

H2O Magazine

N° 2 | JUNE 2016

H2O RACING
POWERBOAT PROMOTION



F1H2O

**TEAMS LOOKING TO CLOSE
PERFORMANCE GAP TO
CHIAPPE AND CTIC F1 CHINA**

AQUABIKE

**AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
KICK-STARTS SEASON WITH RACES
IN OTRANTO AND DENIA**

TIMING FOR CHAMPIONS

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Info

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H2O RACING POWERBOAT PROMOTION

H2O Racing is a sport's marketing company set up by Nicolò di San Germano to promote World Championship events in powerboating.

The company was launched in January 2011 and brings together a group of professionals with over 30 years of experience in sport's and event management to collectively manage all commercial and marketing activities across three Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) sanctioned properties; the F1H2O World Powerboat Championships, the Aquabike World Championships and Nations Cup.

President: Nicolò di San Germano

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UNION INTERNATIONALE MOTONAUTIQUE - UIM

The Union Internationale Motonautique (U.I.M.) was formed in 1922, and is the world governing body for powerboating. It is fully recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), and is also a member of the Sportaccord, the former General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and of ARISF, the Association of IOC Recognised International Sports Federations.

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ABP AND UIM SIGN MULTI-YEAR PARTNERSHIP

Aquabike Promotion (ABP) has confirmed that it has renewed its agreement with the world governing body of Powerboating, the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM).

The multi-year partnership is testament to, and recognises the work carried out so far by ABP and strengthens the basis and foundations for the future development of Aquabike competition worldwide, with the focus on different fields including

sport development, safety, education, anti-doping and sustainability. "We are extremely pleased to have renewed our partnership and extend our thanks to the UIM for their vote of confidence in ABP," said Aquabike Promotion director Raimondo di San Germano. "It is recognition of what has been achieved during our first term and gives us a solid foundation to expand the development of the sport into new areas."



IDEA MARKETING WINS SIGNIFICANT LEGAL RULING OVER F1H2O TRADEMARK

After years of legal wrangling Idea Marketing SA, promoter and the worldwide television and commercial rights holder of the UIM F1H2O Powerboat Championship has won another significant legal ruling in the courts over the right to use, and the validity of its F1H2O trademark.

The case against the use of its F1H2O trademark was first contested in the courts in Singapore in 2009 by Formula One Licensing BV, part of the Formula One Group of companies responsible for the promotion of the FIA Formula One World Championship and exploitation of the sport's commercial rights, holder of the "F1" trademark.

On 11 May 2016, Nicolo di San Germano, founder of Idea Marketing was advised that the Court of Appeal had dismissed Formula One Licensing's appeal, that the decision was final and the F1H2O trademark would thus be soon validly registered in Singapore. "This is another very important and significant result for us and I am delighted by the decision of the Court of Appeal in our favour," commented Nicolo di San Germano. "The decision completely validates our decision and investment to continually defend our brand, of which we are rightly intensely proud. We established the brand in 2007 and have worked hard to build it over the years. It is recognized worldwide and is synonymous with the top-flight of powerboat

racing. It was a fight for our principles and integrity and the right to defend our brand, our trademark and now we can move forward."

Over the course of the last nine years, Idea Marketing has fought similar litigation brought against it by Formula One Licensing BV in Australia, Europe, Japan, Switzerland and South Korea. In each case the courts have ruled in favour of Idea Marketing.

F1 CHINA CTIC AND ABU DHABI CLAIM WINS AT ROUEN24HR

France's Philippe Chiappe made it four wins in a row after leading F1 China CTIC to a well-deserved victory in the gruelling Rouen 24hr endurance race on the River Seine.

F1H2O World Champion, Chiappe, Peter and Nelson Morin and Rodolphe Avenel, running a Moore Formula hull, eased into the race then hitting the front at the end of the second session on Saturday and leading to the

chequered flag on Sunday afternoon at 17.00hrs completing 841 laps around a 3.8km circuit.

Three-time World Champion Alex Carella and Thani Al Qamzi spearheaded Team Aby Dhabi's debut at the 53rd running of the event, leading briefly in the first session and going on to complete a memorable weekend finishing third overall and taking first in the S2 Class in their DAC.



PONS AND LEMOINE WIN IN GUADELOUPE

Teddy Pons held his nerve on the final day of the 19th edition of the Karujet to win the GP1 title for a second time, with Cyrille Lemoine adding to French celebrations with victory in GP3.

Pons headed into the final day with a solid six minute plus advantage over Yann Ponama but still had to negotiate the final two stages which he did with a measured drive, finishing fourth in both stages to take overall victory by 5:58s from Ponama, with Pascal Gounouman winning stage 6 to move him up into third overall.

PASTORELLO AND BOTTI CROWNED EUROPEAN ENDURANCE CHAMPIONS

Jean Bruno Pastorello and local rider Jean-Baptiste Botti from Porto Vecchio held out to win the final heat in GP1 in Solenzara to win the UIM-ABP Aquabike Class Pro European Endurance Championship.

Alex Barret - both pairings with a win and second place apiece and tied on 45 points.

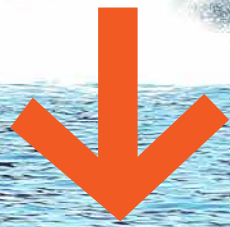
At the end of the third two-hour session in two days over a tough 5km circuit it was Pastorello and Botti who prevailed, taking the chequered flag 34.29s ahead of their title rivals to claim the title.

Lining up for heat 3 it was a straight winner-take-all encounter between Pastorello and Botti and Ghisonaccia resident Francois Medori and



F1H2O





FIREWORKS EXPECTED FOR THE 20TH GRAND PRIX OF FRANCE!

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he F1H2O World Championship heads to Europe for the second stop on the 2016 tour and the historic 20th Grand Prix of France in the charming city of Evian on the shores of Lac Lemman, which takes place in the week the country celebrates Bastille Day.

