

Adel team claim Shaikh Faisal golf event trophy



■ Winners with officials and guests after yesterday's awarding. Picture by MAHMOOD AL SALEH

OVERNIGHT leaders Ibrahim Adel, Collette Belenager, Bijan Majidi and Pauline Jeakings were yesterday crowned overall champions of this year's Shaikh Faisal Memorial Trophy golf tournament, which came to a close at His Majesty King Hamad's private golf course at Safriya Palace.

The victorious quartet clinched first place with a total score of 85 points in the two-day betterball stableford event.

They were in action on the tournament's first day on Friday, and their fine performance was enough to claim them the number one spot amongst a highly competitive field of 20 teams.

The winners overcame a sterling performance on day two by the Sea Scene team of David Wales, Sasson Sarcoob, Ibrahim Adel and Murtuz Zamanly. Sea Scene scored 83 points to finish as the best of the second day's participants, but runners-up overall.

Claiming third place were the second-placed team overnight, Tatweer 'B'. Players Abdulla Alotaibi, Bill Ofield, Dave Matlock and James Tasker slipped down the leader board after Sea Scene outshone their 80-point score.

Finishing in fourth place with 79 points to just miss out on a podium place were Batelco Six, which comprised Ahmed Salah, Yousif Bahar, Ardel Gouad and Riyadh Al Saie.

They were followed by another four teams with 78 scores, including ICAP One, Royal Flight three, National Motors and DHL.

Twenty teams teed off on each day of the competition.

Winners

Meanwhile, yesterday's action also produced a few side-contest winners. Taking away prizes from the second hole, which was sponsored by AXA insurance, was Debbie Lane for the morning round and Phil Trice for the afternoon.

Winning at the seventh hole, sponsored by TNT, were Ebrahim Esbai in the morning and Mohammed Al Khalifa in the afternoon.

Following play was a sun-down prize giving at Safriya, which was attended by children from Bahrain Mobility International (BMI) for whom funds have been raised for through the annual event.

BMI president Adel Sultan and Munira Bin Hindi were on hand to receive the amount of BD32,000, which has been raised through the efforts of Dreena Rogers and her team.

In summing up, Dreena thanked the work of the companies and organisations who once again supported the Shaikh Faisal Memorial Trophy so generously.

"We are very grateful to all companies and private individuals who support Bahrain Mobility through this annual charity fundraiser; the money raised will be spent directly on improving the welfare of the children who attend the centre," Dreena said.

This year's tournament is being held under the patronage of His Majesty King Hamad and in memory of his late son Shaikh Faisal, who was an honorary president of the Bahrain Disabled Sports Federation and an avid supporter of BMI.

Money raised will be used to develop a driving school for the disabled and complete the swimming pool, which requires heating and a cover.

Indonesian pair capture crown

By PATRICK SALOMON

INDONESIAN tandem Andrei Adistia and Christopher Rusdianto were last night crowned men's doubles champions in the Travelex-Western Union Bahrain International Challenge Badminton Tournament.

Adistia and Rusdianto registered the biggest upset of the competition by defeating top-ranked Indian pair and defending champions Rupesh Kumar and Sanave Thomas in an entertaining three-game thriller that ended 14-21, 21-17, 21-13.

While Adistia and Rusdianto were the stars of the event's final day, four other titles were decided yesterday at the Bahrain Keraleeya Samajam (BKS) Diamond Jubilee hall in Segaya.

Canadian top seeds Nicole Grether and Charmaine Reid lived up to their billing and won a second successive women's doubles trophy, while Valeriy Atrashchenkov and Anna Kobceva from Ukraine won the mixed doubles.

India's Sourabh Varma and Italy's Agnese Allegrini then capped things off by winning their respective singles titles.

Last night's five final matches marked the culmination of the prestigious five-day event, which saw a total of 75 contests take place.

Adistia and Rusdianto did well to fight back against their renowned rivals, who are ranked 28th in the world.

On the distaff, Grether and Reid ensured that there would be no upsets in the women's doubles as they outclassed the Indian pair of Aparna Balan and K Siki Reddy 21-10, 21-19



■ Officials with the women's doubles finalists



■ Adistia and Rusdianto, right pair, with their champions' trophies alongside Kumar and Thomas

to secure their back-to-back crown.

