

Action

AMPLENTY @GT3

Team Bahrain gear up for Yas Marina Circuit



DT News Network Manama

After two back-to-back rounds of thrilling racing action in Dubai, the Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Middle East heads to the UAE capital for Round 4, marking the halfway stage of an already exhilarating Season 8 campaign.

The last round in the UAE and the fourth overall in the championship, Abu Dhabi fans will see pivotal points raced for this weekend before the drivers head back to Bahrain for the final two rounds of the season. With each category title chase wide open, and a total of only 48 points separating the top six drivers in the overall standings, strong performance in both races

of Round 4 could result in more movement between positions for any driver.

The Yas Marina Circuit which hosts the Abu Dhabi Formula One Grand Prix each year, will now act as the perfect stage to inspire the drivers of the region's most competitive racing series. For the first time in the championship's history, drivers will be racing the full Grand Prix configuration of the track comprising of 21 turns over a distance of 5.54 km.

Team Bahrain drivers Shaikh Isa Salman Al Khalifa and Shaikh Isa Abdulla Al Khalifa will be hoping to continue the strong form they have shown in the first half of the season this weekend in Abu Dhabi.

The teenage drivers will be

experiencing the F1 circuit for the first time, however being unfamiliar with the track in Dubai didn't stop the duo from collecting some very valuable points. Isa Salman currently sits in eighth position in the overall drivers' standings, and leads the Bronze category standings by five points, an incredible feat for a young driver with very little racing experience of this kind.

Isa Salman said, "I am excited to drive at Yas Marina Circuit this weekend. I have been to the track before to watch the F1 and I've always wanted to race there. The progress I have made this season in the championship has been so rewarding and I am leading my category after three rounds. This weekend I will be hoping to learn

the track as quick as possible, get the speed right in the car and set some strong qualifying times ahead of both races."

Teammate Isa Abdulla has impressed in the first half of Season 8 and will continue to push for the best result possible come the end of the season. Currently sitting third in the Porsche GCC Rookie Championship Isa A. Al Khalifa knows that this weekend could be pivotal in how he places himself going into the final two rounds.

Isa Abdulla said, "This weekend will be an important one for me. I want to try and push for a strong result in both my categories and put myself in a good position for the remaining rounds. I have learnt so much this season already and really

developed my driving ability and focusing on finishing in the best position possible in both races."

Championship leader Ryan Cullen (140 points) extended his lead at the top of the standings to 17 points after back-to-back wins at the Dubai Autodrome in Round 3 ahead of Charlie Frijns (123), with UK driver Tom Oliphant (112) in third position.

A maximum of 50 points are on offer over the two races in Round 4. The Silver and Bronze categories are just a close with only 26 points separating the top three drivers in Silver, and a mere 13 points separating the top three in Bronze.

First race action at Yas Marina on Friday is at 6pm under lights and the second race on Saturday at 3.15pm.

GOLF: KHAN, SACHDEVA WIN

Manama

The pairing of Naeem Khan and Rajinder Sachdeva (nett 34) clinched first place in the fourth competition of the Coca-Cola Monday Madness Night Golf Series at the Royal Golf Club, knocking youngsters Ali Al Kowari and Ali Al Hakam off the top spot in the series order of merit.

In second place was the husband and wife team of Steven and Samantha Hill (36.6), with third place going to Rob Hill and Club Tournament Coordinator Adam Dutson (37.2).

Additional prizes were awarded

to Naeem Khan and Steven Hill for winning "nearest the pin in two shots" side contests on holes 10 and 18 respectively.

With just two more competitions left in the six week-long series, Khan and Sachdeva (12 points) move into first place on the leader board, with the two young Ali's (11) a point behind in second, with Rehman Tipu and Atta Ur Rehman (9) in third place, while last week's winners Jamie Bowen and Jim Lanceley (7) are in fourth. With five points up for grabs by the winners each week the series title could still be

anyone's, leaving everything to play for in the final two weeks.

Nearly 30 players took part in the Greensomes tournament despite the chilly temperatures and recent rain. Coca-Cola branded flags and banners were displayed around the Club's Montgomerie championship golf course for the duration of the competition.

