

Schott wins maiden title in play-off at Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship

Freddy Schott claims first DP World Tour title after beating Calum Hill and Patrick Reed

● **Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship once again provided invaluable experience for the Kingdom's emerging golfers**

● **Record crowd of 13,186 – a 30% increase on last year's attendance – flocked to Royal Golf Club across the four days**

Manama

Freddy Schott won his first DP World Tour title after beating Calum Hill and Patrick Reed in a play-off at the 2026 Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship.

The trio were locked together at 17 under par after 72 holes after Reed shot 67 yesterday to make up a four-shot overnight deficit to Hill, who began the day two clear but had to settle for a 71 after a bogey at the difficult final hole. Schott carded 69 to join the pair.

Reed bogeyed the first play-off hole to drop out of contention and after Hill went out of bounds second time round, before sending his fourth shot into the water, he sportingly conceded without making Schott putt out for the win.

Asked to sum up his thoughts, Schott, who was presented with the trophy by His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain said: "I have no idea. It's just amazing, I'm just extremely happy, surprised... I don't know what's happening right now. I'm just so happy."

"I could have done it the regular way, that would have also been fine! But to do it this way feels even more special so I'm just glad it happened this way."

Hill, who equalled the course record of 61 in Friday's second round, added to his two-shot overnight lead with an opening birdie after a superb approach, with Schott responding at the second before both players birdied the next.

The Scot was four clear after another gain at the fifth but bogeyed the sixth while Schott made birdie – cutting the lead to one before drawing level with a birdie at the next.

Schott bogeyed the eighth but led anyway as Hill made a double, and a birdie at the tenth took the German two ahead – only for a double-bogey of his own at the 11th to leave the pair all square again.

"It was tough, especially towards the end," said Schott. "The start was okay, because I was playing alright. It had good flow to it. Obviously, nerves kicked in from the back nine onwards. I was happy that I managed it okay – not perfect, but okay – and you guys saw what hap-



Freddy Schott is presented with the trophy by His Royal Highness Salman bin Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Bahrain

pened, so I'm very happy now.

"We get a ride from the 11th to the 12th, and I just said: Okay, I'm not taking a ride, I'm walking just to settle myself again, to stay in the moment. That's what I said to myself: These are moments you're here for; that's the reason why you play golf – just try to press the pedal down and go on. We hit a beauty into 12, a good birdie on 13 and just tried to scrap it around those last few holes."

"The way I feel is indescribable. I have no words for it. I'm just glad that I got it over the line, and we will see what the future holds."

Garcia had joined the leaders by that point after responding to an opening bogey with three birdies in four holes from the third and another three in succession from the ninth, as had Reed after his fifth gain of the day at the 12th.

Daniel Hillier carded six birdies in a blemish-free 66, his second six-under-par round of the week, to set the clubhouse target at 16 under as the leaders still on the course battled for supremacy.

Schott, Hill and Reed all reached 18 under with back-to-back birdies, Reed at the 13th and 14th with his rivals a hole behind.

Garcia's challenge was left hanging by a thread after a double-bogey at the par-five 14th, as he eventually finished alongside Hillier on 16 under, and Reed dropped a shot at the 16th.

Schott and Hill missed the 17th green to the left before escaping with good chips – but while Hill holed his par putt, Schott made bogey.

Reed set a new clubhouse target of 17 under but when his birdie putt at the last agonisingly stayed up on the short side, Hill had a one-shot lead down the

last.

But he sent his approach to the extreme left of the green, leaving a nasty putt up the slope by the side of the green which he was unable to get close. Schott was in similar territory but closer in, allowing him to save par while Hill made bogey to set up the play-off.

Reed found the bunker with his 73rd tee shot and went from there to the edge of another, with Schott and Hill both hitting the fairway and then the heart of the green.

Schott holed for par and despite a superb effort at his up-and-down, Reed was unable to respond and dropped out of con-

tention. Hill held his nerve as he and Schott went back to the tee.

The Scot sent his next tee-shot out of bounds to the left, with Schott only just avoiding the water in response. He sent his approach right of the green but Hill found the water with his fourth and conceded after Schott chipped on.

Hill and Reed shared second with Garcia and Hillier fourth and France's Ugo Coussaud a shot further back in sixth.

Growing the game in Bahrain

The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship once again provided invaluable experience for the Kingdom's emerging golfers, with local players gaining crucial exposure competing alongside Major champions and multiple DP World Tour winners.

Ahmed Alzayed, Ali Alkowiari and Khalifa Almaraisi all teed it up at Royal Golf Club this week, taking on the same course and conditions as the likes of former Masters champions Sergio Garcia and Patrick Reed, and three-time Major winner Padraig Harrington.

While the cut proved elusive, the experience of competing at the highest level of professional golf will prove invaluable as the Kingdom continues to grow the game and develop its next generation of talent.

"The competition comes to an end, but it's not the end for me

– I think it's just the beginning," said Alkowiari. "I'm happy with the result this year. I played 20 shots better than last year, so there are improvements. Hopefully, if I'm playing next year, it will be even better. Who knows, maybe even making the cut."

Record crowds

A record crowd of 13,186 – a 30% increase on last year's attendance – flocked to Royal Golf Club across the four days, enjoying world-class golf and a festival atmosphere both on and off the course.

The Championship Village was a hive of activity throughout the week, with the 100-metre zip line and free fall proving an especially big hit with fans of all ages – perhaps the only golf event in the world with its own zip line.

Families enjoyed the dedicated kids' zone, live music, traditional Bahraini souq and wide range of food trucks, while yesterday saw children across the Kingdom take advantage of a school holiday granted by His Majesty as a mark of appreciation for their efforts.

Fans can already register their interest in attending the 2027 Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship, which promises to raise the bar even further as the Kingdom continues to cement its position as a leading destination for world-class sport and entertainment.

'A dream became reality'

Hussain Almaskati
TDT | Manama

Germany's Freddy Schott captured his first DP World Tour title yesterday at the BAPCO Energies Bahrain Championship 2026. The win came after a dramatic three-man playoff, where he edged out Calum Hill and Patrick Reed in a tense finale at Royal Golf Club.

Schott began the final round two shots off the lead but stayed patient as the leaderboard shifted repeatedly through a back-and-forth yesterday. While Hill, the overnight leader, mixed early birdies with costly mistakes on the front nine, Schott quietly kept himself in contention, refusing to be drawn into the chaos around him.

Speaking to TDT, Schott revealed a surprisingly calm mindset heading into the decisive day. "Honestly, not much was going through my mind," he said. "I slept really well, almost nine hours, which I didn't expect. I was just focused on doing my own thing and staying in the moment. I tried to stick with myself and keep it together out there, and I think we managed that pretty well."



Freddy Schott in action

The closing stretch delivered high drama. Reed briefly shared the lead before a late bogey knocked him back, while Hill had the chance to secure victory in regulation only to drop a shot at the last. That sent all three players into a play-off for the second consecutive year.

Reed was eliminated at the first extra hole, leaving Hill and Schott to battle on. When Hill

found trouble off the tee at the second playoff hole and conceded moments later, Schott was left as the last man standing.

For the 23-year-old, the moment was almost overwhelming. "It's my first DP World Tour win, so I'm pretty much speechless," he told TDT. "I can't really put into words what it means yet. This is what I've dreamed of for so long, and today that

dream became reality. I'm just unbelievably happy."

Schott's victory, sealed with rounds of 65, 67, 70 and 69, marks a breakthrough moment in his young career and signals his arrival as a new contender on the DP World Tour. Alongside the trophy, he collected \$467,500 in prize money, capping a week that could prove transformative for the rest of his season.