

# BIC launches 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters

The World Series of Darts, featuring the best players on the planet, returns to Bahrain on 18 and 19 January, 2024

● Three of world's top players already confirmed, including Michael Smith, Peter Wright and Gerwyn Price

● Limited time 20 per cent Early Bird discount on tickets now available, along with VIP Hospitality

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) and sports promoter CBX today announced yesterday the return of the Bahrain Darts Masters, supported by Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), featuring the world's best players right here in Bahrain next January.

After its incredible debut last year, the Bahrain Darts Masters will return on 18 and 19 January 2024, with three of the top darts players in the world already confirmed as participants for the opening stage of the Professional Darts Corporation's World Series of Darts global tour.

Tickets to this incredibly popular event are now on sale, with a limited-time 20% Early Bird discount. Tickets for next year's competition start from 20BD



Michael Smith celebrates as the first-ever Bahrain Darts Masters champion last year (File photo)

(after Early Bird discount) for a two-day pass, with premium seating – including stage-side tables – from just BD 32 for two days. VIP hospitality is also available for the event.

All ticket options are available online at bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450 000. Fans are urged to act quickly, as the Early Bird discount is for a limited time only and the event is expected to sell out, based on the popularity

of the 2023 tournament.

Three of the game's icons have already confirmed their participation in the event; they include the first-ever Bahrain Darts Masters winner and reigning World Champion Michael Smith and former World Champions Peter Wright and Gerwyn Price. The remainder of the competing darts stars will be announced in due course, including details on the Bahrain qualifying tournament.

“The Bahrain Darts Masters is a unique event, which showcases the best darts talent in the world, within the unmistakable electric atmosphere that only a global darts tournament can bring. We were delighted in the way that fans in Bahrain embraced the inaugural event and we will ensure that the 2024 edition is an even more incredible experience

SHAIKH SALMAN BIN ISA AL KHALIFA

The 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters will once again take place in BIC's beautifully set-up dome tent, which will host the event's fun and electric atmosphere.

Bringing one of the most renowned sports championships across the UK and worldwide to Bahrain comes in line with the Kingdom's Tourism Strategy (2022-2026), which prioritises sports tourism as one of its main pillars. This will increase interest in the Kingdom and its distinctive tourism initiatives and capabilities on a global scale, placing Bahrain at the forefront of the region's fastest-growing tourism sectors.

Commenting, Dr. Nasser Qaedi, Chief Executive Officer of the Bahrain Tourism and Exhibitions Authority (BTEA), stated: “We are delighted to see BIC ramping up its efforts to host the second version of the Bahrain Darts Masters, building on the successful first version last year. This prestigious event is an integral part of BTEA's steady strides to promote Bahrain as an international tourism hub and enhance tourism product diversification through focusing on sports and recreation tourism in relation to the tourism strategy (2022-2026) goals.

“This major sports event will showcase Bahrain to a huge global audience as a favorable tourism destination with plenty of historical monuments, museums, retail centres, beaches, water sports, numerous hotels and resorts, offering an unforgettable experience for all types of travelers seeking a unique holiday.”

Commenting on the launch, Shaikh Salman bin Isa Al Khalifa, Chief Executive of Bahrain International Circuit, said: “The Bahrain Darts Masters is a unique event, which showcases the best darts talent in the world, within the unmistakable electric atmosphere that only a global darts tournament can bring.

“We were delighted in the way that fans in Bahrain embraced the inaugural event and we will

ensure that the 2024 edition is an even more incredible experience.

“Without doubt, next year will be even more popular, so I would urge fans to buy their tickets now, as we build up to this phenomenal global sporting spectacle.”

Those attending the Bahrain Darts Masters will be able to show off their flair for colourful costumes and fancy dress, while enjoying two days of the highest level of darts competition in a venue specially designed to replicate the famed Alexandra Palace in the UK, the home of the World Darts Championship.

The inaugural Bahrain Darts Masters attracted large crowds on both nights. There were 16 of the world's biggest names in darts, consisting of eight of the game's juggernauts and another eight of Asia's best players. Michael Smith claimed the title with a masterclass display in an exciting final, where he defeated Gerwyn Price 8-6. The event was broadcast live to a TV audience across the world.

