

Karters shine in tense sprint battles

Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa, Khaled Al Najjar, Mohammed Wally and Lewis Smith win Rotax MAX classes in series' fourth round at BIKC

● **Shaikh Ahmed's Micro MAX victory narrows gap atop championship standings with Yousif Alghaith in first place, while Al Najjar remains runaway leader in Mini MAX class**

● **Title race remains tight in Junior MAX category, currently led by Wally by just seven points over Luca Kane Houghton, whereas Najashi Rashdan is ahead of Smith in Senior MAX standings**



The round's winners at their podium ceremony at BIKC

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Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) hosted a thrilling fourth round in the 2022 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) held last weekend, with Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa, Khaled Al Najjar, Mohammed Wally and Lewis Smith all taking the victory in their respective competition classes.

Shaikh Ahmed triumphed in the Micro MAX category, while Al Najjar won the Mini MAX. Wally claimed the Junior MAX win whereas Smith triumphed in the Senior MAX.

The weekend's racing took place along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA

Track, as part of the season-long calendar of the Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship.

Shaikh Ahmed kicked things off in the meeting by capturing pole in his class with a best lap time of one minute 04.058 seconds in Qualifying. He then powered to a convincing win in the Pre-Final, before completing a dominant round by taking the chequered flag in the nine-lap Final with a time of 9:27.899—a comfortable 17.978s ahead of runner-up Yousif Alghaith. Mohammed Waleed completed the Micro MAX podium in third 22.761s back.

In the Mini MAX class, Al Najjar cruised to first place in all three sessions. He had a best lap of 1:00.851 in Qualifying, before taking the Pre-Final

and then winning the Final in 9:02.036, also over nine laps.

In the Junior MAX, Wally needed to overcome a tough challenge from his chief rivals with each session going down to a tight finish. Wally claimed pole for the Pre-Final by just 0.001s from Luca Kane Houghton with a best lap of 55.122s. Gracie Rose Grantham was also in close contention, going just 0.163s off the pace.

Wally went on to win the Pre-Final ahead of Houghton, who was given a five-second penalty which promoted Mohammed Alhasan to second and Grantham third. In the Final, Wally and Houghton powered to the front early on and held on to finish as the top two. Wally won the 15-lap sprint in 13:47.755,



while Houghton followed 1.591s back as the runner-up. Alhasan joined them on the podium in third 1.822s back.

Shanthosh Kumar was fourth, Tye Mejia fifth and Vedant Menon sixth, while rounding off the final classification from seventh through 10th, respectively, were Grantham, Louis Safa El Nabulsi, Abdulqader Qasem and Musaad Albassam.

In the Senior MAX category, Smith was able to top a hotly contested Qualifying, in which the field of 13 drivers were separated by just 1.2s from first to last.

Smith finished the session in first with a time of 53.533s on the final classification, with his best lap time deleted for exceeding the track limit.

Shaikha Haya bint Duaaj bin Salman Al Khalifa went on to claim first place in the Pre-Final 0.219s ahead of Abdul-

rahman Waleed. But then, in the Senior MAX Final, Smith was able to gain the advantage on lap three and he raced on to the finish from there to register a winning time of 13:35.473 over 15 laps. Rashdan was the runner-up 6.230s behind, while Ahmed Musalam came third 6.992s back.

Fahad Alkhaled, Abdulla Jaweed, Ahmed Alsaleh, Oliver Kruglov and Suliman Alkandari were fourth through eighth, while Yusuf Mathkooor was ninth on the final classification and Faisal Jamsheer 10th. Shaikha Haya, Waleed and Fahad Almuqla did not finish.

Following the weekend's events, the championship battles continued to heat up with only three rounds remaining in the BRMC.

Alghaith now only holds a six-point lead over Shaikh Ahmed in the Micro MAX title fight. Alghaith owns 121 points in first place followed by Shaikh Ahmed with 115. Al Najjar is the runaway leader in the Mini MAX class with 140 points.

The title race remained tight in the Junior MAX category, with Wally leading on 113 points followed by Houghton on 106. Grantham, Mejia and Alhasan are all still within striking distance, with Grantham on 89 points, Mejia on 84 and Alhasan on 83.

The Senior MAX championship standing is spearheaded by Rashdan with 118 points, as Smith follows on 93. Alkhaled and Shaikha Haya are on 77 and 74 points, respectively.

Batelco Fitness on Track offers fun, physical activity at BIC



Participants in action at BIC

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) welcomes runners and cyclists tonight for a fun physical activity under the stars with the Batelco Fitness on Track.

