

## RQBB Sports

### RQBB RAISES SR 110,000 WITH THE HELP OF THE MEXICAN BANDIT

On Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February the RQBB held its inaugural "Open Golf Championship". The tournament was held at the Dirab Golf Course and accommodated 136 players in a field of varying abilities. The tournament was played in a Texas scramble format, with each team having 3 or 4 players where each player had a different ability level.

The great condition of the course helped some very low scores to be shot, with 10 teams carding below par on this challenging course.

The eventual winners were the team of Sam Montgomery, Mark Campbell, Phil Pannell and Gary Richardson who shot a superb 9 under par 63.

Runners up were Rajput Surinder, Hitesh Valla, KW Park and Gudrun Barnden who shot an excellent 7 under par 65. Third place went to Patrick Kennady, Francis Garcia, Neville Reilly and Andrew Davidson who shot an impressive 6 under par 66.

The nearest the pin prizes went to Mohammed Subedar and Julian Bennett. The Ladies longest drive was won by Clare Hunter, whilst M S Kim won the men's prize. The team that managed the longest putt on the monster 13<sup>th</sup> green was Joseph Herger, John Bell, Keith Hunter and Marcus Cleverton.

The "Hackers Award" was given to the team who carded the highest score of the day. This dubious honor went to Joseph Herger, John Bell, Keith Hunter and Marcus Cleverton, who received a dozen practice balls and a free lesson from Dirab professional Bouchaib El Jadiani.

The evening part of the event saw over 300 people attend a prize-laden presentation with every participant receiving a nice golf prize. The ladies were not forgotten either (especially as it was valentines week) and a single rose was presented to every one upon arrival.

With many senior society figures and numerous Ambassadors present it really was a high profile



event. As well as being a fun occasion the day had a serious side, with the singular aim of raising cash for ICING (International Children in Need Group).

In his speech to the diners Sir William Patey informed everybody about the aims of ICING and made them aware of where some of the donations had been given in the past few months. He then went on to inform everybody that as Gary Richardson was such a bandit on the golf course he had specially arranged a change of citizenship for him with the Mexican Ambassador.

Sir William's speech set a light hearted tone for the evening that continued throughout.

The evening progressed with a raffle and several auctions, with Andrew Mead and his gavel drawing some lively comments from bidders eager to snare one of the fantastic items on offer.

The big surprise of the evening came at the end of the auctions when Gary Richardson, who had helped organise the days proceedings presented Sir William and Andrew Mead a cheque for SR110,000 for ICING. Judging by the surprised look on their faces this amount was way above expectations and very gratefully received.

The evening continued into the night with dancing to the music of "fatboy and slim", provided by Chris Evans and Garry Mackender. It was Garry's final "gig" as he left the Kingdom to return to England the following day, with an exit-only stamp in his passport.

The RQBB would like to thank everybody who worked so hard to make the day and evening such a huge success. In particular we would like to thank our generous sponsors, SABB, Amex, Almarai, Olayan, Axa, Crane, PWC, UPS, Sama airways, BMI, UPS, The Sheraton, Turnberry, Sheraton Dubai Creek, forward logistics and the Al Khozama Hotel.

A few photographs of the players and guests are found overleaf.

