

BIC gears up for Open Track Night



Action from the previous race

DT News Network
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Race fans can satisfy their need for speed on Thursday when Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) hosts an Open Track Night for cars and motorbikes.

Open Track is one of the most popular and highly subscribed events at BIC and it is once again expected to attract a wide number of motor racing enthusiasts from all over the Gulf.

Those taking part will be able to experience BIC's 2.550-kilometre Inner Track while BIC's state-of-the-art floodlighting system brilliantly illuminates the facility.

Aside from the Open Track, also

available at BIC for all speed enthusiasts will be a pair of passenger rides in a Clio Cup car and a Radical SR3 prototype.

The Clio Cup passenger ride gives clients a look into the racing capabilities of one of the world's most popular sports cars. This Renault-manufactured mean machine features a 1.6-litre Turbocharged engine. It can generate up to 220bhp and 6,000rpm, and it has a paddle shift racing gearbox and an FIA-specification roll cage and seats.

The Radical SR3 boasts an RPE-Suzuki Generation 1,340 DOHC engine. It can go from zero to 100kmh in 3.4 seconds, and also has a six-speed sequential gearbox and paddle gearshift system.

Thursday's action will be held from 4pm until 11pm. Registration begins at 3pm.

Vuelta a San Juan Villalobos takes a big WIN

Pocito, Argentina

Roman Villalobos scored a major victory for his Canel's-Specialized team, latching onto a late breakaway with Lotto Soudal's Tiesj Benoot, then riding a strong tailwind to a sprint victory over Ricardo Escuela (A.C.A. Virgen De Fatima) on stage 2 of the Vuelta a San Juan.

Villalobos also took the race lead over Escuela thanks to the time bonus. Benoot finished third on the stage and sits third overall, being caught just on the line by the chasing peloton.

Villalobos now enjoys a four-second lead in the general classification over Escuela, with Benoot at six and overnight leader Fernando Gaviria (Quick-Step Floors) down to fourth at eight seconds.

The win is the biggest of Villalobos' career, and the 27-year-old Costa Rican said it was dream that was hatched the morning of the stage.

"I told my teammates in the morning before the stage that I wanted to win," he said at the post-stage press conference. "We knew that we'd have to have a strong team to be in the first part of the peloton but with experience I could win the stage." (Cyclingnews)



Roman Villalobos celebrates

Nibali sets out new race schedule



Vincenzo Nibali (file pic)

Manama

Bahrain-Merida's leader Vincenzo Nibali has laid out the races which he will enter in preparation for the Tour de France after he was forced to pull out of what was planned to be the first race of his season with illness.

Nibali travelled to Argentina to take part in the Vuelta a San Juan, but was forced to withdraw ahead of the opening stage on Monday as he suffered from a fever and stomach problems.

Instead, according to Italian newspaper *Il Messaggero*, the four-time Grand Tour winner will now start his season a month later than planned, heading to the Tour of Oman which starts on February 13.

From there the Bahrain's Nibali will ride three Monuments over the course of the spring, starting with Milan-San Remo in March before heading the Belgium for the Tour of Flanders and

Liège-Bastogne-Liège in April.

After concentrating on one-day races in the spring, Nibali then looks likely to have a break from racing, with his final Tour preparation coming at the Critérium du Dauphiné, which starts on June 3, just over a month before the start of the Tour de France on July 7.

Depending on his condition coming out of the Tour de France, where he is expected to be one of the favourites to take the yellow jersey, Nibali is also expected to race the Vuelta a España before heading to the World Championships in Innsbruck where a hilly parcours will also suit his style of racing.

The Italian enjoyed a consistent 2017 season, finishing third at the Giro d'Italia and second at the Vuelta a España, before finishing off the year with a popular home victory at Il Lombardia. (Cyclingweekly)

Joshua on Usyk's radar at heavyweight

London

Oleksandr Usyk says he will move up to heavyweight and take on Anthony Joshua but not until he has proved he is the best cruiserweight in the world.

The Ukrainian takes on fellow unbeaten cruiserweight Mairis Briedis in the semi-final of the World Boxing Super Series, in Riga, Latvia, this Saturday.

Usyk is the No 1 seed and wants to prove he is the best cruiserweight in the world and although he is not looking past Briedis, he has not ruled



Anthony Joshua (file pic)



Oleksandr Usyk (file pic)

out moving up and meeting Joshua. "I will but let's wait for a while," he exclusively said.

"I will move up to heavyweight and show them all how good I am. I think you can see yourself, I will fight

him (Joshua). Not yet though.

"But it is a question everybody keeps asking me, so once we go face to face, we will find out. It will be good. "First of all, I like Britain because that is where boxing was born. The fans over there still follow me and watch me, so I will always try and show them my best."

Usyk has been sparring with London duo Isaac Chamberlain and Mikael Lawal, as well as Mateusz Masternak and Dmitry Kudryashov as he gets ready for Briedis. (Skysports)