

# BAHRAIN BLITZ 29<sup>TH</sup> ARAB GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP AT AL HAMRA

## BEATING THE GALLANT UAE TEAM INTO SECOND PLACE



# CHAMPIONSHIP AT AL HAMRA



The victorious Bahrain team of Abdullah Saleh, Nasser Yacoub, Abdulla Sultan and Hamad Mubarak pose with the trophy after their 17-stroke victory in the 29<sup>th</sup> Arab Golf Championship.

2009  
بطولة العربية التاسعة والعشرون للجولف  
29th Arab Golf Championships  
الإمارات العربية المتحدة - رأس الخيمة  
United Arab Emirates - Ras Al Khaimah

إتحاد الإمارات للجولف  
Emirates Golf Federation

R&A  
WORKING FOR GOLF

مطعم ونادي جولف الحمرا  
AL HAMRA GOLF CLUB AND RESORTS

**B**AHRAIN put the disappointment of a runner-up finish at last year's Arab Golf Championship behind them with a dominating display last month at Al Hamra Golf Club at Ras Al Khaimah.

The Bahrainis completed a wire-to-wire victory in the 29<sup>th</sup> Arab Golf Championship, thanks to rounds of 233, 235, 230 and 241 for a 939 total and a 17-stroke win over the fast-improving UAE team.

It was a magnificent achievement by the young UAE trio of Al Mosharrekh brothers, Abdullah and Ahmed, and Khalid Yousuf, plus the experienced Ismail Sharif, who finished runners-up ahead of so many highly accomplished national teams like Egypt and the Lebanon.

The team was a credit to the UAE, the Emirates Golf Federation and its work with Junior golfers in the UAE, and their performance reflected the huge progress

made by national golfers in the emirates in recent years. The Championship was a four-player gross strokeplay event, where 16 national amateur teams competed over four days on the Peter Harradine-designed Al Hamra course, with the scores of the top three players in each team, each day, counting towards the total

The team of Abdullah Saleh, Nasser Yacoub, Abdulla Sultan and Hamad Mubarak combined superbly well over the four days to beat the gallant host nation into second place. Egypt finished third, two shots behind the UAE while last year's winners, Lebanon, finished fourth after being beaten to a podium place on a countback by the Egyptians.

Bahrain set the pace after the first round, courtesy of a score of 233, which gave them a four-stroke lead over Egypt. Saleh scored a 4-over 76 while teammates Yacoub and Sultan scored 78 and 79 respectively - Mubarak's 81,

Above: The UAE Team of Ismail Sharif, Khalid Yousuf, Abdullah and Ahmed Mosharrekh (pictured wearing their silver medals) alongside Saeed Al Budoor, General Manager of the Emirates Golf Federation (blue shirt), Duncan Weir, The R&A's Director of Golf Development (suit and tie), event coordinator Mayssaa Khalil and coach Chris Vallender (second from the right - red shirt), with the UAE Junior team (front row, kneeling), Sohail Almarzouqi, Hassan Al Mosharrekh, Faisal Almarzouqi and Ahmed Al Mazroui.

**"I CONGRATULATE THE UAE TEAM FOR DOING THEIR COUNTRY PROUD. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING THE PLAYERS BRING MORE GLORY TO THE UAE IN THE FUTURE."** - Shaikh Fahim Al Qasimi.

although a good score, wasn't good enough to contribute to the total. Egypt's Taymour Scarello scored best in their trio with a 77 while Mike Adly came in with a 79 and Amr Abou El Ela scored an 81. Fourth team member Taymour Abou El Khier shot an 84 but it didn't count towards the total.

The UAE team were 15 shots behind after rounds of 84 and 86 by the Al Mosharrekh brothers - Abdullah and Ahmed respectively - and a 78 from Khalid Yousuf as they came in with a first round total of 248. Ismail Sharif's 88 didn't count towards the team's score.

The Bahrainis extended their lead at the top of the leaderboard on Day 2 after a score of 235 gave them an eight-shot cushion over Egypt who shot a 239 to stay in contention, two shots ahead of Tunisia and four ahead of Morocco.

Lebanon had carded an opening-round 246 but improved with a second round 234 with Samer Samua (75), Adnan Hammoud (78) and Al Hammoud (81) contributing to the team score. The UAE came back with a 236 after a superb 2-over 74 by Ahmed Al Mosharrekh helped them move up the leaderboard. "We still have a lot of ground to cover and the team need to stay focused on the job at hand," said Chris Vallender, coach of the UAE team. "If our players can shoot



Nick Tarratt, Director, The European Tour - International - Dubai Office, and Duncan Weir The R&A's Director of Golf Development.

**2009 Arabian Golf Championship Results:**

Final Leaderboard: (gross)	
939	- Bahrain (233, 235, 230, 241)
956	- UAE (248, 236, 237, 235)
958	- Egypt (237, 239, 244, 238)
958	- Lebanon (246, 234, 239, 239)
959	- Tunisia (242, 235, 240, 242)
968	- Morocco (238, 242, 242, 246)
972	- Saudi Arabia (247, 238, 244, 243)
1006	- Libya (247, 248, 256, 255)
1016	- Qatar (258, 255, 264, 239)
1034	- Oman (259, 252, 254, 269)
Individual: (gross)	
306	- Saber Barhoumi (Tunisia)
308	- Naser Yacob (Bahrain)
309	- Adnan Hamoud (Lebanon)
UAE Individual scores:	
312	- Khalid Yousuf
314	- Ahmed Mosharrekh
330	- Abdullah Al Mosharrekh