

■ ARABIAN GOLF AL HAMRA GOLF CLUB

AL HAMRA – ANOTHER LITTLE RESORT GEM FROM PETER HARRADINE

THE UAE boasts so many great golf courses these days but designing something for everyone isn't as easy as it sounds. As championship courses go the region has an endless list to choose from but resort courses are what's required to entice more golfers into the game.

The Jebel Ali Golf Resort & Spa designed by Peter Harradine has established itself worldwide as one of the greatest resort courses and set-ups. Over the years it has provided a popular getaway for the golfer and non-golfer alike, attracting visitors from all over the Middle East and Europe.

The course can give golfers of all abilities a challenge, from the likes of Tiger Woods and Lee Westwood and numerous world-class golfers who played there in the curtain-raiser to the Dubai Desert Classic each year, to a high handicapper. Peter Harradine understood the logic and what was required when designing the resort course. He was well aware of the role it played to bring enjoyment to its members and hotel guests.

Peter Harradine's successful formula has been mirrored here at Al Hamra Golf Club in Ras Al Khaimah, just an hour's drive from Dubai. This little gem is quickly establishing itself as a resort to suit all budgets, and like Jebel Ali you don't need to be a golfer to make the most of the facilities.

Having taken a recent battering during the Dubai World Championship Pro-Am my game was a little bruised to say the least and in need of some care and attention. So, walking on to the first tee at Al Hamra I was in search



of a confidence boost. I cut my three wood off the tee and found the first cut of rough. I managed to dig it out with a nine iron and miraculously found the green and got down in two for my par.

The second hole, with its inviting fairway and green overlooked by the Al Hamra Fort Hotel, offered a great birdie opportunity. A solid drive down the right left me with just a short iron in to the green. At this point I couldn't believe I was thinking about birdieing holes again – considering that only two days ago I was a passenger on the bogey train.

The third hole is a great little par-5. You can easily be caught in two minds to lay up

short of the water that guards the green or grab the fairway metal and go for glory. With my confidence growing with every shot I went for it but found the water. I knew the sensible shot was a mid-iron, leaving a wedge to the pin but it's very rare these days I can knock it on a par-5 in two and I was feeling good and thought I had a chance. As a mid-handicapper I was starting to enjoy the way the course had me thinking, without me wondering if I had enough balls in my bag.

Water didn't come into play again until the 10th but it was worth the wait. At this point I was only a couple over par and starting to think like a golfer again. With 280 yards to the water off the back tee you could easily find



LOCATION:
Just off E 11,
12 miles south of Ras Al Khaimah

CONTACT:
Tel: +971 7 244 7474
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INFO:
Built along the Arabian Gulf, the

course is complimented by a large open lagoon with four inter-connected lagoons.

COURSE:
7,267 yard, par 72 18 hole course with additional par-3 Academy Course.

DESIGNER:
Peter Harradine

ALEX GALLEMORE plays Al Hamra Golf Club, just an hour's drive from Dubai, a resort course that provides something for everyone and a challenge for all levels of player, but you don't need to be a golfer to make the most of the facilities.

the hazard with a good drive so I decided to find a yardage where I could find the green with a solid eight iron, my favourite club in the bag – don't ask why!

If you try and fight this hole you can easily get caught out. Any shot into the green short or right will find the guarding bunkers or a watery grave.

The 11th is a challenging par-3 with water down the right. I can imagine the wind playing a crucial part with this hole. I might have found the green with a six iron but a head wind would have you reaching for a long iron and worrying whether you could make the carry.

The 12th is an imposing par-4 with a narrow fairway and water coming in from the right. A good drive left me with a long iron into the hole, which is heavily guarded by greenside bunkers. To be safe, I should have played it as an easy par-5 and laid up to a comfortable yardage.

With my scorecard still in reasonable shape the rest of the holes still had me thinking but there wasn't a card-wrecker until I reached the 18th tee. What a great looking hole. With the clear blue waters of the lagoon lining the right and bunkers strategically positioned in the fairway and around the green it got the grey matter working overtime.

