

# MEGA night for the greatest of Middle East golf

The achievements of the golf industry in the region were recognised in the most fantastic manner on Wednesday night in a sparkling function at the One & Only Royal Mirage Amphitheatre, where the inaugural Middle East Golf Awards (MEGAs) were handed out in 18 categories.

In front of a sold-out function, more than 300 guests were part of the MEGAs, which recognised the people behind some of the biggest tournaments in the world, and those who work in the background to ensure that golf courses and allied facilities in the region set the standards for others.

Three men who have been part of UAE's incredible journey since the first green golf club was inaugurated way back in 1988, were honoured with the individual awards.

Mohammed Juma Buamaim, CEO and vice-chairman of 'golf in DUBAI', organisers and promoters of Omega Dubai Desert Classic, Dubai Ladies Masters and the MENA Tour, was honoured for Outstanding Contribution to Golf.

The Dubai Desert Classic will be celebrating its 25th anniversary in six weeks, but as significant the impact of that event has been on the UAE golfing scene, Buamaim is also known for his tireless efforts to promote golf among the UAE nationals and Arabs.

Nick Tarratt, Director of the European Tour, Middle East, and **Peter Harradine**, one of the region's foremost golf course architects, were jointly named Golf Business Personality of the Year.



Tarratt has played a key role in managing sponsorship and other operational aspects of the DP World Tour Championship, the season-ending tournament of the European Tour's Race to Dubai.

He is also instrumental in getting the region's first Challenge Tour event to Muscat earlier this year, and in the Challenge Tour Grand Finale moving to Dubai Festival City's Al Badia Golf Club.

Just how important Harradine's contribution to the game in the region is, can be gauged by the fact that all four short-listed golf courses in the 'Best Golf Course Under Dh400 Green Fee' award were designed by him.

Even though he is well known as the designer of the Abu Dhabi Golf Club and Doha Golf Club – permanent host venues of the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship and Qatar Masters – he is a firm believer in making the game cheaper for players through building nine-hole courses.

The golf course awards were won by Yas Links ( Best Golf Course of the Year – Over Dh400 Green Fee) and Al Hamra ( Best Golf Course of the Year – Under Dh400 Green Fee) . The par-4 18th hole of Dubai Creek Golf & Yacht Club was named the 'Hole of the Year'.

Chris White, GM of Yas Links, said: "This is just amazing for us. In the space of one week, we have been voted the No1 golf course in the region by Golf Digest and now Sport360° .

"This is a result of the hard work put in by the brilliant team that we have at Yas Links."

## **THE WINNERS IN FULL**

### **BEST PRACTICE FACILITY OF THE YEAR**

The Address Montgomerie

### **BEST ACADEMY OF THE YEAR**

Butch Harmon School of Golf at The Els Club

### **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE OF THE YEAR**

Kellogg's Grass Roots by MGW Golf

### **APPAREL OF THE YEAR**

FootJoy (Pro Sports International)

### **EQUIPMENT OF THE YEAR**

Titleist (Pro Sports International)

### **RETAILER OF THE YEAR**

Golf House (Pro Golf)

### **BEST F&B OUTLET OF THE YEAR**

Qube Sports Bar, Meydan Golf

### **BEST GOLF SPONSORSHIP OF THE YEAR**

Emirates NBD for the Omega Dubai Desert Classic

### **BEST GOLF MARKETING CAMPAIGN OF THE YEAR**

Yas Links Summer Passport 2013

### **GOLF SOCIETY OF THE YEAR**

The Dubai Divots

### **CORPORATE TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR**

Xerox Corporate Golf Challenge by Xerox Emirates

### **AMATEUR TOURNAMENT OF THE YEAR**

Conares Golf Society League by Sharjah Golf & Shooting Club

### **PROFESSIONAL EVENT OF THE YEAR**

DP World Tour Championship, Dubai

### **HOLE OF THE YEAR**

Dubai Creek & Yacht Club - Par-4 18th hole

### **GOLF COURSE OF THE YEAR UNDER 400 AED GREEN FEES**

Al Hamra Golf Club

### **GOLF COURSE OF THE YEAR ABOVE 400 AED GREEN FEES**

Yas Links Abu Dhabi

### **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO GOLF**

Mohamed Juma Buamaim, CEO, golf in DUBAI

### **GOLF BUSINESS PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR**

Nick Tarratt, Director of the European Tour, Middle East  
Peter Harradine of Harradine Golf