

SPORTS
sports

Plenty of thrills in karting sprints

BIKC hosts third round of Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship

TDT | Manama

Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) hosted a thrilling third round of the 2019/2020 Bahrain Karting Sprint Championship (BKSC) on Saturday in Sakhir.

There was plenty of action and drama throughout the meeting as the Kingdom of Bahrain's best karters put on a show in both the Bahrain Rotax Mojo Max Challenge and the Bahrain Sprint Sodi World Series (BSSWS), both of which are under the BKSC umbrella.

Racing was once again held along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre Commission Internationale de Karting track.

Some of the championship's top names were celebrating on the top of the podium, including Luca Kane Houghton, Gracie Rose Grantham, Lewis Smith, Rashed Almuammari and Osama Azzouka in the BRMMC and Ali Baslar in the BSSWS.

Luca Kane won the BRMMC's Mini Max class. He started from pole and completed the nine-lap final in nine minutes 03.572 seconds. Shanthosh Kumar was the runner-up 0.253 seconds behind while Ahmed Alsesey was third 7.341s back.

Gracie Rose triumphed in the Micro Max following a tough battle with Khalid Alnajjar over nine laps. Alnajjar grabbed the



Participants in action during the race

lead in the final's penultimate lap from Gracie Rose and finished in first place, but a 10-second penalty for a jump start dropped him to fifth position. Gracie Rose inherited the win with a time of 9:36.683. Louis El Nabulsi was second 5.443s behind while Rashid Al Khalifa came third 6.024s off the winning pace.

In the Junior class, Smith triumphed in the 15-lap finale. Fahad Al Muqla finished the

race in first place from pole but a 10-second penalty for starting from an incorrect position dropped him to fourth. Smith, who started from third but gained second position on lap one, was awarded the victory with a time of 14:00.032, just 0.150s ahead of Abdullah Aldosery. Sulaiman Alkanderi was third 5.845s behind.

In the Senior Max final, Almuammari won from pole in 13:52.129 over 15 laps. Fahad Al

Khaled came second just 0.310s back, while Mohammed Matrar, who received a 10-second penalty in the pre-final putting him sixth on the grid for the final, took the final podium place 0.677s back.

In the Senior Max Masters, Azzouka triumphed ahead of Fred Clark. Azzouka had a winning time of 14:10.073 in the 15-lap final, but only 0.683s separated him from Clark.

Meanwhile, Baslar contin-

ued his dominance of the BSSWS season so far after claiming his third win in as many rounds despite starting the final all the way back from sixth position. Baslar dropped to eighth on lap one but slowly regained position over the next three laps to fifth.

Baslar then sprung to the lead on lap eight and held on to his position until the very end.

Abdulla Buhindi also had a stunning drive, finishing in second place after starting from ninth. Abubaker Ali was the pole-sitter but he fell back all the way to sixth before recovering on the very last lap to salvage third place and secure the final podium step.

Baslar won the 15-lap final in a total time of 18:23.192, just 0.674s ahead of Buhindi. Ali finished 2.534s back.

Following the action in each series, the winners were awarded their respective trophies in separate podium ceremonies. Presenting the awards were officials from BIKC and Bahrain International Circuit.

Saturday's third round was the last of the calendar year for the BKSC. Round Four will kick off 2020 on January 11, and then Round Five is set for February 8. The sixth and penultimate meeting of the season will then be held on March 7, leading up to the championship-finale on April 4.

Ronaldo rescues a point for Juve against Sassuolo
AFP | Milan

Cristiano Ronaldo scored from the spot to rescue a 2-2 draw for Juventus at home against Sassuolo to leave the way open for Inter Milan to claim top spot in Serie A later yesterday.

Leonardo Bonucci had scored early for the eight-time reigning Serie A champions but Jeremie Boga and Francesco Caputo hit back for Sassuolo before Ronaldo's point-saving intervention.

Juventus have a two-point lead on top of Serie A but now can be overtaken by Inter Milan, who host struggling SPAL.

Sassuolo claimed their first ever point at Juventus and handed Maurizio Sarri's unbeaten champions their third draw of the season.

The side from Emilia-Romagna, are 12th in the table.

Ronaldo started up front for Juventus, having missed last weekend's league game with a slight knee problem, with Champions League hero Paulo Dybala starting on the bench.

Eighteen-year-old Stefano Turati made an impressive debut in the Sassuolo goal, and pulled off a string of fine saves, denying Ronaldo, Higuain and Dybala late.

Action continues in BTA Junior Tournament



10-and-under finalists with Tournament Director, Dan Barrie

TDT | Manama

The 10-and-under finalists as well as the preliminary rounds of the 12-and-under category took place in the BTA Junior Tennis Tournament, organised by Bahrain Tennis Academy (BTA), at the Dilmun Club, Saar.

In the 10-and-under category, eight players returned for the quarter-finals. Haiyder Al-Fareed, Abdulrazzaq Al-Henabi, Hashim Al Toobli and Ahmed Al Sayed won through to the semi-final round in which Haiyder

overcame Abdulrazzaq and Hashim defeated Ahmed. In the play-off for third place, Ahmed was successful in overcoming Abdulrazzaq. Then, in the final match, Hashim claimed the title over Haiyder 7-3, 7-3.

In the 12-and-under category, players took part in a round-robin format competition in two groups. At the conclusion of the group stage, four players had earned themselves a place in next weekend's semi-finals: Haiyder Al-Fareed, Rohan Mukherjee, Abdulrazzaq Al-Henabi and Ali Al-Ahmed.



Officials and participants of BKS Open cricket tournament during the Inauguration ceremony on Saturday at BKS compound. BKS Acting President Kunnath Devasdas officially inaugurated the tournament in the presence of BKS acting General Secretary Varughese George and other Committee Members. Around 30 teams from Bahrain are participating in the BKS Open cricket tournament

Hamilton wraps up season with 'master-class'

AFP | Abu Dhabi

Lewis Hamilton delivered a sumptuous confirmation of his title-winning supremacy yesterday when he claimed his 84th career victory and 11th in 21 races this year by dominating the season-ending 'twilight' Abu Dhabi Grand Prix.

Starting from a record 88th pole position, the 34-year-old Briton was unchallenged from lights to flag as he cruised to an untroubled triumph 16 seconds ahead of Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Charles Leclerc of Ferrari, who faced a post-race investigation for fuel irregularities.

The six-times world champion's success extended his points-scoring run to a re-



Lewis Hamilton of Britain celebrates after winning with a few doughnuts

cord-equalling 33 races, leveling with his own record, and brought him his 50th victory from pole position.

His fifth win at the Yas Mari-

na circuit also drew level with Ayrton Senna in claiming a 19th start-to-finish triumph.

Hamilton's Mercedes teammate Valtteri Bottas, who had

started from the back of the grid after taking a new engine, came home fourth ahead of four-time champion Sebastian Vettel in the second Ferrari and Alex Albon in the second Red Bull.

It was a welcome morale boost for the competitive Finn, three days after announcing the end of his three-year marriage to Emilia.

Sergio Perez took seventh for Racing Point on the final lap, Lando Norris was eighth for McLaren, Daniil Kvyat of Toro Rosso ninth and Carlos Sainz, in the second McLaren, took 10th.

"That was an absolute master-class," Hamilton's race engineer Peter Bonnington told him on team radio. "You didn't even break into a sweat!"