

Rotax karting champions crowned

Title winners take honours in season-opening championship at BIKC

● Julian Rivera, Nasser Nass and Luca Houghton amongst young winners to claim titles

● Oliver Kruglov, Kayne Thalathavil Cherian, Rubens Barrichello also capture crowns

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Bahrain International Circuit (BIC), "The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East", crowned over the weekend the 2023 champions of the Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge (SRMC).

Julian Rivera, Nasser Nass, Luca Houghton, Oliver Kruglov, Kayne Thalathavil Cherian and Formula 1 legend Rubens Barrichello all captured the coveted titles of their respective competition categories.

They secured their crowns after the final two rounds of this year's SRMC campaign, which took place on back-to-back days last Friday and Saturday at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC), the world-class grassroots motorsport facility of BIC in Sakhir.

Julian was the new champion of the Micro MAX class while Nasser won his title in the Mini MAX. Luca claimed his winner's trophy in the Junior MAX cat-



Winners from the last two rounds

egory while Kruglov was tops amongst the Senior MAX runners. Cherian triumphed in the DD2 MAX class and Barrichello rounded off the SRMC's newest champions in the DD2 MAX Masters category.

With the SRMC now complete, the stage is set for the Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) 2023/2024, which is set to feature eight rounds taking place until March of next year.

Like the SRMC, the BRMC is for individual racers competing against one another in sprint races in their very own Rotax-powered karts. Participants interested in competing in this championship are invited to contact BIKC at the soonest on +973-1745-1745.

Round one of the BRMC is scheduled to take place on 15 December.

In the SRMC's Micro MAX title fight, Julian Rivera was able to come away with the crown after finishing the four-round campaign with 124 points. He was followed by Rayyan Najjar with 107 points and Patrikas Jocius on 64 points.

Julian won the fourth and final round and took second place in the penultimate meeting over the weekend to secure enough points for first overall on the championship standings. Rayyan was third in both meetings, while Patrikas was the victor in round three before finishing behind Julian in the finale.

In the Mini MAX class, Nas-

ser Nass took his title with 100 points on the table, beating out Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqer Al Khalifa by just five points. Shaheen Shaheen finished in third place with 73 points.

Masus Mazinas and Majus Mazinas were the victors from the SRMC's last two rounds this past weekend. Masus took the chequered flag in round three ahead of Nasser and Shaikh Ahmed. Majus was then triumphant in round four, with Shaikh Ahmed as the runner-up and Adrians Tions completing the podium-placers in third.

In the Junior MAX category, Luca Houghton captured the title with 129 points. Tye Mejia was second on 103, while Vedant Menon came third on 73

markers.

Luca completed a sensational campaign in which he stepped onto the podium in the Pre-Finals and Finals of all four rounds, while claiming the victories in rounds two through four. His double triumph in the concluding two meetings earned him his comfortable cushion atop the final rankings.

Joining Luca on the podium in round three were Wian Boshoff and Gracie Grantham, while in round four Vedant was the runner-up and Eason Tseng came third.

Oliver Kruglov came away with the title in the Senior MAX class by the narrowest of margins. He finished on 90 points—

just a single point ahead of Mohammed Alhasan in their championship fight. Fahad Almuqla came third with 77 points.

Kruglov was classified as the runner-up in the SRMC finale, which was enough for him to bag the crown at the chequered flag. He finished behind Alhasan, who made a clean sweep of the weekend's events, winning the Pre-Finals and Finals of both rounds. Najashi Rashdan and Almuqla were second and third in round three, while Francisco Daniel Altamirano joined Alhasan and Kruglov on the podium in round four.

In the MAX DD2 class, Kayne Thalathavil Cherian finished with 70 points on the standings, tied with Xen de Ruwe. Henrijs Grube was third on 58 points. Cherian claimed the title after winning the last two rounds this weekend. Grube was second and Mykolas Mazinas third in both of the weekend's meetings.

In the MAX DD2 Masters, Rubens Barichello finished on 70 points as his double from rounds one and two were enough to secure the title. Anthony Hogg finished as the runner-up on 49 points.

At the end of both meetings, the podium ceremonies took place along with the awarding of the 2023 SRMC champions. Officials from BIC, BIKC and the Bahrain Motor Federation attended the prize-giving and presented the winners their respective trophies.



