

**Team feted**



... of appreciation to Javid Alhamed.



... appreciation to Syed Mukassir Bukhari. -- Courtesy photos

artz said, "Shar-  
formation at the  
important and we  
ceive this appre-  
ciation from our CG today."  
Mohd Shahid Alam, Haj consul,  
was also present and appreciated the team's work.

**Markaz of support**

**Gallagher, Al-Muayquil, Roghi and Blazek shine**

BY RICHARD SLATER

RIYADH — The Riyadh Road Runners (RRR) had a busy New Year period, with two races taking place in a short period.

On Dec. 18, Ishbiliyah Compound played host to the annual Red and Green 5-mile run. Then on Jan. 8, RRR kick-started the new year with a brisk 5-km race at Kingdom City Compound.

The 5-mile race saw the return of Gareth Gallagher, who has proved unbeatable over short distances this season. He took an early lead and passed the halfway mark with a comfortable cushion over his rivals. He extended this gradually throughout the rest of the race, and though Bengt Lofgren pushed him close, Gallagher departed with the victory he came for.

Lofgren took a comfortable second place, running as ever with a smile on his face. Behind him was a collection of gifted runners, but on this occasion Spaniard Juan Aragonés held off the challenge of Saudi Abdulmajeed Al-Muayquil for the final podium place.

The ladies' race witnessed a dominant performance by current club champion Claudine Roghi, who returned from her Half Ironman Triathlon in Bah-



(L-R) Sergio de Luca, Abdulmajeed Al-Muayquil and Sylvain Girardeau — Race 9 podium finishers

rain fitter and faster than ever. In second place for the second race in succession was Nikki Layne, who was swiftly followed by Marie-Pierre Arminjon, who also achieved her personal goal of appearing on the first page of the official club results!

Then on Jan. 8, all the runners had an excellent morning following the twists and turns of the 5-km course at the Kingdom Com-

pound, where 100 meters is the furthest you run in a straight line throughout the entire race.

The men's race was won by Al-Muayquil, who not only looked like a superhero in his all black 2XU lycra cat suit, but also ran like one too, holding off his triathlon training partners Sylvain Girardeau and Sergio de Luca for a hard-fought victory. Al-Muayquil led from the outset, but Girardeau

and de Luca refused to let him out of their sights, and all three recorded impressive sub-20-minute times.

Club stalwarts Russ McArthur and Pdraig Cusack also started the New Year in style, chasing the youthful trio throughout and finishing in 4th and 5th places, respectively.

The speed of the leading men over the short distance, combined



Gareth Gallagher — Race 8 winner

with the tough training schedules that they are all following, bodes well for some exciting races when the distances crank up in February.

In the ladies' race, Laura Blazek maintained her unbeaten record since her arrival in Riyadh, on this occasion taking a comfortable victory over her perennial rival Claudine Roghi. In third place was Clare Scott, who looks to have made considerable strides in recent weeks to narrow the gap to the top two steps of the podium.

**Results**

**5-mile race**  
Male race: 1. Gareth Galla-

gher (IRE) 29:39, 2. Bengt Lofgren (SWE) 30:09, 3. Juan Aragonés (ESP) 30:36.

Ladies race: 1. Claudine Roghi (FRA/NZ) 36:22, 2. Nikki Layne (UK) 37:31, 3. Marie-pierre Arminjon (FRA) 37:42.

**5-km race**

Male race: 1. Abdulmajeed Al-Muayquil (KSA) 19:25, 2. Sylvain Girardeau (FRA) 19:39, 3. Sergio de Luca (ITA) 19:43.

Ladies race: 1. Laura Blazek (USA) 21:39, 2. Claudine Roghi (FRA/NZ) 22:10, 3. Clare Scott (UK) 22:15.

**RCA kicks off SAIB Cricket Tournament**

BY RUSTAM ALI

RIYADH — Riyadh Cricket Association started SAIB Cricket

