

UAE golf round-up: Harradine finally wins EGC Open



Prized possession: Christopher D'Abreo of Rivoli Group (l) , Michael Harradine (c) and Club Captain Dick Purchase

Emirates Golf Club member Michael Harradine got over his heartbreak of finishing second in 2012 when he became the champion in the 25th anniversary of the Omega Emirates Amateur Open.

The 30-year-old started the second and final round of the two-day championship two shots adrift of the overnight leader, Peter Dedek, following an opening 72 at the Faldo course.

Playing with Dedek and Ashley Rees in the leading group over his home course, the Majlis, Harradine made some brilliant up-and-downs to cruise ahead and take a four-shot lead at the turn. And as his challengers slipped back, he rolled in a par putt on the final green for a massive seven-stroke victory.

Harradine shot a one-over par 73 at Majlis for a tournament total of one-over par 145.

Harradine said: "I am really happy to win this one, as this is my home tournament. I came close a couple of years ago but I lost on the second hole of a playoff, so this is special. I really wanted to win this one.

"Even though I won by seven shots, I was struggling on both days. I hit just six greens on the first day and found just four fairways during the second round.

"I was scrambling all day and hit a lot of bunker shots, but thankfully, the short game was in good shape.

“The golf course was in great shape, though not as demanding as it was during the Desert Classic. It still had quite thick rough, and the greens were of good pace. But I was very impressed with the condition of the Faldo course. The greens were the best I have ever played on that course.”

Ken Kellaney (Orange Tree GC, USA) and Bayhaan Lakdawala (Dubai Creek) both finished on 8-over par, but Kellaney’s 73 in the final round won him runners-up place.

Five players ended up on nineover par, and it was Paul King who went home with fourth place following a closing 75.

Colin Fraser from Peebles Golf Club, Scotland, who has attended this prestigious championship for the past nine years, was fifth with rounds of 76 and 77.

The top five prize winners were all rewarded with Omega hospitality at the Omega Dubai Ladies Masters at the end of the year and Harradine also secured a place in the Pro-Am.

All prize winners received a framed print of the Dubai Desert Classic Champions from the celebrations at the beginning of the month.

The net competition was also keenly contested with Gavin Greer (EGF) clinching top prize with rounds of 71 and 77 for a four-over par 148 tally. He won by two shots over Bilal Belaid (Dubai Creek) with Maurice Murphy third on a 155.

Dedek was disappointed with his final round but won the prize of best gross on day one with a two-under par 70 over the Faldo course, which was a fabulous effort form the championship tees.

Jason Neese (Al Ain) carded a 75 in the final round to pick up best gross of day 2. Also in the prizes were Nikhil Damani (EGC) and Vaughn Reed (EGC) for best net day 1 and day 2 respectively.

As always the Emirates Amateur Open attracted competitors from all over the globe, who made up the 116-men field.