In the mixed doubles, Atrashchenkov and Kobceva, the second seeds, managed to get the better of their top-ranked rivals Antony Dumartheray and Sabrina Jaquet of Switzerland in a hotly contested affair that went

the maximum. Atrashchenkov and Kobceva eventually won 21-19, 15-21, 22-20.

Jaquet then featured once more in the women's singles final, and she once again came close to a victory but was outdone by an inspired Allegrini. The newly crowned champion

rallied after losing the first game to claim their meeting 14-21, 21-14, 21-17.

Varma followed suit by securing the men's trophy. The sixth seed overcome the highly favoured talents of countryman H S Prannoy, who was on a roll in the competition. Varma sealed his championship 25-23, 21-12.

As part of the final day's closing formalities, the tournament souvenir was released by Bahrain Badminton and Squash Federation (BBSF) member Ebrahim Kamal. Prizes were distributed by representatives of sponsors and other dignitaries.

Title sponsor: Travelex-Western Union

Major sponsor: Gulf Air
Main sponsors: Chevron Bahrain, Bahrain Saudi Bank, BMMI, HTL, Berger Paints and IPS Trade Middle East.

Tamanas sets fastest time in 3km training run

SURAJ Tamanas was the fastest to complete a three-kilometre training run held Friday at the Hidd walkway along the Shaikh Khalifa causeway.

Tamanas finished his run in 12 minutes 56 seconds, marginally in front of his closest challenger Sunil Bhillotra who had a mark of 13:03. Karna Limbu in 13:11 was the third-quickest to the end.

On the distaff, Kim Spicer was the top finisher in 18:22, while Zain Hussain was the fastest junior in the run in 15:20.

Meanwhile, a five-km training run was also held. Karsten Thomas was the first to finish in 21:36.

Results

Three-km race: 1 Suraj Tamanas, MO, 12:56; 2 Sunil Bhillotra, M40, 13:03; 3 Karna Limbu, M40, 13:11; 4 Bhupendra Lama, MO, 14:22; 5 Zain Hussain, JB, 15:20; 6 Meeraj Dewan, MO, 15:26; 7 Raseen Thapa, MO, 15:28; 8 Ajinay Dewan, MO, 15:37; 9 Sagar Rai, MO, 15:42; 10 Chop Thapa, MO, 15:44; 11 Bishal Lama, MO, 16:33; 12 Bishnu Limbu, MO, 16:35; 13 Surendra B K, M40, 17:05; 14 Kim Spicer, L40+, 18:22; 15 Yougal Tamang, MO, 18:35; 16 Strawan Chettri, MO, 18:38; 17 Thinley N S, MO, 18:40; 18 Ilyas Degia, M40, 19:05.

Five-km race: 1 Karsten Thomson, MO, 21:36; 2 Daumont Jacques, M40, 23:11; 3 Kevin Voas, M40, 23:46; 4 Karsten Pedersen, M40, 26:27.

Hot starts for Al Ahli and Muharraq

TITLE-CONTENDERS Al Ahli and Muharraq came away with big victories last night as the 2011-'12 season of the Zain Bahrain Basketball League officially tipped off at Zain Arena in Um Al Hassam.

Al Ahli cruised past Bahrain Club 93-56 in yesterday's early fixture, which was followed by Muharraq's 116-52 manhandling of Samaheej.

Samaheej were playing their first-ever game in the senior men's national league.

Their addition makes it a total of 11 teams on the roster of clubs in the new Bahrain Basketball Association season, which also includes the Zain Bahrain Cup.

League action continues tonight with another two games on the cards. Sitra face Nuwaidrat in the first game at 5.30pm, followed at 7.30pm by Al Ettihad taking on Isa Town. Week one then concludes tomorrow when league favourites and Super Cup winners Manama battle Al Najma at 7.30pm.

Al Hala, who clinched their first title since 1996 last season with a hard-fought victory over Muharraq, will play their first game of the season against Samaheej on Wednesday.

At the end of the first round, the top six clubs will advance into the second stage, which also features single round-robin matches.

Only the best four teams will then move on to the semi-finals knock-out, round to determine the two clubs clashing in the final.