This popular offering at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" gives participants a chance to maintain their health and wellbeing within a safe and controlled environment, either on foot or on a bicycle.

This evening's event is scheduled to be held between 6pm and 10pm under BIC's bright floodlights.

Those interested in taking part are advised to purchase their tickets in advance to avoid missing out. Past editions have sold out quickly and a similar turnout is expected this time.

Anyone wishing to participate must pre-register and pay in advance on bahraingp.com. The cost to take part is BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Those under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult.

The running and cycling will take place on separate track layouts. Runners and walkers will be utilising the 2.550-kilometre Inner Track, while cyclists will be able to ride their bikes along BIC's 3.543-kilometre Outer circuit, with a dedicated area for children's cycling.

Additional facilities provided on site include food and beverage trucks available, as well as water stations.

For more information on Batelco Fitness on Track or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000.

Formula 2's 22-driver field set for Bahrain pre-season tests

● **F2 and F3 pre-season testing to get underway tomorrow at Bahrain International Circuit in Sakhir**

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The FIA Formula 2 Championship will have all its 22 drivers for 2022 take part in pre-season testing at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) this week.

This was announced by F2 yesterday. The tests are scheduled to get underway tomorrow and continue until Friday.

Among the top names set to take to the track are returning F2 drivers Theo Pourchaire of France, Juri Vips from Estonia, Jehan Daruvala of India and Felipe Drugovich from Brazil,

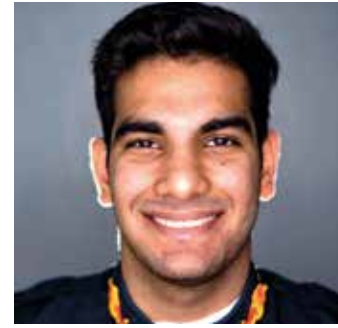


Theo Pourchaire

who were all in the top eight on the final drivers' championship standings last season.

Daruvala will be racing with defending champions Prema Racing, where he will be joined by last year's Formula 3 champion Dennis Hauger from Norway.

Pourchaire will be racing for ART Grand Prix along with Frederik Vesti, while Vips will be competing for Hitech Grand Prix alongside Marcus Armstrong. Drugovich is to suit up



Jehan Daruvala

for MP Motorsport with Clement Novalak.

Virtuosi Racing are set to field the pair of Jack Doohan and Marino Sato, Carlin will see Liam Lawson and Logan Sargeant in the cars, while Campos Racing will feature Olli Caldwell and Ralph Boschung.

The field is completed by Roy Nissany and Ayumu Iwasa for Dams, Richard Verschoor and Calan Williams for Trident, Enzo Fittipaldi and Cem Boluk-



Dennis Hauger

basi for Charouz Racing System, and Jake Hughes and Amaury Cordeel for Van Amersfoort Racing.

The F2 tests this week at BIC will be taking place simultaneously with testing for the FIA Formula 3 Championship.

Both series are preparing for their season-opening rounds, which will both be held supporting the Formula 1 Gulf Air Bahrain Grand Prix 2022 taking place March 18 to 20.

BRAVE CF announces Rain as official national kit sponsor for BICW

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BRAVE Combat Federation continues to empower sports in and out of Bahrain and is hosting a historic event with the upcoming Brave International Combat Week. The MMA Super Cup is the first-ever team vs team MMA competition and highest-paying competition for amateur mixed martial arts with tremendous cash prizes for the first three teams in



the world and will serve as the curtain-closer for the IMMAF season, as it selects the top-6 nations in the annual world ranking.

As the nation gets closer to the much-anticipated date, BRAVE Combat Federation is revealing new partnerships and collaborations, amongst

them is the announcement of BRAVE International Combat Week (BICW) Official National Team Kit Sponsors. The Bahrain-based Crypto Asset Brokerage firm Rain Management WLL ("Rain") has partnered with the BICW and will be the National Team Kit sponsor for the event. This means the Rain brand will be featured on Team Bahrain kit for the MMA Super Cup running from the 8th – 12th March.

"Under the guidance of HH

Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Brave has been able to reach international recognition and will continue to do so under his vision and leadership. Sponsoring home grown athletes across the world is a project we are excited to be involved with. Rain prides itself in supporting the Kingdom whenever it can, and we are proud to be part of this exciting journey" said Mohamed Ateeg, General Manager of Rain Management.