

Lewis sets sights on Rotax MAX title

Bahrain-based karting sensation aiming to be crowned Senior MAX champion of Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge 2022 at Bahrain International Karting Circuit

- Lewis Smith aims to continue winning run after taking first two rounds
- Talented Briton heads into weekend with 14-point championship lead

TDT | Manama

Bahrain-based karting sensation Lewis Smith will be looking to add another feather to his cap when he competes for the Senior MAX class title this weekend in the final two rounds of the Sakhir Rotax MAX Challenge (SRMC) 2022. The back-to-back meetings are set to be held at Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC) tomorrow and Saturday and Lewis is set to be one of the chief protagonists. He is currently the championship leader in his competition category, and he will be hoping to secure the Senior MAX crown



Lewis in action at BIKC

with a pair of impressive performances to wrap up the SRMC campaign. Lewis won the series' first two events held last month. Despite facing some tough competition in the opening round's Qualifying and Pre-Final, Lewis was able to power to the chequered flag in the 15-lap Final to win in 13 minutes 48.724 seconds—nearly a second ahead of his closest challenger. Lewis then completed his double the following day in

round two. He claimed wins in both the Pre-Final and Final, which he finished in 13:48.800, also over 15 laps. The result earned him 68 points on the Senior MAX championship standings heading into the last two rounds. Lewis enjoys a lead of 14 points over the field. “It was amazing to get the wins in the first two events of the championship, but the job is not done and I am completely focused on the upcoming races,”

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LEWIS SMITH

said Lewis, who is a student at British School of Bahrain. “It’s not going to be easy as I know I will have a target on my back, and the other guys are really talented; they gave a good fight in our first two meetings of the SRMC. “I expect nothing less from them in rounds three and four but I too will be ready to go all out and give my very best to win.” Lewis has been working hard over the summer months in preparation for his title bids in both the SRMC and the Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge—the two premier national karting championships in the Kingdom.



Lewis with his kart

Lewis competed in three meetings at Karting Genk track in Belgium, where he faced some of Europe's most talented young racers. The Briton was able to gain a lot of experience in each event and stood toe-to-toe with his rivals, displaying his limitless potential to the elite of international karting.

“I learned a lot during my time in Genk over the summer and now is the best time to take those lessons and apply them on the track,” Lewis said. “I am determined to build on that and continue to get better. My development is a never-ending process and I always aim to give all I have so that I can make my family and all those who support me proud.” Lewis will continue to participate in karting events in Bahrain and overseas over the next several months. As one of the up-and-coming young karters who has been honing his skills in Bahrain, he is a regular in national, regional and international championships and continues to excel at all levels. Lewis is looking for support from Bahrain companies for sponsorship opportunities, which would offer exposure all across Europe and within the Kingdom of Bahrain. Those interested in backing such a rising star in the motor-sport sector can contact Lewis's parent Tony Smith on mobile +973-32200420.

KHUH, BOC sign agreement to provide healthcare services to national teams’ players



Major-General Dr Shaikh Salman bin Atteyatallah Al Khalifa and Faris Al Kooheji after the signing with other officials

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King Hamad University Hospital (KHUH) and the Bahrain Olympic Committee (BOC) have signed an agreement to treat the players of national teams, based on BOC's keenness to provide the best healthcare for the Kingdom's international athletes. The agreement was signed by the KHUH Commander Major-General Dr Shaikh Salman bin Atteyatallah Al Khalifa and BOC Secretary-General Faris Al Kooheji. Major-General Dr Shaikh Salman praised the signing of the agreement, noting that BOC plays a major role in support-

ing the national teams' athletes. He stressed the KHUH's keenness to harness its capabilities to serve national players and provide the best treatment and surgical services to them, as they represent the kingdom in various sports events. Al Kooheji said that the agreement is in line with the directives of the First Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council for Youth and Sport, and General Sports Authority and BOC President, His Highness Shaikh Khalid bin Hamad Al Khalifa, to provide the best healthcare services for the athletes of Bahrain's national teams.

