

H2O Magazine

N° 1 | APRIL 2017

H2O RACING
POWERBOAT PROMOTION



F1H2O

ALL SET FOR A VINTAGE SEASON AS DRIVERS LOOK TO CHALLENGE AND UNSEAT CHAMPION CHIAPPE

AQUABIKE

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR FASCINATING SEASON

TIMING FOR CHAMPIONS

Precision, accuracy and advanced technology: BRM watches are unique just as the FIH2O racing world. Beginning from 2016, BRM will be featured in an utterly dynamic sport where drivers push their limits to be the best.

The FIH2O BRM timepiece is capable of withstanding the criteria of extreme use. BRM is now the Official Timekeeping partner of the FIH2O World Championship. BRM - Timing for Champions



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Info

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H2O RACING

POWERBOAT PROMOTION

H2O Racing is an international sports management, marketing and media company responsible for organising and promoting events in powerboat and jet ski racing – two of the most spectacular and entertaining sports on water.

The multi-faceted company, founded by Nicolo di San Germano in 2011, takes care of all commercial activities relating to three Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) sanctioned properties; the F1H2O Powerboat World Championship, the Aquabike Circuit World Championship and the Nations Cup Powerboat World Series.

H2O Racing is made up of a group of dynamic professionals with over 30 years of experience in the sporting and event management sector, and a great passion for the industry.

President: Nicolò di San Germano

h2oracing.net



UNION INTERNATIONALE MOTONAUTIQUE - UIM

The UIM is the world governing body for all Powerboating activities. It is fully recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and is a member of the Association of the IOC Recognised International Sports Federations (ARISF) and of SportAccord for whom the UIM President serves respectively as President and Vice President.

The UIM has 59 affiliated National Federations; Circuit, Offshore, Pleasure Navigation and Aquabike are the main disciplines. The UIM has signed a Cooperation Agreement with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) to further its range of environmental initiatives, share expertise and work together for "greening" the Sport.

President: Dr. Raffaele Chiulli

uimpowerboating.com

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MAJOR RESHUFFLES IN F1H2O DRIVER LINE UPS ADDS SPICE TO SEASON AHEAD



In one of the busiest and most unpredictable pre-seasons in terms of line ups, a late burst of multiple driver reshuffles has added extra spice to the 2017 UIM F1H2O World Championship.

As three-time world champion Philippe Chiappe sets out on the defence of his title, the France-based CTIC F1 Shenzhen China Team confirms an all-French line up, with Peter Morin brought in to take over from Xiong Ziwei, who remains as a reserve driver.

An unseen and unexpected change brings two big names together under

one umbrella with Ahmed Al Hameli and Shaun Torrente teaming-up in the rebranded Scott Gillman Victory Team and a further rebranding realignment sees EMIC Racing morph into Emirates Racing, the driver line up of Marit Stromoy and Mike Szymura remains.

Despite a move to a UAE team announced earlier in the year, Australia's Grant Trask has surfaced in Portugal to join Duarte Benavente's F1 Atlantic outfit and, after much speculation, Jonas Andersson has confirmed that fellow Swede Erik Stark will join him at Team Sweden.



CHINA BUND EIPS HIGH PERFORMANCE ELECTRIC ENGINE MAKING WAVES IN WORLD POWERBOAT RACING

A landmark development in world powerboat racing will see the CHINA BUND Electric Integrated Propulsion System [EIPS] high performance marine racing engine be the engine of choice for the 2018 UIM-H2O Nations Cup World Series.

Mr Xin Chongjie, president of the highly successful Chinese conglomerate BUND Holding Group and Mr Dario Calzavara, managing director of the renowned Italian specialised engineering company Terra Modena Mechatronic, revealed details of this significant engineering

achievement at a press conference in Monaco in March, hosted by Dr. Raffaele Chiulli, president of the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM), the world governing body for powerboating.

The project to develop and produce the CHINA BUND EIPS has taken two years of research and development at Terra Modena Mechatronic's engineering facility in Reggio Emilia in northeast Italy and is fully endorsed by the president of the UIM and has received the full support of the president of H2O Racing, Nicolo di San Germano.

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SET FOR ANOTHER FASCINATING SEASON

The early signs are that 2017 looks all set to be another fascinating season for the prestigious UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship with big rider numbers from 23 countries expected.

The first batch of contracted riders to have signed on the dotted line includes a raft of World, European and National Champions, as well as an influx of newcomers.