A lot of fireworks on and off the water are expected in Europe's largest country that has been hosting Formula 1 powerboat racing for four decades, dating back to its first event in 1981.

It is the second year that Evian has hosted the event and the sixth different locality that the race has been held at in this grand pillar of the world's most prestigious powerboat championship.

Of the countries to host the championship only the United Arab Emirates, Italy and China have held more Grand Prix, France's European neighbour Italy having hosted 39 races in the 33-year history since the sports' beginnings.

During this four-decade time period, drivers from eight different countries have won the event including now retired Kuwaiti driver Youssef Al Rubayan, taking his first and only career victory in a wind-blown and exciting event in Evian last June.

The late Dutch driver Cees van der Velden captured the first Grand Prix on the 13th of September in 1981 defeating Italian Renato Molinari and British driver Bob Spalding at the Vichy Grand Prix.

Other cities throughout France that have hosted events over the years include Lyon, Paris, Chalons-sur-Saone and La Rochelle.

The race weekend in Evian last year was a 'revival' of sorts to the historic Grand Prix of France since there hadn't been an event in the country since 2007 when it was held on the West Coast city of La Rochelle.

It was an historic day as current driver and two-times World Champion Sami Selio of Finland took his first career Grand Prix victory ahead of American Scott Gillman and Sweden's Jonas Andersson.

This year's event is expected to draw drivers from 12 different countries and led once again by two-time defending World Champion, Frenchman Philippe Chiappe of Rouen, in a French built David Moore designed boat.

The well-respected driver from northern France was truly excited about returning to his adopted home Grand Prix. "This is always a special moment in my career to race in France and I want to make up for the disappointment we all went through in last year's race," said the 52-year-old. "It is very magnificent that I am the first French driver to have ever won the F1H2O title, not once but twice and now I want to be the first Frenchman to win his home Grand Prix."

Chiappe went on to say. "This is my 14th full season [in F1h2o] and many times I have felt like a past member of the "Foreign Legion" where I was representing France but in so many far off places, that's why I'm so excited about being in Evian again."





The race weekend in Evian last year was a 'revival' of sorts to the historic Grand Prix of France since there hadn't been an event in the country since 2007 when it was held on the West Coast city of La Rochelle.

F1H2O

This race will mark Philippe's 99th F1H2O career start, most of the time racing for the giant CTIC China organization with teammate Xiong Ziwei alongside for his fourth full season.

Chiappe is just one of nine fellow French drivers who have participated in the sport's 33 year history and the most successful at the same time with back-to-back world titles.

Only his friend and now Racing Manager for the CTIC F1 China Team, Philippe Dessertenne, had more race starts in the sport with 111 in 13 full seasons of competing. The highlight of the La Rochelle resident's career came back in 2002 when he became the first French driver to win a Grand Prix when he won in the inner harbour of Helsinki, Finland.

Meanwhile second year driver and 16-year racing veteran Christophe Larigot from Boos, will be back and the 10th French driver to grace the UIMF1H2O paddock. He is teaming-up with Portugal's Duarte Benavente for the F1 Atlantic Team chasing his fifth top-ten performance of his career.

Larigot has many good memories and historic performances in endurance racing especially at the Rouen 24 hour in the S2000 and S3000 classes. This will be his chance to show fellow citizens that there is more than just Chiappe to watch during the race weekend.

The question asked for the weekend is, will a French driver in a French built boat win for the first time at the Grand Prix of France?

How fitting it would be in the week the country celebrates a national holiday with Bastille Day. ■



CHIAPPE PROVES HOW CUNNING HE IS WITH DUBAI VICTORY!





F1H2O

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any experts who came to the opening round of the 2016 UIM F1H2O World Championship in Dubai in March, were figuring that the two-time back-to-back World Champion Philippe Chiappe would start to run out of steam, thus, begin a slow slide

downward with little chance of winning a third straight title at the start of the new season.

Well, guess what? That wishful thinking by all his other competitors died a quick death, at the first practice session, when the Frenchman set the fastest time and was quickest on the water at a brand new circuit in the midst of the Boat Show near the showcase Palm Jumeirah near new Dubai.

The burning question of the weekend was could Philippe keep the determination and momentum going for a third straight year for his CTIC F1 China Team?

Many of the 18 drivers from 12 countries vying for the new championship crown thought he had run the table of success these past two seasons and it was just a matter of time that his reign would come to an end. Could a driver, who for 12 straight seasons on the tour without a championship, now, do it for a very rare third straight season?

Practice is one thing, racing is quite another story. So:

Well, here's an honest observation from someone who's been watching Formula 1 powerboat racing for over 30 years.

If the first Grand Prix of the newest campaign is any indication, it looks like the veteran from Rouen, France, who now is about to start his 99th race of his F1H2O career, has both momentum and confidence on his side as he heads for his home countries event on 15-17 July in Evian.

Firstly, Philippe was the fastest in the first practice session and went on being the pace setter taking pole position by .25 of a second from three-time World Champion Alex Carella of Italy driving for Team Abu Dhabi, earning his sixth career pole during the six-boat "shootout" session.

In the 48 lap race around the 1.96 kilometer five-pin circuit in the inner harbour the next day, Chiappe was never headed, holding off a determined Carella by 1.75 seconds at the end as all but the top four boats finished at least a lap behind the race winner who set a blistering pace all afternoon.



F1H2O

The question now is, can Philippe handle all the pressure and forget about the major disappointment he felt a year ago in Evian when he broke down while solidly in the lead in front of tens-of-thousands of his most ardent fans a year ago?

We'll see if he can keep the good times rolling or as the French say "Laissez le bon temps rouler."

Dubai wasn't all about Chiappe however. The young Carella shadowed him and was within shouting distance at the end of the race.