The evening was rounded off with a prize presentation ceremony in the Club's Members' Lounge where Adam Dutson, the Royal Golf Club's Tournament Coordinator, was on hand to present the prizes on behalf of Coca-Cola.

The series takes place every Monday over nine-holes and is open to non-members and tees off with a 6.30pm shotgun start.

Results

- 1) Naeem Khan/Rajinder Sachdeva (nett 34)
- 2) Steven/Samantha Hill (36.6)
- 3) Rob Lane/Adam Dutson (37.2)
- 4) Jamie Bowen/Jim Lanceley (37.6)
- 5) Ali Al Kowari/Ali Al Hakam (39.3).

Nearest the Pin in Two:
Naeem Khan (hole 10) and Steven Hill (hole 18).



Week 4 winners: Rajinder Sachdeva, left and Naeem Khan

Super Rugby 2017: Match schedule

REGULAR SEASON: Feb 23 - Jul 15. Each team plays total of 15 matches - 6 home and away games within domestic conference, and 9 ties combining group and overseas matches

AUSTRALASIAN GROUP

CONFERENCE MATCHES: 6 matches. Each team plays two teams home and away, and one match against remaining two

AUSTRALIA	NEW ZEALAND
Brumbies	Blues
Force	Chiefs
Rebels	Crusaders
Reds	Highlanders
Waratahs	Hurricanes

GROUP MATCHES: 5 matches. Teams play one match against each team in other conference	
Feb 23	Rebels - Blues
Feb 25	Crusaders - Brumbies
Mar 4	Hurricanes - Rebels
Mar 11	Reds - Crusaders
Mar 17	Rebels - Chiefs
Mar 24	Crusaders - Force
Mar 25	Brumbies - Highlanders
Mar 31	Highlanders - Rebels
Apr 1	Blues - Force
Apr 1	Reds - Hurricanes
Apr 2	Waratahs - Crusaders
Apr 7	Hurricanes - Waratahs
Apr 21	Hurricanes - Brumbies
Apr 22	Force - Chiefs
Apr 30	Brumbies - Blues
May 6	Chiefs - Reds
May 6	Waratahs - Blues
May 20	Force - Highlanders
May 27	Highlanders - Waratahs
May 27	Rebels - Crusaders
Jun 2	Blues - Reds
Jun 3	Chiefs - Waratahs



SOUTH AFRICAN GROUP

CONFERENCE MATCHES: 6 matches. Each team plays other three teams home and away

AFRICA 1	AFRICA 2
Bulls	Jaguars ARG
Cheetahs	Kings
Stormers	Lions
Sunwolves JPN	Sharks

GROUP MATCHES: 4 matches. Teams play one match against each team in other conference	
Feb 25	Cheetahs - Lions
Mar 4	Sunwolves - Kings
Mar 4	Stormers - Jaguares
Mar 11	Kings - Stormers
Mar 18	Jaguars - Cheetahs
Mar 25	Cheetahs - Sharks
Apr 15	Stormers - Lions
Apr 15	Bulls - Jaguares
May 6	Jaguars - Sunwolves
May 20	Sunwolves - Sharks
May 20	Lions - Bulls
May 27	Sharks - Stormers
Jun 30	Sharks - Bulls
Jul 1	Lions - Sunwolves
Jul 8	Bulls - Kings
Jul 14	Kings - Cheetahs

OVERSEAS MATCHES: Additionally, teams in Africa 1 will play one match against each team in New Zealand Conference, and teams in Africa 2 will play one match against each team in Australian Conference

QUARTER-FINALS: Jul 21/22
1st Conference Winner - Team ranked 8 overall
2nd Conference Winner - Team ranked 7 overall
3rd Conference Winner - Team ranked 6 overall
4th Conference Winner - Team ranked 5 overall

SEMI-FINALS: Jul 28/29
Winner Quarter-final 1 - Winner Quarter-final 4
Winner Quarter-final 2 - Winner Quarter-final 3

SUPER RUGBY FINAL Saturday August 5, 2017

Source: Super Rugby Pictures: Getty Images © GRAPHIC NEWS