**2019 - A YEAR IN REVIEW**

As the closing days of 2019 beckon, Dubai Duty Free can reflect on another busy and successful year that has seen a number of significant developments for the operation. We look on the highlights of the year of far.

**JANUARY**

• The Dubai Duty Free sponsored Al Riyadi team from Lebanon won the 30th Dubai International Basketball Championship.

• Dubai Duty Free supported the 24th running of the Dubai Shopping Festival as a Strategic Partner for the fourteenth consecutive year.

**FEBRUARY**

• Dubai Duty Free supported the Omega Dubai Desert Classic which was won for the first time by American player Bryson DeChambeau.

• The 27th Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships was won by two Swiss nationals, with Belinda Bencic winning her first Dubai title, while Roger Federer won his 8th Dubai title. The win in Dubai also saw Roger claim his 100th singles career title, which resulted in massive worldwide coverage, including 7,000 news articles, hours of TV coverage and over 35,000 mentions on social media.

**MARCH**

• Dubai Duty Free choral group, the Dubai Duty Free Nightingales won the Best A Cappella Performance at the ChoirFest Middle East 2019.

• Dubai Duty Free signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Tencent Holdings Limited which aims to leverage Tencent’s expertise and digital platforms in China, while building upon Dubai Duty Free’s global status as a retail destination.

• Sinead El Sibai was named as one of the top ten ‘Most Influential Women in Sport 2019’ in a poll conducted by the UK-based networking platform iSportsconnect.

• Dubai Duty Free supported the 11th Emirates Airline International Festival of Literature attended by world-renowned authors.

**APRIL**

• Dubai Duty Free paid the first of two visits to Newbury Racecourse which saw two days of top class racing action and was graced by Her Majesty The Queen.

• Dubai Duty Free won two awards at DFNI – Frontier EMEA Awards for Travel Retail Excellence for “Middle East & Africa Travel Retailer of the Year” and “Charitable Initiative of the Year” held in London, U.K.

• Dubai Duty Free was announced as one of the winners of the International Safety Awards with Merit presented by the British Safety Council at a black-tie event held at Grosvenor House Hotel in London, U.K.

• Dubai Duty Free’s COO, Ramesh Cidambi was made a Keeper of the Quaich at a traditional ceremony held in Blair Castle in Perthshire, Scotland.

• For the 18th consecutive year, Dubai Duty Free received the Best Airport in Duty Free Shopping at the Business Traveller Middle East awards ceremony held at the Grand Plaza Movenpick Media City in Dubai.

• Dubai Duty Free was named the Middle East’s Leading Airport Duty Free Operator at the 26th Annual Middle East Gala Ceremony for World Travel Awards held at Warner Bros. World in Abu Dhabi.

**MAY**

• Dubai Duty Free won a Silver Award in the Marketing Category at The Chinese Tourist Awards held during the ITB Conference in China.

• Dubai International Airports (DXB) in partnership with Dubai Duty Free was named “Best Airport for Retail Environment (as voted by all age groups)” at the Travel Retail Awards held in Singapore.

• Dubai Duty Free won a Silver Award for “Best Sports Event of the Year-Overseas” at the Sport Business Awards held in London.

**JUNE**

• On 1st June 2019, Colm McLoughlin, Executive Vice Chairman & CEO of Dubai Duty Free, celebrated 50 years in the duty free industry. Widely recognised as an industry legend and known as the driving force behind Dubai Duty Free’s successful US$2 billion business. McLoughlin joined Shannon Duty Free in 1969 and in 1983 he was one of the 10- man team who helped set up the Dubai Duty Free.

• At the Superbrands UAE Tribute Event, Dubai Duty Free received its fourteenth Superbrands Award for Excellence in Branding at the ceremony held at the Inter-Continental-Dubai Festival City.

• Dubai Duty Free sponsored the WTA Summer Party to celebrate the greatest champions in women’s tennis on the eve of The Championships in Wimbledon.

• On the eve of the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby, Colm McLoughlin was honoured by Kildare County Council for his contribution to County Kildare through Dubai Duty Free’s sponsorship of the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby at the Curragh Racecourse over the last twelve years and the Dubai Duty Free Irish Open which was held in the K Club in 2016.