Carella's ex-teammate American Shaun Torrente, running a less than perfect newly built Victory Team boat, did well and is sure to be a factor once again with an updated raceboat for Evian.

The driver from Florida, despite his struggles, finished third. At the end he was 8.69 seconds behind the leader moving up two places in the race with aggressive driving and reaching the podium in his challenge for his first world title in this his sixth full season on the F1H2O tour.

Also finishing on the lead lap was the always swift driver from Sweden, Jonas Andersson, from Team Sweden. The driver from Fruvi qualified less than one-half a second behind pole sitter Chiappe for third on the grid in his Danish built Molgaard race hull.

Jonas got caught up in a battle with Torrente with the American taking the edge to finish one place in front of him and on the podium.

Behind the battling pair and having the best day of his career was the young Chinese driver Xiong Ziwei. The defending World Champion's teammate proved to be both aggressive and confident all weekend, firstly qualifying a career best seventh, and then went out and finished two positions better than he ever accomplished in a race, taking fifth place, a lap down from his mentor Philippe Chiappe.

Portuguese driver Duarte Benavente, who has a propensity of doing well in opening round races, set off on his 17th season moving up three places and finished sixth after qualifying in ninth position as he searches for his first podium result in his last 12 race starts.

Italian Ivan Brigada is back on the tour with the Emirates Team, after a pair of seasons heading the now ill-fated South African Caudwell Racing organization. He finished in the points in a fine seventh place in Dubai after qualifying down in 12th spot of the start dock.

Beginning his 20th season is Italian Francesco Cantando. The driver who hails from Milan, running the Blaze Performance package, qualified 11th but was forced to drop to the back of the grid and moved up to take eighth position at days end. He picked up three valuable points in his 156th race start as he chases his first world title and his 13th career win.

Young Finnish driver Filip Roms did far better than his more celebrated BABA Racing teammate, Sami Selio. The 22-year-old driver finished ninth whilst two-time World Champion Selio never got more than 10 metres off the dock at the start then retiring to end a miserable weekend while hoping for a better beginning in pursuit of his third world title.



UIM F1H2O WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

after round 1

POS	NOS	RIDER	TEAM	POINTS
1	1	Philippe Chiappe	CTIC F1 CHINA TEAM	20
2	6	Alex Carella	TEAM ABU DHABI	15
3	4	Shaun Torrente	VICTORY TEAM	12
4	14	Jonas Andersson	TEAM SWEDEN	9
5	2	Xiong Ziwei	CTIC F1 CHINA TEAM	7
6	10	Duarte Benavente	F1 ATLANTIC TEAM	5
7	29	Ivan Brigada	EMIRATES RACING TEAM	4
8	24	Francesco Cantando	BLAZE PERFORMANCE TEAM	3
9	12	Filip Roms	BABA RACING	2
10	23	Bartek Marszalek	BLAZE PERFORMANCE TEAM	1
11	5	Thani Al Qamzi	TEAM ABU DHABI	0
12	50	Marit Stromoy	EMIC RACING TEAM	0
13	11	Sami Selio	BABA RACING	0
14	15	Jesper Forss	TEAM SWEDEN	0
15	28	Erik Stark	EMIRATES RACING TEAM	0
16	3	Nadir Bin Hendi	VICTORY TEAM	0
17	9	Christophe Larigot	F1 ATLANTIC TEAM	0
18	51	Mike Szymura	EMIC RACING TEAM	0

F1H2O

Roms, along with Polish driver Bartek Marszalek of the Blaze Performance Team, both struggled in qualifying. At the end however they finished up with valuable championship points when the race was over. Hopefully, this will propel them to better things when the series arrives in France in mid-July.

Other notables in the race that struggled included Marit Stromoy of the EMIC Team. Her weekend started well as she qualified just out the top-six in eighth position only to limp around for seven laps before retiring.

Hope for a home country victory was not to be for Emirati Thani Al Qamzi. The three time winner down the road in Sharjah, reached the final top-six shootout and started sixth, but was out of the event early on lap 11 and a major disappointment to his many fans that were in attendance.

So, with the results in on the opening event of the 2016 UIM F1H2O World Championship at the moment nothing has changed from 2015, with Philippe Chiappe and his French Moore designed boat winning for the fifth time in his last nine starts. The victory gives him 20 valuable points to kick off his dream of winning a third world title in the process.

However, seventeen other drivers from three various continents want to prove him wrong this summer in Europe.

The bad news for his competitors is, Philippe is on home waters and he has revenge on his mind from missing out on a "sure victory" a year ago on Lac Lemans.

Will history repeat itself in 2016 at the 20th Grand Prix of France and someone other than local boy Philippe Chiappe win the race? We'll know shortly. ■





OLA PORTIMAO! LIKE SEEING AN OLD FRIEND

F1H2O

It has been five long years, but if you ask F1H2O powerboat competitors who remember, more likely than not, they'll tell you that the Arade River in Portimao, Portugal is their favorite place to race on the UIM F1H2O World Championship tour year-after-year.


Why, is it the atmosphere, possibly? The racing paddock is right downtown within the lovely narrow streets of the port city of Portimao, which is one of the oldest communities on the picturesque Southern Algarve coast of Portugal.

Professional fishing has been the mainstay, along with boating, which has been a big part of life here for over 1,000 years. And as for the sardines, they are to die for and worth the trip just to enjoy their flavours night after night with a fine glass of Port at your side.

Tradition also plays a major part in the enjoyment of the experience with this Grand Prix returning after a five year hiatus marking it as the 14th event in the city and the 15th Grand Prix weekend in the country.

With that longtime tradition that dates back to 1999, the race fans here are knowledgeable. They are loyal and turn up by the thousands at each event knowing the sport and picking out their favorite drivers to cheer for. Most fans can recite by memory how each driver has done on the circuit year-after-year. And when the race weekend comes to a close, they show up in great numbers to celebrate with the winning drivers for the podium celebration.

