

23rd Annual Gulf Scrabble Championships to take place in Dubai this weekend

Top GCC players vie for spots at Scrabble Champions Tournament in Prague

Dubai, UAE, 26th May 2013: The 30 best Scrabble players in the region will face off in the 23rd Annual Gulf Scrabble Championships (GSC) from 30th May to 1st June at the Etisalat Academy in Mirdif. The GSC, the only internationally rated fixture in the Arab world, will feature 20 rounds of games with over AED 15,000 worth of prizes at stake, courtesy primary sponsors Jashanmal Books and Western International College.

Nikhil Soneja, organiser of the GSC 2013, said, “Tournament Scrabble has taken off in the UAE over the past few years, and we were happy to extend the GSC from two days to three this year in order to really test the mettle of the competitors, as befits their international standards. It is wonderful to see schoolchildren in the mix as well, as we are gearing up to host the World Youth Scrabble Championship for the first time in Dubai in December at the Etisalat Academy”.

Players from the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Oman will compete in this premier event not only for prizes, but also the chance to improve their world rankings and to qualify to represent their countries at the Scrabble Champions Tournament in Prague, organized by brand owners Mattel and Mind Sports International as part of the Prague Mind Sports Festival.

The reigning Gulf champion is UAE’s Ronald Credo, a former Philippines national champion, who will defend his title once again this year. Also in contention will be 15 year old Indian High student Navya Zaveri, who was crowned the under-16 world

champion at last year's World Youth Scrabble Championship (WYSC) in Birmingham, and will be making his GSC debut in 2013.

The GSC will see 300 games of Scrabble played over the three days and will culminate in a presentation ceremony with sponsors at 1230 on 1st June.



The UAE's Ronald Credo receives the GSC trophy from 2011 winner Mohammad Sulaiman (c) and Etisalat Academy's Jishnu Warrior

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About the Gulf Scrabble Championships:

The Gulf Scrabble Championships were first held in 1991 in Bahrain as a cooperative effort between the various Scrabble associations across the GCC. Since then, the tournament has grown from strength to strength and gained acclaim as a premier fixture in the international Scrabble calendar. It is currently the only world-ranked tournament in the Arab world and is considered the oldest international tournament in the mind sport, predating the first World Championships by a few months. Over the course of three days, 300 games of Scrabble will be played as elite contestants from the 6 GCC countries battle for top spot. For more information regarding the event, please contact info@gulfscrabble.com.