In all categories the defending world champions head the listings; in runabout GP1 Kuwait's Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq is aiming to become the first rider to win three consecutive titles and take his tally to four.

In Ski the intense rivalry between the world's top four will continue, with champion Jeremy Poret chasing a staggering fifth crown and having to contend with the likes of Kevin Reiterer, Nacho Armillas and Stian Schjetlein.

Emma-Nellie Ortendahl will undoubtedly be the bookies favourite to retain her title, with Estelle Poret, Virginie Morlaes and Kylie Ellmers hoping they can produce something special to challenge the champion.

The man to beat in freestyle is defending and four-time champion



Rok Florjancic who will be looking to add to his current 17 Grand Prix win haul, his main opposition at this stage is brother Nac.

The UIM-ABP season starts with the European Continental Circuit Championship in Zadar, Croatia in May with round two in the Douro region in Portugal in June. A huge turnout of riders is anticipated in Zadar, with the town also hosting the Offshore Championship on the same weekend.

The venue for the UIM-ABP Aquabike Offshore World Championship in August in China is still to be announced, with the European Continental Endurance Championship taking place in Portimao, Portugal in October.

GUIDO CAPPELLINI HONOURED AT GLITTERING UIM GALA AWARDS



the inaugural UIM Hall of Fame which was presented to Formula 1 powerboat legend, Guido Cappellini. "It is indeed a great honour to be the first driver acknowledged by the UIM in this way," said Cappellini, a ten-time winner of the UIM F1H2O World Championship and a key contributor to improving safety in powerboat racing throughout his whole career who flew in from Abu Dhabi to accept his award.

More than 450 guests from sport, commerce, the boating industry and media gathered at the iconic Sporting Monte-Carlo, Monaco in March for the eighth Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) World Champions Awards Giving Gala, sponsored by China's BUND Holding Group.

While the majority of the winners received recognition for their world titles, the UIM used the occasion to introduce a number of new awards including,

"To receive the nomination for my work towards increasing safety measures in our sport means far more to me than receiving it for my ten world titles. Our sport's history is full of wonderful competitors and achievements so to be honoured by the UIM in this way is without doubt one of the highlights of my career."

H2O RACING EXPANDING ITS ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

2017 sees H2O Racing take another step forward in its responsible approach to protecting the environment and has entered into partnership with Treadom to plant trees in Africa to offset its CO2 emissions. "As individuals we all have a responsibility to react and contribute to the growing concerns and issues facing the global environment", said H2O Racing president, Nicolo di San Germano. "As a company we have a responsibility to our stakeholders, to the countries and people where we are involved and to support them in respect of their environment."

H2O Racing's carbon neutral strategy is very much in line with the strong direction on environmental responsibilities taken and implemented by Dr. Raffaele Chiulli, president of the sport's world governing body, the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM), and its close working relationship with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP).

UIM WORLD CHAMPIONS AWARDS GIVING GALA

Representatives of H2O Racing, the F1H2O and Aquabike World Championships were amongst the many guests from sport, commerce, the boating industry and media gathered at the iconic Sporting Monte-Carlo, Monaco in March for the eighth Union International Motonautique (UIM) World Champions Awards Giving Gala.



2016 WORLD CHAMPIONS

▶ PHILIPPE CHIAPPE (FRA)
2016 UIM FIH2O WORLD CHAMPION



▶ RASHED AL QEMZI (UAE)
2016 F4-S H2O RACING TROPHY CHAMPION



▶ TEAM RUSSIA
2016 UIM H2O NATIONS CUP WORLD SERIES WINNERS

▶ 2016 UIM-ABP AQUABIKE CIRCUIT
WORLD CHAMPIONS
JEREMY PORET (FRA)
SKI DIVISION



▶ 2016 UIM-ABP AQUABIKE
CIRCUIT WORLD CHAMPIONS
YOUSEF AL ABDULRAZZAQ (KUW)
RUNABOUT



▶ 2016 UIM-ABP AQUABIKE
CIRCUIT WORLD CHAMPIONS
EMMA-NELLIE ORTENDAHL (SWE)
SKI LADIES



▶ 2016 UIM-ABP AQUABIKE
CIRCUIT WORLD CHAMPIONS
ROK FLORJANCIC (SLO)
FREESTYLE

F1H2O

F1H2O

ALL SET FOR A VINTAGE
SEASON AS DRIVERS LOOK
TO CHALLENGE AND UNSEAT
CHAMPION CHIAPPE





In the year that the sport's World Governing Body the Union Internationale Motonautique (UIM) celebrates its 95th anniversary, its flag ship international series, the UIM F1H2O World Powerboat Championship, which has spanned four decades sets out on its 34th season and sees H2O Racing's president, Nicolo di San Germano, celebrate his 25th anniversary as its promoter.

