

## Free tickets available as Bjorn commits to 2024 Bahrain Championship

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Thomas Bjorn will tee it up as the DP World Tour makes its long-awaited return to the Kingdom of Bahrain for the Bahrain Championship from February 1-4, 2024, and golf fans can now secure free general admission tickets.

The tournament, which will be held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, will mark the DP World Tour's first visit to the Kingdom since 2011 and forms part of the International Swing on the 2024 Race to Dubai.

Former Ryder Cup Captain Bjorn, who is Denmark's most successful golfer of all-time with 15 DP World Tour wins to his name, will return to the Kingdom for the first time in 13 years, since he finished in a tie for 44th at the Volvo Golf Champions.

"I am looking forward to returning to Bahrain in February and seeing how the country has changed since my last visit almost 13 years ago," said Bjorn, who has twice enjoyed success here in the Middle East with victories in the 2001 Dubai Desert



Thomas Bjorn



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Classic and the 2011 Commercialbank Qatar Masters.

"The beauty of the DP World Tour is we get to visit so many interesting places and help bring golf to new audiences, and I am thrilled to help to achieve that with the Bahrain Championship.

"I would like to thank His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa for welcoming us to his Kingdom and I can't wait to visit early next year."

General admission will be free of charge for spectators while there will also be a host of elevated and premium experiences available, including the Championship Chalet on the 18th, as well as a full programme of entertainment, including live

music and a wealth of F&B options for the whole family to enjoy.

With just over 50 days to go until the eagerly-anticipated event, which has a prize fund of US\$2.5 million, the Royal Golf Club course has undergone extensive upgrades, supported by Osool Asset Management and Bahrain Mumtalakat Holding Company (Mumtalakat), the sovereign wealth fund of the Kingdom of Bahrain, headed by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah bin Khalifa Al Khalifa.

Among the key enhancements is the upgrading of a number of greens on the front nine to ensure it is in prime condition to welcome the elite stars of the DP World Tour.

Freddie Schmeisser, Championship Director of the Bahrain Championship, said: "We are looking forward to returning to the Kingdom of Bahrain next year as part of the DP World Tour's International Swing and excitement is now building with tickets becoming available and Thomas committing to play.

"Royal Golf Club is a fitting

venue for the Bahrain Championship and will be a great day out for all the family, with world class golf and a host of off-course activities."

The Bahrain Championship will be one of four events in the Middle East as part of the new International Swing on the revamped 2024 Race to Dubai.

The tournament follows the inaugural Dubai Invitational, the Hero Dubai Desert Classic, the first Rolex Series event of the season, and the Ras Al Khaimah Championship.

There are five Global Swings in the first part of the season, with the International Swing running from January to March. Each Swing will have its own identity and its own Champion who will each earn \$200,000 from an overall \$1million Bonus Pool. Swing Champions will also qualify for each of the 'Back 9' events later in the season.

Registration for free tickets for the 2024 Bahrain Championship is open now. To keep up to date with tournament news, follow @bahraingolfchamps on Instagram.

# World-class racing all weekend at BIC

Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals 2023 and first round of 2023/2024 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship to take place

● **Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals to hold final two days of wheel-to-wheel action Friday and Saturday at Bahrain International Karting Circuit**

● **Bahrain Drag Racing Championship set for season-opening Race Day of 2023/2024 along National Hot Rod Association-sanctioned strip**

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is calling on motorsport fans to come and enjoy some of the most thrilling racing action all throughout this weekend at "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East".

Two major events are currently taking place at the Sakhr facility. These include the Rotax MAX Challenge Grand Finals (RMCGF) 2023 and the season-opening round of the 2023/2024 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship (BDRC).

The RMCGF action intensifies on Friday and Saturday (Editor's note: 8 and 9 December) with its final two days of wheel-to-wheel karting at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC), BIC's world-class grassroots motorsport facility.

Also on Friday, head-to-head



Karters in action at BIKC in the RMCGF this week

eliminations will be taking place along BIC's world-class NHRA drag strip as the BDRC holds Race Day as an exciting culmination to the first meeting's events.