Portimao's last Grand Prix, dating back to 2011, turned out to be an historic weekend for the sport. Marit Stromoy of Norway put her boat on pole position becoming the first woman in the history of professional

Portimao's last Grand Prix, dating back to 2011, turned out to be an historic weekend for the sport. 



F1H2O

motor sports to have ever achieved that goal beating sixteen men including two previous world champions.

Marit would make headlines throughout Europe that weekend when she and American driver Shaun Torrente crashed out spectacularly while fighting for the lead while on a re-start of the race with another American Jay Price going on for the victory.

Looking at the overall history of the event, well, it seems that winning success has been one of dominance. Winning streaks have become the norm here. In the spring of 1999 at the first Grand Prix of Portugal, Hall-of-Fame driver and ten-time World Champion Guido Cappellini of Como, Italy had a point to prove.

Guido, who hadn't won an event in his first five years of F1H2O racing, started to dominate in the 1990's having taken four titles in the previous six seasons. More importantly however, he hadn't done so since 1996 and was in a two-year dry spell when he arrived in Portimao.

Newcomer to the series, Scott Gillman of Los Angeles, California, brought his skills over from America and took away Guido's four year title domination in 1997 winning five of the eight races and putting notice to the rest of the world that he was going to be a real threat to Cappellini's dominance.

Meanwhile, in the 1998 season, a four way race to the championship saw Jonathan Jones of Wales steal victory in the jaws of defeat at the very last race in Abu Dhabi winning for the first time that season and earning his second and final UIM F1 H2O world title.

Guido Cappellini now knew he needed to do something spectacular to regain his momentum and turn the tide in his favor that first time he set eyes on the Arade River.

After a long winter of constant testing, Guido arrived in Portimao at the season's first event and won! He dominated the race and led every lap of the event. But this was only the beginning of this story. He won again in 2000 when fastest qualifier Gillman broke down in the race. In 2001 he won again from pole position.

Are you starting to see a pattern here yet?

Guido made it a little tougher on himself in 2002 winning from the fourth starting position, winning again in 2003. Five straight victories and he owned the circuit. Even his most spectacular blow-over, coming in qualifying, didn't deter him when he landed miraculously upright not hurting either himself or the boat and would go on to win the next day.

In 2004, it was Scott Gillman's year to shine as he dominated that season winning six of nine events, including being the first driver to defeat Guido in Portugal since the races inception back in the 20th century!

The crowd went wild at the podium celebration that afternoon, cheering a new driver who's warm and laid back "So Cal" personality was in stark contrast to the husky Italian that they had become used to on the top step of the podium.



F1H2O

Scott Gillman was coming off his championship season in 2005 and Cappellini wanted the title back in the worst way. These two giants of the sport fought every moment they were on the water from the opening lap of practice to the final two turns of the last lap of the Grand Prix that year. The race became an instant classic.

Guido was on pole for the race while Scott lined up next to the Northern Italian in second. Guido held point from the start and kept the Southern California driver behind him.

The four-time North American champion wasn't going to let his rival get away. Just past the halfway point of the race Gillman tried to pass Cappellini on the right hand turn on the far side of the circuit. Scott arrived too fast and spun out, killing the engine while almost tipping the boat over in the process. He re-fired the engine and took off after Cappellini, who by now had built back up an almost insurmountable 11-second lead.

But, it wouldn't last.

The Emirates Team Racing owner was at the time driving for Abu Dhabi and he was slowly reeling in Guido a little at a time. Then, with less than seven laps to go, Gillman passed Cappellini and took the lead and actually started to pull away from the Italian.

It looked as if Gillman was going to take his second straight victory in Portugal.

Then, on the very last lap, Scott's engine hesitated and started to misfire. With just two corners to go Cappellini jumped past him like a cat and with

less than 50 metres to go nosed him out for a heart stopping victory and a jumpstart to another championship year.

The 2006 race was Cappellini's seventh and final race win in Portimao. The ten-time World Champion watched as other new drivers started making their mark on the Arade River.

Meanwhile, Scott Gillman would win his 23rd and final race of his F1H2O career in Portimao in 2007. Sadly, he was forced to retire because of health reasons two races later in Xian, China while leading the championship.

In 2008 another American driver Jay Price from New Orleans, Louisiana, who had proven to be such a dominate driver in the up and coming F2 ranks, won for the first time in his career on his way to his World Championship season.

Price's driving was almost as eventful as the 2005 race, as he charged up from the fifth qualifying position and made a classic move on race leader Ahmed Al Hameli, who had led from the start, to slide past him with just a few laps to go giving his Qatar Team their first ever Grand Prix victory celebration.

Al Hameli, the 36 year-old from Abu Dhabi who now drives for the Emirates Team, has had the magic touch in Portimao since that point, winning every race he's finished on the Arade. He hopes to get the magic back since he hasn't won an event since returning from surgery back in 2012.

F1H2O

Marit Stromoy and American driver Shaun Torrente crashed out spectacularly while fighting for the lead while on a re-start of the race.



The 2009 season was unusual in the fact that the UIM F1H2O World Championship ran back-to-back events on both Saturday and Sunday. Team Abu Dhabi dominated with Al Hameli winning on day one, while his teammate and friend Thani Al Qamzi returned the favour winning on day two. Team Abu Dhabi has now won the last three races and four of the last five in Portimao dating back to 2007.

Other racers have made their mark on the edge of the Algarve including Italian Francesco Cantando. The 20 year racing veteran from Milan and who drives for the Blaze Performance Team has never won the race, however, has finished second five different times and who's six podium finishes are second only to Cappellini's eight.

In the meantime, all eyes every year they race in Portimao are on native son Duarte Benavente of the F1 Atlantic Team who made his F1H2O debut at the first event back in 1999. The diminutive driver from Azeitao seems to be in the mix every year with his high water mark coming in race number two of the 2009 season when he collected his first podium.

