

Meet the nominees: Middle East Golf Awards (MEGAs)



Inaugural winners: The MEGAs were introduced for the very first time last year and the event has now become an annual fixture on the regional golf calendar.

The 2014 Middle East Golf Awards (MEGAs) take place tonight (Thursday) at Jumeriah Emirates Towers, Dubai. To celebrate the occasion, Sport360 takes a look at some of the nominees and provides insight into why they deserve to be awarded in the golf industry.

BEST MALE AMATEUR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ali Abdullah Al Shahrani (Qatar)

Twenty-year-old Al Sharani's highlight this year was his amazing efforts in the Asian Games, in which he finished 47th. He is a member of Doha Golf Club, Qatar and began playing four years ago after his father encouraged him to take up the sport. With the help of his coach Mike Elliot, Ali is hoping he can one day mix it on the fairways with his role-model Tiger Woods and others on the PGA Tour.

Azaan Al Rumhy (Oman)

Oman's No. 1 golfer Azaan al Rumhy came up with a competitive performance at the King Hamad Trophy in Manama, Bahrain this year, battling a top-class field of 85 players that included 20 elite pro golfers. Azaan not only made the cut amid strong opposition at the Royal Golf Club, but also finished 26th with a gross score of 232 after three days of action. The national champion carded a 77 on the opening day, then followed it up 79, before finishing with his best score of 76 on the concluding day of the competition.

Michael Harradine (UAE)



One of the finest golfers in the region, and son of renowned golf architect Peter, Michael Harradine has once again enjoyed a fine season on the course. This season saw Michael defend his EGF OOM Men's division title for the third consecutive year and claim the 2014 EFG OOM Championship. Michael also claimed the EGC Open for the first time in 2014 and was crowned the EGF's Order of Merit champion for 2013-14 in May.

Nasser Yacoob (Bahrain)

Nasser Yacoob won the qualifying round of the Royal Golf Club's annual Scratch Championships with a fantastic one over par gross score of 73 in June. Yacoob followed that up by winning the Black Tee Challenge at the Royal Golf Club in March after achieving a gross score of 76. The annual event, held on the Club's Montgomerie championship course, is a real test of golf with competitors playing from the black tees, making the course a challenging 7,243 yards long.