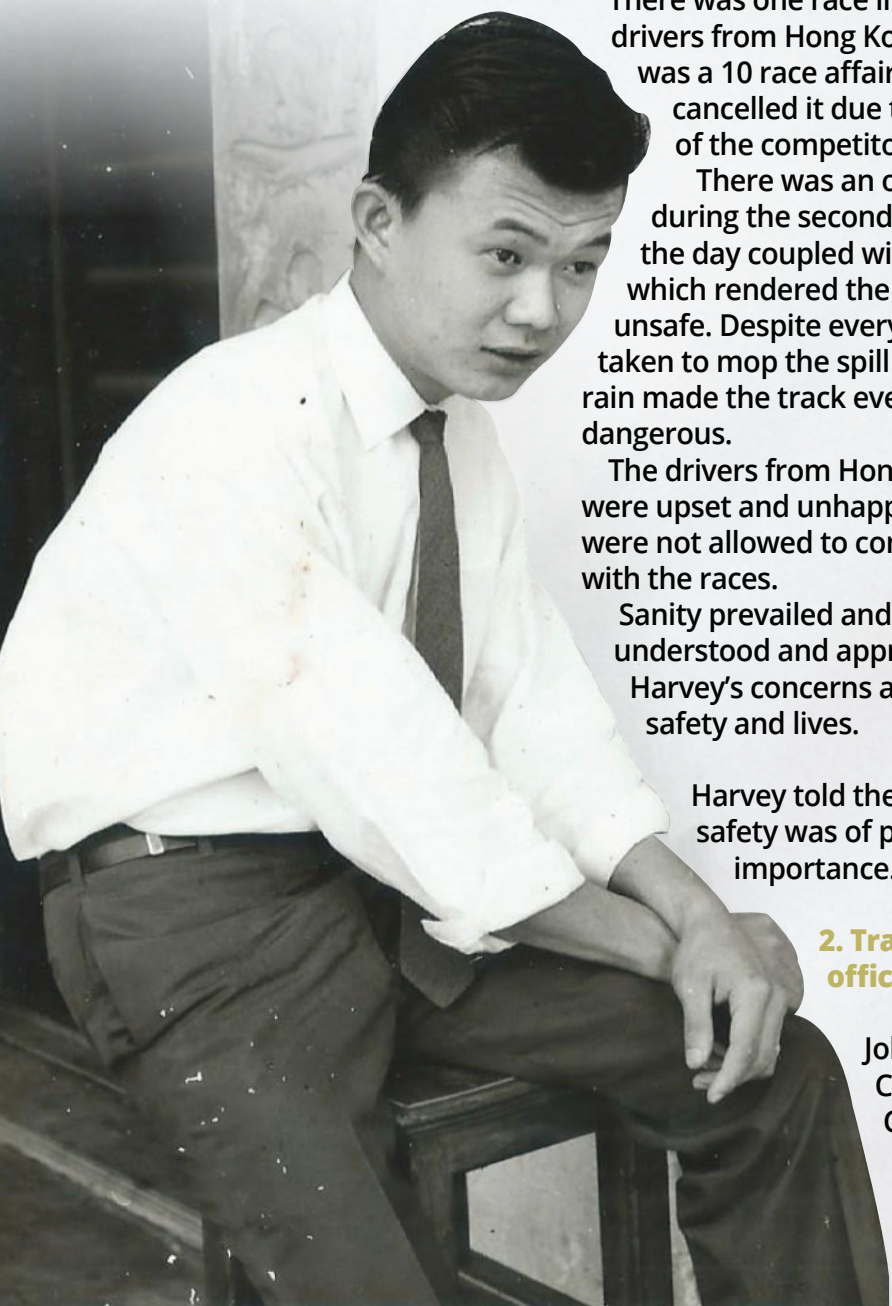


# HE WAS THE BEST

By WAN ZAHARUDDIN WAN AHMAD



**M**Y recollections of Harvey Yap was being associated with him over 17 years from 1985 until 2002.

We ran the Johor Circuit.... together. He was the finest, most reliable and a man of the highest calibre.

And I was so fortunate to have Harvey manage the circuit.

## 1. Circuit safety for competitors/ spectators

Johor Circuit had always maintained high priority on circuit safety. Harvey as the circuit manager never failed to inspect the safety features like the barriers, gravel trap, fencing, tyre barriers well before every race ... just to ensure everything was in place. He never compromised on safety.

There was one race involving drivers from Hong Kong. It was a 10 race affair. Harvey cancelled it due to safety of the competitors.

There was an oil spill during the second race of the day coupled with rain which rendered the track unsafe. Despite every effort taken to mop the spill, the rain made the track even more dangerous.

The drivers from Hong Kong were upset and unhappy they were not allowed to continue with the races.

Sanity prevailed and they understood and appreciated Harvey's concerns about safety and lives.

Harvey told them that safety was of paramount importance.

## 2. Training of officials

Johor Motor Club / Johor Circuit officials were known to

be well trained during those days.

Harvey had put everything into imparting his knowledge and experience to the officials .. turning them into a respected club in the country.

## 3. Rules and Regulations

Races are run on rules and regulations. This is where Harvey is the master.

He was a stickler for rules and regulations and when it came to racing matters. You could not argue your way out with him. He knew his stuff.

Most competitors knew him to be a hard man when it came to rules. It's all about FairPlay where Harvey was concerned.

End of the day, they all respected him... as racing is a serious safety matter.

## 4. Man of few words

"Harvey is one of a kind. He never brags about things. He had achieved a lot and had the credentials as a racing driver before he took over the operations of the circuit. He had everything at his fingertips.

## 5. Harvey Yap School of Advanced Driving.

This was a popular feature amongst the hungry, amateur motor racing enthusiasts from Singapore. They wanted to learn the finer points of driving. He must have taught hundreds of Singaporeans in those years."

When both of us took over to manage the Johor Circuit in 1985, Harvey was 43 and I 33.

It was an experience and friendship I gained being alongside Harvey.