Drivers not having good success at the Grand Prix in Portimao and hoping to find a solution to their struggles, include two-time World Champion Sami Selio of Finland as the Baba Racing Team leader who in 13 previous starts has no victories and just one podium dating back in 2002 when he finished second to Cappellini.

Selio's luck a year ago in Porto didn't help his resume despite taking pole position for the race was first passed by eventual winner Philippe Chiappe of France and later would crash out when he and Italian Alex Carella got together on the race circuit for no points.

To put it in better perspective, in his last six races in Portugal, he was disqualified in 2010, failed to finish both races in 2009, penalized into eighth place in 2008 and after his fourth place in 2011 again crashed out last year in Porto.

The one driver everyone is going to keep close tabs on will be Frenchman Philippe Chiappe who is now a back-to-back world title holder and won the last Grand Prix of Portugal in Porto in 2015.

Here in Portimao, well a pair of back-to-back ninth place results in 2011 and 2010. In 2009 he raced twice and was 16th and 12th. In 2008 he was penalized and was classified 10th. In 2007 he was eighth after qualifying 10th. In 2006 he started 19th and finished a fine eighth. In 2005 he qualified 13th and finished there in 13th. In 2004 he started 19th and finished 14th. In his first year in Portimao in 2003 he started 16th and finished 12th.

The picture for the two-time defending world champ is one of proving a point and that is to win or at least reach the podium, something he hasn't done in 10 races on the Arade River.

So much history, so much drama and once again back to take centre stage in late July for the continuation and rebirth of a truly great race venue and city, Portimao, Portugal along the lovely Algarve coast. ■



F4-S

THREE WAY FIGHT AT THE TOP IN F4-S TROPHY

Just two points separates the top three in the F4-S Trophy Championship as they head to Evian in France for the first time and for round 2.

After the opener in Dubai it is Team Abu Dhabi's Rashed Al Qamzi who holds the slightest of bragging rights, leading from start-to-finish to win race 2 and take overall victory.

Second place overall went to race 1 winner Ferdinand Zandbergen, the BABA Racing driver

finishing third in race 2, with Team Sweden's F4-S newcomer Kalle Viippo completing a good debut with two second places to secure third spot.

Al Qamzi made a great start in race 2 passing pole sitter and teammate Mohammed Al Mehairbi, who dropped to fifth, and was comfortably clear of Viippo, Zandbergen and CTIC F1 China driver Wu Bingchen when the yellow flag came out with Team EMIC's Tom Chiappe stopping temporarily out on the circuit.

The nine-boats were held under yellow for four laps before being released with Al Qamzi again racing off into the distance and going on to finally claim his first win and an overall victory.





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F4-S TROPHY CHAMPIONSHIP 2016

after round 1

POS	NOS	RIDER	TEAM	POINTS
1	56	Rashed Al Qamzi	TEAM ABU DHABI	32
2	29	Ferdinand Zandbergen	BABA RACING	32
3	41	Kalle Viippo	TEAM SWEDEN	30
4	88	Bingchen Wu	CTIC F1 CHINA TEAM	18
5	3	Mohamed Al Yamahi	VICTORY TEAM	14
6	27	Ali Bin Shaiban	EMIRATES RACING TEAM	8
7	7	Tom Chiappe	EMIC RACING TEAM	7
8	8	Paolo Longhi	BLAZE PERFORMANCE TEAM	6
9	65	Mohammed Al Mehairbi	TEAM ABU DHABI	5
10	10	Jeremy Brisset	F1 ATLANTIC TEAM	0

F4-S

Viippo held off a strong challenge from Al Mehairbi who made up three spots at the restart and took the chequered flag in third only to be penalised a lap for not being in the correct position when the green flag went up, dropping him to sixth.

Despite constant pressure Wu Bingchen was unable to close on and pass Zandbergen, finishing the race in fourth ahead of Victory Team's Mohamed Al Yamahi.

Zandbergen made the best possible to start to his season with victory in race 1. The BABA Racing driver from Veenendaal in Holland trailed pole-sitter and early race leader Mohammed Al Mehairbi for nine laps before taking advantage of backmarkers to make the pass and hit the front.

For the next six laps he defended his lead from the ever present Al Mehairbi, but the Abu Dhabi driver's race came to a premature end on lap 16, crashing out trying to regain the lead.

Al Mehairbi's dramatic exit brought out the yellow flag, with Zandbergen leading the depleted line-up of eight boats around for six laps to take the chequered and his first F4-S win.

Team Sweden's F4-S Trophy newcomer Kalle Viippo was untroubled throughout in third spot for the majority of the race despite losing his cowling on lap 3, then elevated to second finishing ahead of Abu Dhabi's Rashed Al Qamzi who fended off a race long challenge from CTIC F1 China's Wu Bingchen. ■



AQUABIKE



EXPECTATIONS HIGH FOR SPECTACULAR SEASON AHEAD

The eagerly anticipated start to the 2016 UIM-ABP Aquabike Class Pro World Championship comes with expectations running high for another spectacular and nail-biting season with competitors and organisers looking to start with the same high octane action and levels of intensity that rounded out 2015 so spectacularly.

Ahead of the season-opener in Otranto in Italy on 10-12 June the future of the championships are bolstered by the signing of a multi-year agreement between the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM), the sport's world governing body, and promoter and organiser Aquabike Promotion (ABP).

The multi-year partnership is testament to, and recognises the work carried out by ABP and strengthens the basis and foundations for the future development of Aquabike competition worldwide, with the focus on different fields including sport development, safety, education, anti-doping and sustainability. "We are extremely pleased to have renewed our partnership and extend our thanks to the UIM for their vote of confidence in ABP," said Aquabike Promotion director Raimondo di San Germano. "It is recognition of what has been achieved during our first term and gives us a solid foundation to expand the development of the sport into new areas."