If you ever doubt the accuracy of your drive this is the time to just take a three wood, prod it down the left hand side of the fairway and be sensible. This way you can enjoy the rest of the hole. Naturally, I opted for the glory trail. The water offered up such an inviting challenge I just couldn't turn it down. Three tee shots later

I found the fairway and went on to finish a truly great round, regardless of my blob at the last.

It was then back to the clubhouse, which overlooks the lagoon, where a refreshing drink was called for. Taking in the view of the clear blue water of the lagoon I reminded myself of the round that could have been – if only I'd listened to my own advice.

I'm sure the course will be a big hit with the golfers who will be competing in our Worldwide Golf final qualifier on Thursday, December 9, for a place in the Grand Final for The Invitational hosted by Abdullah Al Naboodah, to be played at Yas Links Golf Club, Abu Dhabi.

MEMBERSHIP OVERVIEW

Al Hamra Golf Club memberships are available for individuals, families and corporations, allowing for all options to enjoy the benefits of the Club. Visit the Al Hamra Golf Club website for details on each category of membership – Classic, Country, Corporate, Academy and Recreation – or call the club direct on 00 9717 244 7474.

www.althamragolf.com



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NEWELL NIPS IN FOR ECLECTIC TRIUMPH

IN the first Saturday Eclectic of the new season it was Gary Newell who prevailed with a fantastic score of 36 points in blustery conditions. Newell had the wind in his sails as he scored 22 points on the outward nine holes to claim a commanding halfway lead and held on over the closing stretch to win by one from Liecl Ward.



NEWELL AND RAYMENT CONTINUE THEIR FINE FORM

STEVE Rayment and Gary Newell won their respective divisions in the November Medal after two fine performances which saw highlighted their run of good form.

Rayment's 79 was good enough to earn him the Gross Division ahead of John Watts and Eric Engelbrecht who came second and third respectively with scores of 84 and 85.

Newell's rich vein continued as his drive and determination resulted in a more than honorable net 68 which crowned him Net Division champion by two strokes from Hermes Frare. Finishing in third place was Shawqi Sajwani who also recorded a net 70 but lost out to Frare after a card countback.

ENGELBRECHT AND HOBAN MAKE A WINNING START

THE October Monthly Medal opened the curtains on the start of another busy season of golf at Al Hamra and it was Rita Engelbrecht and Paul Hoban who picked up their first victories of the campaign with impressive displays.

Hoban shot a superb fantastic net 69 to take the mixed Net Division by two strokes and reduce his handicap to 11.2. He returned nines of 40 and 43 which included 11 gross pars and the only blemish on his card was an ugly quadruple bogey on the par-4 12th.

Hoban had been knocking at the door for a while and this two shot victory is an acknowledgement to the improvements in his golf game over the last year.

Angelo Kondes took second place with Ian Broom, who was celebrating his 50th birthday, finishing third.

Rita Engelbrecht may soon require another trophy cabinet as she once again added to her ever-growing collection by claiming the mixed Gross Division title.

Engelbrecht started her round with mixed fortunes but performed admirably on the back nine to consolidate her victory with an 82. Finishing as runner-up

and carrying on his floodlit form was Steve Rayment as he returned to the clubhouse in 83 shots. Also finishing on 83 was Victor Hails who missed out on second place following a card countback with Rayment.



D'SOUZA WINS THE HARRADINE CUP



SERGI D'Souza won the 2010 Harradine Cup last month with a two-point victory over Marty Brown in what was one of the closest contests in recent years.

D'Souza reeled off nines of 21 and 19 for his 40-point total which saw him triumph by two from three players including Brown and the in-form Michael Harradine.

A countback was needed to confirm the podium positions and it was Brown who took the runner-up spot with an excellent haul of 22 points over the back nine. Harradine, who recently won the Shaikh Rashid Trophy, took third place from Nigel Sale and was helped in no small part by his first ever hole-in-one on the par-3 15th.

"The course is in fantastic nick and fortunately I managed to hold my game together to make the most of the glorious conditions," said champion D'Souza. "Thanks must go to my playing partners and to the sponsors for today's event whose contributions have made it a thoroughly enjoyable and exciting day."