

Harradine hopes to remain in form

Says it's always nice to win first event but needs solid performances to finish in top tier

Staff Report

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Harradine set an early pace in the Emirates Golf Federation's Order of Merit for this season after carving up an impressive victory in the Shaikh Rashid Trophy.

Image Credit: Gulf News archive

Dubai: Surprise early leader of the 2010-11 Emirates Golf Federation Men's Order of Merit, Michael Harradine, is under no illusions when it comes to maintaining his top spot for the rest of the season, after his inaugural Shaikh Rashid Trophy win last month.

The Swiss/British 27-year-old won the first Order of Merit series event from twelve on October 21-23 at Jebel Ali Resort and Spa to claim a maximum 30 points, taking a six-point lead on second-placed Scotsman Daniel Hendry in the rankings.

But Harradine, who finished ninth in last year's Order, is by no means chest-beating heading into what will be a long season for the relative newcomer.

Serious challenge

Asked if he could mount a serious title challenge, he said: "I really don't know. It's way too early to talk about that. It's always nice to win the first event in a season but you have to be solid all the time to finish top ten or better."

Harradine reeled off a list of the UAE's top amateurs that he suspected to be capable of top honour contention, with the likes of; the Al Musharrakh and Varkey brothers, Khalid Yousuf, Joel Neale, Vikram Judge, Paul King, Miki Mirza, last year's winner and Daniel

Hendry last year's Junior champion all looking solid.

"Generally most in contention had bad first or second days at the Shaikh Rashid event. I was surprised to be in the lead but no one played to potential on the last day. "I didn't make as many errors and got on the fairway well. My long irons were dreadful but I putted well to sink a lot of pars and a few birdies."

It's the confidence Harradine hopes he can take into the second event at Sharjah Golf and Wanderer's Golf Club on November 12 and 13