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Bahrain all set for WEC race week

● A record number of 12 Hypercars flying the flags of eight teams and six manufacturers will be lining up on the grid at the Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain, making for the largest-ever entry in the WEC's top-tier category to hit the tarmac at BIC

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It's race week! The Spirit of Le Mans is set to make its presence felt all week long at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) with this year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain taking place Friday and Saturday in Sakhir.

"The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East" is all geared up to welcome the world's top endurance racing teams and their star-studded cast of drivers, who will be battling it out in some of the most iconic and



Toyota Gazoo Racing's #8 car in action at last year's WEC race weekend

technologically advanced Hybrids and sportscars.

This weekend's event marks the season-ending round of the 2023 FIA World Endurance Championship (WEC) and it promises a show like no other ever witnessed at the world-class Sakhir motor racing track.

Hospitality packages are also available for the BIC Spirit of Le

Mans Club Experience, where guests can experience exclusive cuisine and incredible views in BIC's Paddock hospitality. Packages are also available to purchase online or via the BIC Hotline.

This year's Bapco Energies 8 Hours of Bahrain will be the 12th time the WEC will be racing in Sakhir, and the fifth time the

event is taking place in its current eight-hour format.

The WEC's protagonists will be tackling BIC's 5.412-kilometre track from day to night, making for a brilliant spectacle that flags off under the afternoon sun and wraps up beneath the stars while being brilliantly lit by BIC's state-of-the-art floodlights.

A record number of 12 Hypercars flying the flags of eight teams and six manufacturers will be lining up on the grid, making for the largest-ever entry in the WEC's top-tier category to hit the tarmac at BIC.

Aside from the WEC action, there will also be top-class racing from the region's leading one-make series, the Porsche Carrera Cup Middle East.

There will also be loads of family entertainment, plus a WEC-exclusive Open Paddock experience—a unique feature which allows fans to enjoy behind-the-scenes access, getting right next to the teams' garages and possibly see some of the sport's star drivers in person.

BDF athletics team achieves first place in WMC Half Marathon

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Bahrain military athletics team won first place in the women's team level competition and took first and second places in the women's individual level in the first World Military Half Marathon Championships (WMC).

Viola Jepchumba won first place in the individual women's race by finishing in 1:07:59, while Ruth Jebet came in second place by finishing in 1:08:22.

300 runners from 39 countries participated in the championship held in Lucerne in Switzerland.

Field Marshal Shaikh Khalifa

bin Ahmed Al Khalifa, Commander-in-Chief of the Bahrain Defence Force (BDF), congratulated His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, and His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince, Deputy Supreme Commander of the

Armed Forces and Prime Minister, on the historic achievement.

Shaikh Khalifa affirmed that the achievement was a result of the support of HM the King and the support of HRH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, which contributed to consolidating Bahraini military sports teams' status internationally.

Ettihad storm past Sitra in basketball league



Al Ettihad's Younes Kuwayed dribbles past Sitra's Ali Jawad

● Anthony Owens erupts for 41 points to lead Al Ettihad to 40-point rout of Sitra

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Al Ettihad stormed to a resounding 108-68 victory against Sitra last night to claim their first win of the season in the 2023/2024 Zain Bahrain Basketball League.

Ettihad raced out to a quick lead early on and never looked back. They had already doubled their opponents' output, 32-16, at the end of the first quarter, and then closed the game strong with a 31-8 fourth. Their 40-point final winning margin was their biggest of the contest.

Anthony Owens top scored for Ettihad, pouring in 41 points, including four three-pointers, while Ronald Delph added 16 while taking down 14 rebounds and blocking four shots.

For Sitra, who were once again playing without a professional, had 16 from Abbas Fadhel Jasim, while Mahdi Abdulameer added 15 markers. Ettihad bounced back from their week one loss to Al Hala, while Sitra suffered their second successive defeat to begin the new campaign.

League action continues today and tomorrow at the same venue.

Tonight, Nuwaidrat take on Al Najma at 5.30pm followed by defending champions Manama playing Hala at 7.30pm. Tomorrow, Al Ahli and Samahej face off at 7.30pm.