

The Kingdom of Bahrain Trophy - Seniors Tour Championship

Buckinghamshire Golf Club

Denham, England

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Rocca and Mason take the 2007 plaudits

10 Nov 2007



Costantino Rocca and Carl Mason
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Costantino Rocca and Carl Mason both had good reasons to celebrate when the 2007 European Seniors Tour season ended on Saturday at the Buckinghamshire Golf Club.

Rocca captured the final event of the year – The Kingdom of Bahrain Trophy, Seniors Tour Championship – and with it, the European Seniors Tour Rookie of the Year award.

Mason picked up his European Seniors Tour Order of Merit title – the John Jacobs Trophy – from Jacobs himself to put the seal on a record-setting year, during which he won five times.

He almost came close to adding title number six – after rediscovering his putting touch to shoot six under par 66 on the final day.

However, the man he beat in a play-off for the European Senior Masters at Woburn Golf Club in September, Rocca, was not to be denied.

Italy's most decorated golfer also fired a final round of six under par 66 to finish on a winning 54 hole total of ten under par 206.

Rocca, 50, secured his second victory of his debut senior season by one shot from England's Nick Job, who three-putted the final hole to miss out on a play-off with his playing-partner.

Rocca said: "My first year on the seniors tour has not been easy, but it has been very enjoyable and I've had a fantastic season. To win feels very nice – especially before the bad weather is coming!"

"I won in Ireland after three events – I was not suppose to do it so quickly – and I have finished second three times this year, so my game is becoming more consistent.

"It's come along this week too, and I am very happy it did! I had a good feeling when I went out to play."

On Job's misfortune, for he was 25 feet away on the top tier of the 18th green where the flag was situated, only to three-putt, Rocca added: "I am very sorry for Nick, because he played good, but sometimes golf is like that. It happened to me at Woburn when I lost to Carl in a play-off."

Job said: "I just hit the first putt a bit too hard, and I thought the one coming back was in, but that's the vagaries of golf."

With his triumph, Rocca secured the European Seniors Tour Rookie of the Year accolade, having also finished runner-up in the Order of Merit behind Mason, with earnings of €277,782 to the Englishman's record-setting amount of €412,376.

"It is nice – I am 'Rocca of the Year'," he joked. "But I wanted to win this week because I wanted to finish second behind 'Carletto.' He has been fantastic and I've learned many things from him this season."

Mason finished in a tie for eighth place – his 13th top ten finish in a season where he won five times to become the most prolific winner in Europe, and also the leading money-winner in European Seniors Tour history, with €1,642,960 in less than five years competing on the circuit.

After Rocca had been given his title trophy at the official prize ceremony on the 18th green, the 54 year old Mason went to get his trophy from Jacobs.

Mason said afterwards: "It really has been an incredible, special year and I've enjoyed it so much. I am so proud of myself and the way I've played.

"My game's been so consistent, and when I've got up there and had the chance to win, I've taken it. It's a wonderful feeling to know I can win, and it's having the confidence to win that makes all the difference. I am just so very thankful. This year, life has been great."

European Seniors Tour Managing Director Andy Stubbs commented: "What can you say? Carl has had a magnificent year. From 17 events, he won five times, won record prize-money, and completely dominated the year. But we've had lots

of other great champions, like Costantino here, and the standard of golf just gets better and better."

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