

Winners of BTC Tennis Classic Championship honoured

TDT | Manama

Under the patronage of Saleh bin Isa bin Hindi Al Manaei, HM King's Advisor for Youth and Sports Affairs, the Bahrain Tennis Club (BTC) Tennis Classic Championship concluded on Thursday.

The closing ceremony of the event was held in the presence of many dignitaries and VIPs, during which Al Manaei honoured the winners of the Championship.

The event was sponsored by Royal Bahrain Hospital, and among the attendees were HE Shaikh Abdulaziz bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, President of BTC, Dr Sheriff Sahadulla, the



Officials with the winners at the end of the awarding ceremony

Chief Executive Officer of KIMS Healthcare Group, Dr Faisal Al Mosawi, Khamees Mohammed Al Muqla, Chairman of the Bahrain Tennis Club, Nasser Mohammed, Head of Alayam Sports Section and Tawfiq Al

Salehi, Director of HH Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa Media Office and Information Centre.

The games of the event have been officiated by Bahraini international referee Ahmed Al

Hawaj.

"It's a privilege to be the patron of this event," Bin Hindi said, highlighting the contributions of the Bahrain Tennis Club in developing the tennis sport in Bahrain.



Officials at the closing ceremony

He also hailed the wide participation the event feature.

The event included various categories and saw participants

from various ages take part, starting from 30 years old and up to 65 years old from both genders.

Twilight of a golden era

Roger Federer, Serena Williams retiring within weeks of each other marks end of tennis' best era

● Federer and Serena helped grow the game in ways that make it impossible to envision the sport without them

Reuters | London

As Roger Federer joined Serena Williams in bringing down the curtain on an illustrious career, tennis moved ever closer to the end of a golden era.

Williams' emotional goodbye at the U.S. Open earlier this month was followed by Federer's announcement on Thursday that next week's Laver Cup in London would be his last professional outing.

Both players had taken their sport to new levels and been proclaimed the best to ever wield a racket, with 43 Grand Slam singles titles between them.

Their departures, along with the fact that Federer's great rivals Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic aren't getting any younger, have left fans looking back wistfully at a glorious period in the sport's history.

The 41-year-old Federer's decision was not unexpected given his recent struggles with injuries and form, but it was still met with an outpouring of sadness by tennis fans and former players.

"I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so eloquently put this game to rest -- perfectly done, just like your career," Williams said in an Instagram post, reacting to Federer's retirement.

"I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths



Serena Williams (L) and Roger Federer take a selfie following their mixed doubles match on day four of the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth (file photo)

"I wanted to find the perfect way to say this, as you so eloquently put this game to rest - perfectly done, just like your career. I have always looked up to you and admired you. Our paths were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people - including me - and we will never forget"

SERENA WILLIAMS

were always so similar, so much the same. You inspired countless millions and millions of people -- including me -- and we will never forget.

"Welcome to the retirement club."

Like the 23-times Grand Slam singles champion Williams, who in 10 days will also turn 41, the

triumvirate of Federer, Nadal and Djokovic have dominated their sport for the last two decades.

And despite spending so many years on the tour, they continue to lure fans to the stands and television screens while their commercial pull still mesmerises brands and advertisers.

Williams's place in the sport was underlined by the fact that her final match at Flushing Meadows was the most-watched tennis telecast in ESPN's 43-year history while the 2022 edition broke the tournament's all-time attendance record.

'Big three'

The so-called men's 'Big Three' revolutionised the sport with their own achievements and riveting rivalries. They won a combined 63 Grand Slam singles titles between them.

Federer played Nadal 40 times while Djokovic faced the Swiss in 50 matches as the trio boosted each other and along with it the sport as a whole and brought in

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new and old fans.

Yet in recent years injuries to Williams, Federer and Nadal have brought their retirement into sharper focus. Fans and pundits have wondered how the sport would cope with the prospect of losing their most marketable athletes.

With the exit of Williams and Federer in the space of three weeks, the answers could be at hand.

At 36, Nadal is a bit younger, but a chronic foot issue forced the Spaniard to contemplate retirement in 2021 and again this year after he won a men's record 22nd major title at the French Open, playing with numbing injections before each match in Paris.

A radio frequency treatment eased pain in his foot and allowed him to play Wimbledon, but the left-hander does not know whether the injury will flare up again.

The 35-year-old Djokovic is the youngest among the trio, undoubtedly the fittest and appears to be the best bet to keep the flag flying for tennis' older generation.

Nadal's message on social media for his "friend and rival" Federer echoed the mood of the tennis world.

"I wish this day would have never come. It's a sad day for me personally and for sports around the world," Nadal said.

Djokovic hails 'incredible moments and battles' with Federer



Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer are seen during centre court centenary celebrations at Wimbledon (file photo)

AFP | London

Novak Djokovic paid tribute to his long-time rival Roger Federer yesterday, hailing the "incredible moments and battles" the pair shared on court.

"Roger, it's hard to see this day and put into words all that we've shared in this sport together," Djokovic wrote on Instagram, saying they had "over a decade of incredible moments and battles to think back on".

Djokovic and Federer played each other 50 times, with the Serb holding a 27-23 winning record.

The duo played 17 matches at Grand Slam tournaments, including five finals, with

50 matches have been played between Djokovic and Federer with the Serb holding a 27-23 winning record

Over a decade of incredible moments and battles to think back on. Your career has set the tone for what it means to achieve excellence and lead with integrity and poise. It's an honour to know you on and off court, and for many years to come

NOVAK DJOKOVIC

Djokovic leading that head-to-head 11-6.

"Your career has set the tone for what it means to achieve excellence and lead with integrity and poise," added the 35-year-old.

"It's an honour to know you on and off court, and for many more years to come."

Federer's last major final was the epic Wimbledon showpiece in 2019 which Djokovic won in a final-set tie-break after the Swiss had earlier missed two championship points.

Former England soccer captain Beckham queues to see Queen Elizabeth's coffin

Reuters | London

Former England soccer captain David Beckham queued for more than 13 hours alongside thousands of other mourners to see Queen Elizabeth lying in state in London yesterday.

The 47-year-old former Manchester United and Real Madrid



David Beckham leaves after paying his respects

midfielder and current co-owner of American Major League Soccer team Inter Miami, said he had joined the queue at 2.15 a.m. (0115 GMT).

"We all want to be here together, we all want to experience something where we celebrate the amazing life of our queen. Something like this

today is meant to be shared together," Beckham, who was wearing a dark flat cap and a dark suit with a black tie and appeared to be alone, told reporters in the queue.

He talked of snacking on crisps, sweets and donuts with his fellow queuers to keep their energy up.

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