• The 29th June saw the 12th running of the Dubai Duty Free Irish Derby held at the newly-renovated Curragh Racecourse in Ireland, which offered a rich purse of Euro 2.1 million. The race was won by Sovereign, which is trained by Aidan O’Brien with Padraig Beggy as the jockey.

**JULY**

• Dubai Duty Free returned to Ireland for the 5th Dubai Duty Free Irish Open held this year at Lahinch Golf Club. The tournament, which was hosted by Paul McGinley, was won for the second time by Spanish golfer Jon Rahm.

• Colm McLoughlin was presented with the ‘Outstanding Contribution to the Aviation Industry’ award at the annual Aviation Industry Awards in Dublin.

**AUGUST**

• Dubai Duty Free returned to Ascot Racecourse for the Dubai Duty Free Shergar Cup, the world’s premier international jockeys’ competition won by The Rest of the World team.

• At the 10th Asia Best CSR and Sustainability Awards held in Singapore, Dubai Duty Free was presented with its sixth “Best Corporate Social Responsibility Practices Award”.

**SEPTEMBER**

• Dubai Duty Free organised its first Dubai Duty Free Summer SportsFest which saw the Back Office & Cash Office Dragons Team declared as the ‘Overall Winner’.

• The house of Dior officially opened its first Maison Christian Dior boutique at Dubai Duty Free in Concourse B of Dubai International Airport.

• UAE Rugby announced the UAERF Dubai Duty Free Community Rugby Program, a new initiative and integral component of the UAE Rugby Academy and National Development Pathway School Rugby Program (PPP).

• Colm McLoughlin was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the eighth Middle East Hospitality Awards (MEHA) held at The Ritz Carlton, DIFC.

• Dubai Duty Free ended its racing season at Newbury for the two-day flat racing festival, the Dubai Duty Free International Weekend.

**OCTOBER**

• Dubai Duty Free was a presenting sponsor of the 6th Dublin Arabic Film Festival (DAFF) held in Ireland.

• At the Frontier Awards ceremony in Cannes, which coincided with the Tax Free World Association (TFWA) Exhibition and Conference, Ms. Muna Hassan, Dubai Duty Free’s Emiratization Officer, was named as a recipient of the ‘Talent of Tomorrow’ Award.

• Dubai Duty Free received the award for Environmental and Corporate Sustainability at the Global Giving Awards held at The Address, Dubai Mall.

• For the third consecutive year, Dubai Duty Free participated in the Dubai Fitness Challenge with four corporate activities.

• Dubai Duty Free won the ‘Best Airport Retailer in Gulf Africa’ from Duty Free Readers’ Choice Awards.

**NOVEMBER**

• Colm McLoughlin received the ‘Lifetime Achievement Award’ at the Asian Business Leadership Forum (ABLF) at an awards ceremony held at Jumeirah Emirates Tower in Dubai.

• Dubai Duty Free was the official event sponsor of the DP World Tour Championship – Race to Dubai which took place at Jumeirah Golf Estates and won by John Ram.

• Colm McLoughlin received the ‘Male Leader of the Year’ at the Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) Awards held at The Ritz Carlton, Dubai.

• Dubai Duty Free hosted the 27th Dubai Duty Free Golf World Cup, with over 100 overseas and local representatives from the global duty free industry and was won by Richard Lombard-Chibnall.

• Salah Tahlak was re-elected for the fourth time as a Member of the ATP International Group Council for an additional three-year term, in an election conducted by the official body that runs the men’s professional tennis.

**DECEMBER**

• At the annual Women’s Tennis Association (WTA) Year-End Tournament Awards, the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships was awarded with the ‘Premier 5 Tournament of the Year’ as voted by the players.

• Dubai Duty Free won the Global Traveler – GT Tested Reader Survey Awards for ‘Best Duty-Free Shopping in the World’ for the thirteenth consecutive year and the ‘Best Duty-Free Shopping in the Middle East’ for the third consecutive year by the publishers of US-based magazine Global Traveler held at The Peninsula Beverly Hills in Beverly Hills, California.

• Dubai Duty Free marked its 35th Anniversary with a 25% discount offer on a wide range of merchandise over three days (18th, 19th and 20th December).

• Dubai Duty Free’s sales crossed the US$2 Billion mark on 26th December, putting the airport retailer on track for another record year.