JEREMY PEREZ LOOKING
FOR THAT ELUSIVE WORLD
TITLE





“The contract with ABP represents a fresh start in the relations with all UIM promoters and I would like to thank ABP for having shared and supported this new philosophy since the beginning of the negotiations,” said Dr. Raffaele Chiulli, president of UIM, who also underlined. “Starting from Aquabike, the UIM intends to have a more central role in the promotion of its sport disciplines, cooperating more closely and actively with the promoters in view of increasing the UIM’s assets value and giving stability to the movement.”

During ABP’s initial five year tenure it has organised and managed upwards of 34 events with the UIM-ABP Aquabike Class Pro World Championship seeing a marked and rapid development. Last season was a fitting celebration of the sport’s 21st anniversary with over 80 competitors from 23 countries pulling on the prestigious UIM-ABP vest and the trend of increasing competitor numbers and broadening country participation looks set to continue in 2016.

This year’s calendar backs-up the optimism and highlights the sport’s upwards spiral, with new venues knocking on the doors of ABP as the sport embarks into its third decade and 22nd year, Otranto leading off followed by Denia in Spain two weeks later [23-25 June] where a significant landmark in the championship is reached.

Since 1995 the World Championship has been the

exclusive domain of the sport’s ‘show case’ categories Runabout GP1, Ski GP1 for men and women and Freestyle. But that will all change [in Denia] with the addition of Runabout GP2 & 3, Ski GP2 & 3 and Ski Junior all lining up in a UIM sanctioned World Championship event. “We see this as great opportunity to broaden the awareness and develop the sport. The decision to introduce these classes at World Championship level was taken by the UIM Aquabike Committee as a result of the success in terms of the participation in these categories in the European Continental Championships last year.” said Raimondo di San Germano. “In 2016 the additional categories will compete in Denia only but we will add more events in Europe from 2017 and onwards.”

After Denia and a summer recess the tour heads east to China in September [22-24] and to Shanghai for the first time and then to Liuzhou in October [3-5] for its eighth visit with the season-finale in Sharjah in the UAE on 19-21 December.

Heading the line ups in Otranto will be a quartet of riders setting out on the road to defend their world titles; in Runabout Kuwaiti Youssef Al Abdulrazzaq, in Ski Austria’s Kevin Reiterer and France’s Jennifer Menard and in Freestyle, Slovenia’s Rok Florjancic.

Abdulrazzaq won the championship for the first time in 2013 and pulled off a last ditch title win in Sharjah last year passing points and race leader, and champion



elect, Jean-Baptiste Botti halfway round the final lap to steal the crown and will be looking kick start his season with a win and maximum points as he sets off in search of a third world title.

But the four-time Grand Prix and six-time heat winner will be the target for a raft of riders; desperate to get off to a good start and no doubt out for revenge will be Porto Vecchio resident Botti who will still be scratching his head trying to figure out how after winning four out of eight heats in 2015 the title eluded him – possibly two DNFs from winning positions and a DQ after winning!

Ganging up against the Kuwaiti alongside Botti

will be a trio of champions; his fellow Corsican and 2012 World Champion Francois Medori who has endured a poor run of form since landing the title, failing to win a heat or GP since and finishing on the podium just twice, two-time World Champion Teddy Pons, who earlier this year won his second Karujet title and two-time and defending UIM European Champion Jeremy Perez.

Also looking to be in the mix this year are Sweden's Lars Akerblom, French Champion Didier Chabert and Poland's Andrzej Wisniewski, all three finishing in the top ten in 2015.

Joining the tour this year is Runabout GP2

European Champion Allesio Schintu and one of the biggest international names out there, James Bushell, a multiple champion in the USA and Europe, two-time winner of the Kings Cup and 10-time UK National Champion.

In Ski the competition will be fierce and Reiterer will be the man with the target on his back after making a massive impact, dominating the class and winning the title in his rookie season. Gunning for him, and with good reason after he ended their five year reign as champions, will be three-time World Champion Jeremy Poret and elder brother and twice Champion Mickael. Both have upgraded this year, Jeremy running his own team and switching to a Bullet V2 hull, Mickael joining the OHC works team as their official rider.



EMMA-NELLIE ORTENDAHL
LAST YEAR WINNING HER
FIRST GRAND PRIX



Spaniard and European GP2 Champion Nacho Armillas, a multiple Grand Prix and heat winner is another likely to be amongst the front runners, with the likes of top-ten runners Stian Schjetlein, Tomaz Kete and the incomparable and two-time World Champion Alberto Monti who turns 50 in June.

Equally fierce will be the fight in the Ladies division, rolling out one of its strongest fields of recent seasons; Menard has proven what a feisty and tough competitor she is, overcoming niggling injuries in 2015 and coming from being behind in the points to retain her title at the final event in Sharjah.

A future champion in waiting is Swedish sensation Emma-Nellie Ortendahl, who at just 17 narrowly missed out on becoming the sports youngest champion taking the runners-up slot last year, winning her first Grand Prix and stepping onto the podium twice in her first full season. She is clearly fired up for 2016, has upped her training schedule and visited the states to join SAS Racing teammate Schjetlein to test the new ProForce-Kawasaki s-xr 1100 package that both will use.

Starting her first full season on the tour is Spain's European GP2 champion and world number three Beatriz Curtinhal. The youngster from Altea, who missed last year's first race, will be hoping to start this year as she left of last year, finishing on the podium in China and winning the Grand Prix of Sharjah.

For Estelle Poret, world number two in 2014, the first target this year is that elusive Grand Prix win after coming so close on several occasions.





The youngest of the Poret family racing dynasty, she is a proven heat winner and has made the podium five times and but for reliability issues in 2015 she would have more than likely bested her overall fourth place.