The RMCGF's pre-finals and finals are set to take place over the weekend. Fans wishing to watch the very best in global karting can attend the RMCGF free of charge. Due to limited capacity at BIKC, public access will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

BIKC's gates are scheduled to open to fans at 5pm on Friday, with last entry set for 8pm. On the event's concluding day on Saturday, gates will open from 9am and last entry will be permitted at 4.30pm. Spectator parking will be at P8.

Close to 400 karters from around the world are competing in the nine Rotax MAX classes, which include the 125 Micro MAX, the 125 Mini MAX, the 125 Junior MAX, the 125 Senior MAX, the 125 MAX DD2, the 125 MAX

DD2 Masters, the E20 Senior, E20 Master, and the E10.

Team Bahrain have a nine-strong contingent in the fray. The Kingdom's top talents showcasing their prowess include Nasser Nass and Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa in

the Mini MAX category; Luca Houghton and Tye Mejia in the Junior MAX; Oliver Kruglov, Mohammed Alhasan and Fahad Alkhaled in the Senior MAX class; Omar Alderayaane in the DD2 MAX; and Lewis Smith in the E20 Senior category.

Meanwhile, in the BDRC, more than 200 competitors in the cars and bikes classes are set to battle it out for podiums, bragging rights and all-important championship points. The drag racers are flying the flags of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait and Qatar.

Friday's programme is scheduled to be held from 4pm onwards. Spectator seating will be available along BIC's Beyon Grandstand.



A drag racing participant gets ready to power down the strip

The 14 categories of competition in this season's BDRC include the Index 7.5, Pro 29.5 V8, Outlaw 4 Cylinder, Outlaw 6 Cylinder, Index 10.00, Index

9.00, Index 8.50, Competition 4.5 and Pro Mod; while the motorbike classes are Pro Street Bike, Street Fight 9.5, Index 8.5 Bike, Outlaw Bike and Street Fight.

## 2 Seas kick off Gulf 12 Hours drive

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Bahraini-British motor racing team 2 Seas Motorsport had a solid start to their weekend's events yesterday in the Gulf 12 Hours, taking place at Yas Marina Circuit in Abu Dhabi.

2 Seas' #14 crew of Jules Gounon, Maximilian Gotz and Fabian Schiller, competing in the Pro class, were seventh overall on the open practice one timesheet, held under lights over an hour's duration.

The trio posted a fastest lap of one minute 53.208 seconds in the session behind the wheel of their Mercedes AMG-GT3 contender. They were also second-fastest in class, behind only



2 Seas' #3 car being rolled out of the pits for yesterday's sessions

fellow Mercedes-AMG outfit GruppeM Racing.

2 Seas' other car, the #3 triumvirate of His Highness Shaikh Isa bin Abdulla Al Khalifa, Ian Loggie and Al Faisal Al Zubair, ranked 22nd overall. They had a fastest lap of 1:55.299, putting them seventh in class.

2 Seas, co-owned by HH Shaikh Isa, are part of a packed grid of 28 GT3 cars competing in the event.

Action continues today at the UAE capital with three more open practice sessions, the first two to be held over 60 minutes apiece and the last over 120 minutes. Tomorrow, there will be two free practice sessions, to be followed by qualifying.

The main event is then set for Sunday, with the race scheduled for a 9am start, Bahrain time. The podium presentation will follow at around 9.15pm, Bahrain, after the chequered flag comes down on the 12-hour endurance challenge.

## BRAVE Combat Federation breaks record for 2023 live viewership

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Brave Combat Federation (BRAVE CF), the mixed martial arts (MMA) organisation that has hosted events in the most

number of nations in the world, has once again made history by breaking viewership records in 2023.

With over 500,000 viewers tuning in solely through

its homegrown digital platforms, BRAVE CF has solidified its position as a global force in the world of combat sports.

This remarkable achieve-

ment is a testament to BRAVE CF's commitment to accessibility and innovation. BRAVE CF actively advocates the integration of technology into sports to enhance the audience and athlete

experience.

The organisation broadcasts its events across 160+ countries to 848 million households, reaching audiences through a diverse network of platforms

and television channels.

On the digital front, BRAVE CF offers live streams on its YouTube channel (@bravemmaf) and its own OTT platform, Brave TV.