Malan hits 82 as England beat Australia by eight runs

AFP | Canberra

Dawid Malan's 82 and disciplined bowling from England helped the visitors win the second Twenty20 international against Australia by eight runs yesterday to seal the series and give them a confidence boost heading into the

World Cup. Malan shared a crucial 92-run stand in Canberra with Moeen Ali (44) as England compiled 178-7 against a full-strength Australian attack. Despite Mitchell Marsh hitting 45 off 29 balls and Tim David 40 off 23, the hosts fell short.

BIC to host Batelco Fitness on Track tomorrow

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Batelco Fitness on Track is back for another go-around tomorrow at Bahrain International Circuit (BIC) in Sakhir, “The Home of Motorsport in the Middle East”. Global motor racing's favourite regional track will for a few hours act as a destination for fitness enthusiasts and those looking to get some exercise within a casual and safe environment. Batelco Fitness on Track offers this to participants, who will be able to get in a workout either on foot or on a bicycle in a fun and engaging activity with family members and friends. Tomorrow's event is scheduled to be held between 6am and 10am, giving runners and cyclists alike a bright and early start to the weekend. As in past editions of Batelco Fitness on



Cyclists at a past Batelco Fitness on Track (File photo)

Track, the activity has proven to be very popular with the local community, with scores of participants looking to keep active while enjoying the unique setting. Those interested in taking part are there-

fore advised to book online in advance on BIC's official website bahraingp.com or by calling the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000. All who register must pay upon booking. The cost to take part remains the same as last season at BD2 for cyclists and BD1 for runners. Those under the age of 12 can participate for free if accompanied by a paying adult. The running and cycling will take place on separate track layouts. Runners and walkers will be utilising the 2.550-kilometre Inner Track, while cyclists will be able to ride their bikes along BIC's 3.543-kilometre Outer circuit, with a dedicated area for children's cycling. All taking part will be able to enjoy the activity within BIC's secure and controlled setting. For more information, visit bahraingp.com or call the BIC Hotline.

Bahrain handball national team set for Egypt friendlies

- Bahrainis set to take on African giants in warm-up games tomorrow and Saturday
- Both teams preparing for 28th IHF Men's Handball World Championship in January

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Bahrain's senior men's national handball team will be playing back-to-back international friendly matches against African giants Egypt this weekend. The games will be held at the Bahrain Handball Association arena in Um Al Hassam with 6.30pm starts. The tune-ups are part of both teams' preparations for the 28th International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's Handball World Championship, which will be held in January next year co-hosted by Poland and Sweden. The Egyptians are scheduled to arrive in the Kingdom today. The nationals have been training under



Action from Bahrain's game with Egypt at the Tokyo Olympics held last year (File photo)

Icelandic head coach Aron Kristjansson with a 23-player squad, spearheaded by long-time captain Hussain Al Sayyad. The other players include Mohammed

Abdulhussain, Ali Mirza, Ali Eid, Ahmed Al Maqabi, Hassan Al Samaheji, Mohammed Mirza, Komail Mahfoodh, Jassim Al Salatna, Qassem Qamber, Hassan Shehab, Mohammed Habib Nasser, Abdulla Ali, Hassan Mirza, Belal Basham, Mahmood Hussain, Ahmed Jalal, Hassan Madan, Ali Bassem, Abdulla Al Zaimour, Mohammed Hameed, Hisham Ahmed and Muntadher Ibrahim. The nationals are in Group H for the tournament's first round alongside Denmark, Belgium and Tunisia; while Egypt are in Group G with Croatia, the US and Morocco. Thirty-two nations from all across the globe, representing five confederations, are taking part. They have been divided into eight groups for the tournament's preliminary stage. The Bahrainis are one of five countries from Asia. They qualified as the runners-up from the continental championship held earlier this year. The upcoming worlds will mark Bahrain's fifth appearance—and fourth straight—at the IHF's premier event. The nationals had previously also played in the 2011, 2017, 2019 and 2021 editions.