The 'senior' Lady of the tour is New Zealander Kylie Ellmers and if she gets her bike set-up and working without issues could well be a front runner and showed in Sharjah in heat 1 just how fast she is. Joining the tour this year are two newcomers stepping up from GP2, Virginie Morlaes and Lisa Caussin Battaglia.

In the upside down rather unique world of the Freestylers Slovenia's aerial aces Rok and Nac Florjancic head-up one of the strongest confirmed pre-season line-ups.

Following their series debut at the final event of the year in Liuzhou in China in 2011 the Slovenian brothers from Maribor have dominated this spectacular category, with the elder of the two, Rok, clinching his third consecutive world title in Sharjah in 2015, Nac lifting the title in 2012.

Both have impressive records, Rok's astonishing run of 12 straight GP and 25 heat wins ended by his brother in Qatar last year, and marked a turning point in their sibling rivalry with Nac finally emerging from his [Rok's] shadows after finishing runner-up to him 10 times winning two Grand Prix on the bounce and pushing his brother all the way in a nail-biting title fight and missing out by a mere seven points.

Facing them this year is the ever-present and very colourful Italian Roberto Mariani, the defending European Champion and world number three, and countryman Alberto Camerlengo, making his UIM-ABP World Championship tour debut.

Returning to the series for the first time since taking third overall in the championship in 2013 is Aleksandar Petrovic, with the exciting and very talented Rashed Al Mulla from the UAE, and the only person other than Rok or Nac to win a heat in four years, completing the line-up. ■

ROK FLORJANCIC CHASING FOURTH WORLD TITLE



AQUABIKE



SEVEN STAGES – 400KMS – FOUR GRUELLING DAYS

...months of training, a year of preparation, hard work, sweat, tears, focus and all for this...the struggle ahead over miles and miles of rough seas and ravaging waves, heart pounding, muscles aching, adrenalin pumping...all this to be the strongest, the fastest to be champion of the most gruelling jet ski race in the world....

AQUABIKE

**TEDDY PONS MASTERS
19TH EDITION OF
KARUJET
TO CLAIM SECOND TITLE**

“There are no magic...it's training training training, work work work...I think the days will be very very long...very hard...the challenge is big... but I think if I can do I will do...”
Teddy Pons



It began in 1998 as a challenge between two friends Eric Paulin and the late Jacques Boucher racing around the stunning Caribbean Island and has since achieved iconic and legendary status, and in 2006 was officially recognised by the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM), the world governing body for powerboating, affording it World Championship status.

A minutes silence in tribute to the late Jacques Boucher, co-founder of Karujet, marked the moment as 45 riders set out to tackle stages 1 & 2 of the 19th edition of the daunting Karujet, described by competitors past and present as an ‘animal that is hard to tame’ and the toughest in offshore racing and known for breaking bikes, bones and bodies.

France’s Alex Barret had led last year’s event going into the final day before breaking and was looking to make up for that disappointment. He won the opening stage and grabbed second in stage 2 to end the day top of the 35-rider GP1 standings with a 35.87second advantage over Guadeloupe duo Pascal Gounouman and stage 2 winner, Yann Panama.

In GP3 it was a three-way dice between America’s Chis MacClugage, France’s two-time winner of the Karujet, Cyrille Lemoine and local rider Vincent Thomas, with MacClugage coming out on top.

Barret extended his lead by just a few seconds at the end of day two with four of the seven stages run to lead by 43 seconds.

Chasing the GP1 leader were countrymen and two superstars of Runabout, 2012 world champion Francois Medori and two-time world champion and 2011 Karujet winner Teddy Pons.

Medori took the honours in stage 3 to grab his first win and clawed back time over Barret who finished second ahead of Pons.

His second place in stage 4 behind winner Pascal Gounouman took more time out of Barret, who finished in eighth, to move him up from fourth at the end of day 1 and into second place in the standings. Fifth place for Pons behind Cedric Ramassamy and Yann Ponama elevated him from fifth to third.

In GP3 day 2 was not good for the early leader Chris MacClugage who failed to start stage 3 and was classified ninth in stage 4. Taking full advantage was two-time Karujet winner Cyrille Lemoine who won both stages to move into a comfortable 14:18.191 second lead over Vincent Thomas with Didier Merles Des Iles over 16 minutes off the pace in third.

Saturday’s fifth stage belonged to Teddy Pons picking up his first stage win and seeing his two main rivals in GP1, who headed him after day 2, Alex Barret and Francois Medori both abandon

the stage and drop to ninth and tenth in the overall standings.

Pons won the stage by 37 seconds from Marc Forbin who moved up into third spot behind Yann Ponama who came in 5:30s behind the stage winner.

In GP3 stage honours went to Vincent Thomas, edging Cyrille Lemoine by nine seconds with Ludwig Rutil coming home in third. The result kept Lemoine in control and in front heading into the final day with over four minutes in hand over Thomas and a massive 50 minute plus cushion over Rutil.

Teddy Pons held his nerve on the final day of the 19th edition of the Karujet to win the GP1 title for a second time, with Cyrille Lemoine adding to French celebrations with victory in GP3.

Pons headed into the final day with a solid six minute plus advantage over Yann Ponama but still had to negotiate the final two stages which he did with a measured drive and despite a heart-stopping moment on the penultimate lap when his engine stopped, finishing fourth in both stages to take overall victory by 5:58s from Ponama with Pascal Gounouman winning stage 6 to move him up into third overall. “It’s a dream for me because now I have won the Karujet twice,” said Pons. “It’s an incredible feeling. I am very, very happy and thank everyone who has helped me.”



Despite the disappointment of not being in a position to fight for the title after their early challenge evaporated on stage 5 Alex Barret and Francois Medori ended the event finishing first and second in the final stage, Barret taking 13th and Medori 10th in the final standings.