The 2024 Bahrain Darts Masters is being supported by the BTEA. BIC and leading sports promoter CBX have teamed up with the PDC to bring the World Series of Darts to Bahrain, in partnership with the BTEA.

For more information, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

## Najma get tough group for handball Super Globe

● Bahrain and Asian champions in Group D with Industria Kielce of Poland and San Francisco Calheat from the US

● Prestigious competition to take place November 7 to 12 in Dammam with 12 champion teams from across the globe

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Bahrain and Asian champions Al Najma were yesterday drawn in a tough group for the preliminary round of the 16th IHF Men's Super Globe.

The prestigious global competition, organised by the International Handball Federation



Najma players and officials celebrate winning the Asian clubs title last June in Isfahan (File photo)

(IHF), will be held from November 7 to 12 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

The annual event is to be contested between 12 champion clubs from continental federations, and Najma will be participating for the second time, following the 2018 edition when they were seventh.

The Bahrainis are in Group D along with Industria Kielce

of Poland and San Francisco Calheat from the US.

Group A features Al Ahly of Egypt, Al Noor of Saudi and Barcelona from Spain; Group B includes Kuwait SC of Kuwait, San Fernando HB of Argentina and Fuchse Berlin of Germany; while Group C comprises defending champions SC Magdeburg of Germany, Khaleej from Saudi and University of Queens-

land from Australia.

Najma secured their place in this year's Super Globe after being crowned champions of the 25th Asian Men's Club League Championship, held last June in Isfahan, Iran.

Najma clinched the coveted title with a come-from-behind 31-30 victory in double overtime against Al Duhail of Qatar in a heart-stopping final.

## Ashwin replaces injured Axar in India World Cup squad

AFP | New Delhi

Off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin replaced left-arm spinner Axar Patel on Thursday in India's squad for the Cricket World Cup on home soil after he failed to recover from a thigh injury.

The 37-year-old Ashwin impressed against Australia earlier this month, taking four wickets in two games as he returned to the ODI team for the first time in over 18 months.

He is the only specialist



Ravichandran Ashwin

off-spinner in India's 15-man squad, and one of just two players alongside star batsman Virat

Kohli who featured in India's 2011 World Cup-winning run.

“When we talk about the 15 we are very clear what we want,” India captain Rohit Sharma said Wednesday after the 2-1 series victory over Australia.

“We are not confused, we know where we are headed as a team.

“It's a team sport and we want everyone to come and play their part - that's how we win championships. It's about looking after the body and try and stay fresh for the next one and half

months.”

Ashwin claimed 13 wickets in eight matches as India reached the semi-finals of the 2015 World Cup in Australia, but he was not selected for the 2019 edition in England.

Axar sustained a left quadriceps strain in the recent Asia Cup and the spin-bowling all-rounder missed the final as a result.

Hosts India begin their World Cup campaign against five-time champions Australia in Chennai on October 8.

## Al Hala stun Manama in football league



Manama's Ebrahim Al Khattal looks to keep possession as he is challenged by Hala's Jumai Jallow

● Mohammed Abdulwahab Shaaban fires in late winner for Al Najma against Al Shabab

TDT | Manama

Al Hala posted a stunning 2-1 victory over Manama last night in their week two match of the 2023/2024 Nasser bin Hamad Bahrain Premier Football League.

Mahmoud Al Haiki and Jumai Jallow were both on target for the victors before the break.

Al Haiki opened the scoring in the 26th minute with a shot from outside the penalty box. Jallow doubled their lead with a goal on a quick counterattack in the third minute of first-half stoppage time.

Manama scored their lone consolation in the 82nd minute, when Ebrahim Al Khat-

tal fired in with a volley from close range. But it wasn't enough to prevent Hala from coming away with their second straight win of the new campaign. They now have a full six points on the table, while Manama were dealt their first loss following a victory from week one.

In last night's other league fixture, Al Najma came away with a late 3-2 win over Al Shabab.

Mohammed Abdulwahab Shaaban fired in the winner with a minute remaining in regular time. He scored with a brilliant free-kick from just outside the box.

Najma won for the first time this season while Shabab suffered their second loss.

League play continues tonight with three matches on the card. East Riffa play Buisateen, Al Ahli take on Sitra and defending champions Al Khaldiya go up against Muharraq in a mouth-watering clash between two top contenders.