

# BIC hosts National Race Day double-header

National Race Day to bring the heat to BIC tomorrow with exciting double-header



Manama

Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) is all set for a busy weekend of action as ‘The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East’ hosts the fourth round of National Race Day tomorrow in Sakhir. The event is set to feature an exciting double-header, with two of the Kingdom’s most competitive local championships hitting the tarmac along BIC’s 2.554-kilometre Inner Track. Racing will be held in both the

Bahrain Touring Car Challenge (BTCC) and Time Attack – with sessions scheduled to take place both during daytime conditions and under lights. This weekend’s National Race Day will be taking place just hours after the completion of the third round of the 2025/2026 Bahrain Drag Racing Championship on BIC’s quarter-mile drag strip, continuing the circuit’s packed calendar of events to start the new year. National Race Day is being organised and run by BIC in coop-

eration with the Bahrain Motor Federation, the Circuit Racing Commission, and the Bahrain Auto X and Drift Commission. Action is scheduled to begin at 10.20am and continue until after 6pm, with the podium ceremonies for both BTCC and Time Attack scheduled for 6.30pm. All are welcome to attend the meeting. Tickets are BD2 for adults and BD1 for children. They can be purchased online at bahraingp.com, through the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or at the gate.

Race-goers will be able to watch from BIC’s Beyon Grandstand, offering fantastic views of key parts of the circuit, including the Inner Straight, where the start and finish lines are located. The BTCC field will be holding their sole practice session of the round at 11.35am, to be followed by qualifying at 1.25pm. The first of two 15-lap races will then flag off at 3.14pm, followed by race two at 5.44pm. The BTCC field is expected to be headlined by Ali Almansoori,

who has been dominant so far this season, having swept all six races held to date in his Honda Civic contender. Meanwhile, Time Attack will feature action across the championship’s various categories, including SU, UL, MA, SA, MB, and SB. Time Attack practices kick off Saturday’s programme for 10.20am, while heat one for the SU, UL, and MA classes will be at 12.40pm. The first heat for SA, MB, and SB categories will then take place at 2pm, followed

by heat two for all categories at 3.50pm. BIC’s 2025/2026 racing calendar features seven rounds of National Race Day. Following this weekend’s action, round five will be held on 6 February, and then the sixth and penultimate meeting will take place on 13 March. That will set the stage for the grand finale on 24 April. For more information on National Race Day or other events and activities at BIC, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

# Trio confirmed for Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship

Free admission and festival atmosphere await fans at Royal Golf Club



Dylan Frittelli  
Manama

Three-time Major Champion Pádraig Harrington, current Race to Dubai leader Jayden Schaper and former winner Dylan Frittelli are set to tee it up at the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship from January 29-February 1 – with fans invited to experience world-class golf and a packed programme of entertainment at the Royal Golf Club. The trio will join 2025 Sir Henry Cotton Rookie of the Year Martin Couvra in the Kingdom of Bahrain for the third edition of the tournament held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. General admission is completely free for all four days, making the event accessible to

the whole Bahraini community. Fans can register for their free tickets via Platinum List and enjoy the on-course action alongside an entertainment-filled Championship Village. Beyond the fairways, the Championship Village transforms the Royal Golf Club into a festival atmosphere for the whole family. Thrill-seekers can soar over the course on a 100-metre zip line, while a dedicated kids’ zone keeps younger visitors entertained throughout the day. Live music, a traditional Bahraini souq celebrating local culture and crafts, plus a wide range of food trucks and dining options create the perfect weekend destination – whether you’re a golf fan or not. Those looking for an elevated experience can choose from



Padraig Harrington

premium hospitality packages. Ticket+ offers access to the Clubhouse Repartee Bar and terrace from BHD 15, while the new Ticket+ Brunch option on Friday and Saturday includes an unlimited BBQ buffet and drinks from 12pm to 4pm for BHD 56. The Championship Chalet provides all-day premium hospitality from BHD 110. Ireland’s Harrington returns for a second time, having finished five-under-par and tied for 38th in last year’s tournament. The World Golf Hall of Fame inductee, who won back-to-back Open Championships in 2007 and 2008, followed by the 2008 PGA Championship, continues to compete at the highest level, adding two Senior Major championships to his list of achievements in 2025.

“I’m looking forward to returning to Royal Golf Club for what is always a really enjoyable week,” said Harrington. “The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship brings a great deal of excitement to the Kingdom of Bahrain, and I’m delighted to once again be part of the event.” Schaper, the current leader of the Race to Dubai Rankings Delivered by DP World, will look to continue his dominant start to the 2026 season. The South African has claimed consecutive DP World Tour victories, securing back-to-back play-off wins at the Alfred Dunhill Championship and AfrAsia Bank Mauritius Open, and currently leads the standings with 1,348 Race to Dubai points. “I’m excited to be coming back to Bahrain and joining the



Jayden Schaper

field for this special event,” said Schaper. “Royal Golf Club is a fantastic venue and hopefully we can showcase some great golf for the local fans.” Fellow countryman Frittelli comes into the event with one title under his belt, having made three birdies in his final six holes to record a two-shot victory in the 2024 edition. It marked the 35-year-old’s third DP World Tour win and his first in six years. “Bahrain will always hold a special place in my heart,” said Frittelli. “I’m looking forward to returning and hopefully creating some more great memories at Royal Golf Club later this month.” The Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship is the third event on the Race to Dubai’s International Swing, and the third

consecutive event to be played in the Middle East after the Dubai Invitational and Hero Dubai Desert Classic. Bapco Energies became Title Partner of the tournament for the first time in 2025. The partnership focuses on elevating the tournament experience for players, stakeholders, and spectators alike, establishing Bahrain’s premier international golf tournament as a world-class attraction. The tournament is also pioneering environmental initiatives, including powering hospitality units and structures with solar energy and batteries. Bring your family, bring your friends – experience world-class sport, incredible entertainment, and the best of Bahraini hospitality. Register for your free tickets now via Platinum List.