Lemoine made no mistakes in his quest for the GP3 Karujet title extending his overall lead and securing an impressive victory and a third Karujet crown, winning stages 6 and 7 to win by 4:28.191s from Vincent Thomas, with Didier Merles Des Iles third. ■

TOP SIX FINAL CLASSIFICATIONS

RUNABOUT GP1

- 1 Teddy Pons (14) 5:17:37s
- 2 Yann Ponama (98) + 5:58s
- 3 Pascal Gounouman (27) + 9:58s
- 4 Marc Forbin (65) + 11:51s
- 5 Anthony Granger (19) + 30:50s
- 6 Christophe Lycaon (82) + 55:27.411s

RUNABOUT GP3

- 1 Cyril Lemoine (9) 6:05:45.568s
- 2 Vincent Thomas (1) + 44:28.191s
- 3 Didier Merle Des Iles (48) + 40:02.444s

KARUJET WINNERS

- 2006 – Cyrille Lemoine (fra)
- 2007 – Davy Vaitilingdon (glp)
- 2008 – Cyrille Lemoine (fra) /
- 2009 – Dustin Farthing (usa)
- 2010 – Bruno Pastorello (fra)
- 2011 – Teddy Pons (fra) /
- 2012 – Davy Vaitilingdon (glp) / 2013 – Marc Forbin (glp)
- 2014 – Ugo Fidelin (mtq) /
- 2015 – Jean-Baptiste Botti (fra)
- 2016 – Teddy Pons (fra)**



AQUABIKE





EUROPEAN ENDURANCE CHAMPIONS CROWNED IN SOLENZARA

AQUABIKE





EUROPEAN ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP GET UNDERWAY IN SOLENZARA



A glittering array of World Champions lined up amongst the 35-strong entry for the UIM-APP Aquabike Class Pro European Endurance Championship in Solenzara, Corsica, France on 29 April – 1 May.

The riders in the three categories, Runabout GP1, 2, 3 faced three gruelling heats over a five kilometre, anti-clockwise 13-pin circuit, with qualifying and heat 1 on the Saturday and heats 2&3 on the Sunday.

The pick of the pairings in GP1 brought together offshore and endurance legend Jean Bruno Pastorello and the charismatic and feisty Corsican race ace Jean-Baptiste Botti, a formidable duo who amongst their successes have both won the legendary Karujet, arguably the toughest event in the world, Pastorello in 2010 Botti last year.

2012 Runabout GP1 circuit World Champion Francois Medori, from Ghisonaccia, partnered Alex Barret, with Ski GP1's double World Champion Mickael Poret switching formulas and racing with Alain Tarzia.

Amongst the entry were a clutch of riders making the long trip from Guadeloupe, the home of the famed Karujet, Lucas and Anthony

Granger, Pascal Gounouman racing with Yann Ponama and Vincent Thomas competing in GP3.

At the end of heat one it was Pastorello and Botti who grabbed the points' advantage in GP1, taking the chequered flag after 2:01:52.69s and 28 laps to win by 46.61s from Medori and Barret, with Granger and Granger a lap down in third. In GP 2, Cedric Lamy sits in top spot after coming home in fifth overall to head the class with Merle des Iles and Tarzia leading the points in GP3 after finishing in seventh.

Heat 2 saw Francois Medori and Alex Barret pile the pressure on overnight points leaders' Pastorello and Botti after taking the win to set up a Grand Stand finale in the deciding heat.

Medori and Barret clocked up 35 laps over the 2:03:10.5s to win from Pastorello and Botti by 20.66s, the top two now on the same points, 45, with a winner take all decider in heat 3. Third place went Alain Tarzia and Mickael Poret.

In GP2, Cedric Lamy extended his lead with his second straight win, with Bruno and Podda in second ahead of Barbier, Merles des Iles and Tarzia taking their second heat win in GP3.

With the title on the line it was Jean Bruno Pastorello and Porto Vecchio resident Jean-Baptiste Botti who held their nerve winning the final heat in GP1 to win the UIM-APP Aquabike Class Pro European Endurance Championship.

Lining up for heat 3 it was a straight winner-take-all encounter between Pastorello and Botti and Francois Medori and Alex Barret and at the end of the third two-hour session in two days it was Pastorello and Botti who prevailed, clocking 36 laps in 2:02:35.00s to take the chequered flag 34.29s ahead of their title rivals.

Alain Tarzia and Mickael Poret took third in the heat, but it was Lucas and Anthony Granger who grabbed the final overall podium slot.

In GP2 Bruno and Podda rounded out their weekend with a win and the title after leader and double heat winner Cedric Lamy failed to go the distance in heat 3, ending the weekend in third overall behind Aurelien Barbier.

Title honours in GP3 went to Merle des Iles and Tarzia, who rounded off a perfect weekend with a hat-trick of wins. ■

2016 CALENDAR

2016 is another ground-breaking and challenging season for H2O Racing, with over 20 events planned in ten months, taking its UIM sanctioned Championships, Aquabike, F1H2O and Nations Cup to four continents.

NB: dates and locations subject to change

UIM F1H2O WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

2/4 March - Dubai, UAE
15/17 July - Evian, France
29/31 July - Portimao, Portugal
2/4 September - Harbin, China
1/3 October - Liuzhou, China
14/16 October - tba
4/6 November - tba, Thailand
7/9 December - Abu Dhabi, UAE
14/16 December - Sharjah, UAE

UIM H2O NATIONS CUP

19/22 September - Shanghai, China

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE CLASS PRO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - Circuit

10/12 June - Otranto, Italy
23/25 June - Denia, Spain
22/24 September - Shanghai, China
3/5 October - Liuzhou, China
21/23 October - tba
19/21 December - Sharjah, UAE

UIM-ABP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Offshore - (Karujet)

17/20 March - Petit Bourg, Guadeloupe, France

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Circuit

13/15 May - Porec, Croatia
22/24 July - Mirandela, Portugal

UIM-ABP EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Endurance

29 April / 1 May - Solenzara, France





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