

Karting talents light up BIKC

Bahrain's top talents display prowess in exciting fourth round of Rotax MAX karting



● **Enzo Younes, Rayyan Najjar, Jude Andrews, Musaad Albassam, and Abdulla Sajjad all claim victories in class as 2025/2026 BRMC season resumes at BIKC**

Manama

The 2025/2026 Bahrain Rotax MAX Challenge (BRMC) resumed over the weekend at Bahrain International Circuit's (BIC) world-class grassroots motorsport facility, Bahrain International Karting Circuit (BIKC).

The Kingdom's most talented karters battled it out along BIKC's 1.414-kilometre CIK-FIA track behind the wheel of their very own Rotax-powered machinery in a hugely exciting fourth round this season.

Emerging victorious in their

respective competition classes were Enzo Younes in the Micro MAX category, Rayyan Najjar in the Mini MAX, Jude Andrews in the Junior MAX, Musaad Albassam in the Senior MAX, and Abdulla Sajjad in the DD2 MAX.

The meeting was organised by BIC, BIKC, the Bahrain Motor Federation, and the Bahrain Karting Commission.

Enzo topped the timesheet in all four Micro MAX sessions this round. He first set the pace in practice and then captured pole in qualifying practice. He then won the pre-final before taking the nine-lap final in a total time of nine minutes 22.575 seconds – a comfortable 7.157 seconds ahead of runner-up Sami Albandak. Rashid Almaloos joined them on the podium in class after finishing 10.674s from Enzo.

In the Mini MAX category, Hassan Baqer set the pace in practice and qualifying practice but Rayyan went on to win the

pre-final. He then carried his momentum into the nine-lap final, where he took the chequered flag by a mere 0.707s ahead of Faisal Alnajjar in second. Rayyan's winning time was 8:55.852. Rhys Daulat came third 1.982s back.

Jude was engaged in a tough battle with his close rivals this round. Shaikh Ahmed bin Saqr Al Khalifa led the Junior MAX field in practice but then Leopold Juch captured pole in qualifying practice. Shaikh Ahmed regained control by winning the pre-final, but then was unlucky in the 15-lap final where he finished first on the road but was handed a 15s penalty by the stewards. Jude therefore inherited the victory with a mark of 13:57.658. He was followed in the classification by Leopold 11.736s behind, while Sacha Rollett climbed the podium in third 12.389s adrift. Shaikh Ahmed had to settle for fifth place.

The Senior MAX too saw plenty

of heated competition with the BRMC's biggest grid of 18 talented karters in the meeting. Luca Houghton was the pace-setter in practice but Albassam then beat him by two-tenths to top the qualifying practice timesheet.

Albassam then did well to maintain his impressive form to take the pre-final before storming to the chequered flag in the final to win from pole in 13:27.754 after 15 laps. Albassam built a 5.574s gap at the finish ahead of Houghton, while Yousef Alali claimed third place 13.168s adrift.

In the DD2 MAX, Abdulqader Qasem set the practice pace before Rakan Alfayez clinched pole with the best qualifying practice time. But in the pre-final, Sajjad

beat Qasem by just under a second for first place, and then also won the 15-lap final from pole in 13:21.391. Qasem followed as runner-up 7.157s behind, while Alfayez rounded out the top three 7.701s back.

At the end of the day's action, the winners in each class were presented their respective trophies in the podium ceremonies.

The BRMC features a total of eight rounds in its 2025/2026 calendar. Round five is scheduled to take place on 30 January, followed by rounds six and seven on back-to-back days this 13 and 14 February. That will set the stage for the championship finale on 17 April at BIKC, when the BRMC's newest champions will be crowned.

For more information on the BRMC or other events and activities at BIC and BIKC, visit bahraingp.com, call the BIC Hotline on +973-17450000, or follow the circuit's official social media channels.

Bahraini golfers earn chance to compete alongside world's best at Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship

Manama

Three Bahraini golfers will tee it up alongside the stars of the DP World Tour at the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship from January 29 to February 1, having earned their places through the Kingdom's national qualifying pathway.

Ahmed Alzayed, Khalifa Almaraisi and Ali Mohamed Alkowari will represent Bahrain at the Royal Golf Club in the third edition of the tournament, held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. They will be joined by England's Tom Sloman, who earned a professional invitation as winner of the King Hamad Trophy, and Malaysia's Zubair Firdaus, champion of the Bahrain Amateur Open.

The local qualifiers will compete alongside a stellar field that includes three-time Major



Ahmed Alzayed



Ali Mohamed Alkowari



Khalifa Almaraisi

topping the Bahrain Golf Association rankings after the final event of 2025, and Alkowari came through the National Team Qualifying tournament.

For Alzayed, who carries a +2.4 handicap, it marks a proud return to the championship.

"I'm so proud to be playing in this championship," said Alzayed. "This is my second time participating in this event and I would like to thank Bapco Energies for organising the biggest event in the country and the Bahrain Golf Association for giving national team players the chance to participate. I'm focussed on representing my country in the best way and looking forward to playing with the best tour players to gain more experience."

Alkowari, also playing off +2.4, will make his second consecutive appearance at the tournament after a hard-fought quali-

fying campaign.

"I'm very happy to play in this great tournament again," said Alkowari. "It wasn't easy to get the spot, but we did it eventually. We played four days for the national team qualifier – it was really, really windy – but in the end we did it. I had some really good rounds and got the spot."

The qualifying pathway demonstrates how hosting the Bapco Energies Bahrain Championship is helping to develop the game across the Kingdom, providing local players with invaluable experience of competing at the highest level.

The tournament follows the Dubai Invitational and Hero Dubai Desert Classic – the first Rolex Series event of the season – as part of the DP World Tour's International Swing, and features a prize fund of \$2.75 million.