The entry of nine teams and 19 drivers from 12 countries that are set to go head-to-head is loaded with talent, boasting three world champions and eight drivers who have taken Grand Prix victories.

2016 will be a hard act to follow and one that undoubtedly belonged to Frenchman Philippe Chiappe who sealed a third successive world drivers' title with two Grand Prix wins and four podiums, as well as winning the BRM Pole Position Championship, the Fast lap Trophy and guiding CTIC F1 Shenzhen China to the Team's Championship.

But his apparent dominance and clean sweep of titles masked a thrilling and enthralling season, which bodes well for 2017 with a raft of drivers capable of and intent on dethroning him.

Over the course of last year's seven Grand Prix, six drivers from six teams picked up race wins. Five drivers topped the time sheets in BRM Qualifying, with four different boat manufacturers, Moore, BABA, DAC and Molgaard all gracing the top step, which further cemented the UIM F1H2O World Championship's stature as the world's number one international powerboat series as it eagerly looks forward to another vintage year.

Seven Grand Prix across Europe, China, Asia and the United Arab Emirates are announced for 2017, and for the eighth time in the championship's history the season-opener will take place in Portimao at the 16th Grand Prix of Portugal, the 15th to be held on the Arade River. From there the championship heads north to the idyllic spa resort of Evian, France, on the shores of Lac Lemman for its third visit.

From Europe the tour heads east to China for its 16th year of racing and a return to Harbin, the capital and largest city of Heilongjiang province in the North East, with a second race in China and a race in Asia to be announced.

The championship will climax at its two most traditional and established venues in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah which boast hosting 41 Grand Prix between them.

In one of the busiest and most unpredictable pre-seasons in terms of line ups, who goes where and drives for who, a late burst of multiple driver reshuffles has already added extra spice and intrigue to the season ahead.

As three-time world champion Philippe Chiappe sets out on the defence of his title, the France-based CTIC F1 Shenzhen China Team confirmed an all-French line up, with Peter Morin set to make his F1H2O debut and is brought into the team to take over the seat of Xiong Ziwei, who remains with the team as reserve driver along with Nelson Morin.

Chiappe, at 53 and a veteran of 108 Grand Prix, is looking to emulate 10-



F1H2O

Chiappe, at 53 and a veteran of 108 Grand Prix, is looking to emulate 10-time champion Guido Cappellini





The team ran a series of tests in March and early April ahead off the season opener, with Selio looking to take a third consecutive pole position in Portugal and his first win.

time champion Guido Cappellini and become only the second person to win four championships on the bounce, but team manager Philippe Dessertenne has stated that 'the pressure on them is probably greater than ever if they are to maintain their top billing'.

It has been a fascinating rise to the top for Chiappe, who after making his debut in 2002 had to wait 11 years and 86 races for his first victory, which came in Kiev in 2013, and another year for his first pole position, in Abu Dhabi. His three-year title winning run since 2014 has seen him add a further 6 race wins and 10 podium finishes to his total podium tally of 29. He will line up in Portimao looking for his Grand Prix hat-trick in Portugal and a second straight win on the Arade River circuit.

Peter Morin, Chiappe's son-in-law, is an experienced racer and by no means a 'rookie' and has been part of the team for many years. He has won multiple French Championships in S3000 and World Endurance Championships, he finished runner-up in the F2 World Championship in 2014 and alongside Chiappe has won the Rouen 24hr four times.

So where is the challenge to Chiappe and CTIC F1 Shenzhen China in 2017 going to come from?





EMIC Racing morph into Emirates Racing, the driver line up of Marit Stromoy and Mike Szymura remaining in situ.

F1H2O

Amongst those leading the assault will be two-time world champion Sami Selio, who with Filip Roms, finished runners-up in the teams' championship, with Selio ending the year in third overall.

The 41-year-old Mad Croc BABA Racing driver heads into 2017 coming off the back of his best season since clinching his second world title in 2010.

Despite gifting his rivals a 50 point head start last year a resurgent Selio rediscovered his form, picking up two pole positions, a win and three further podiums.

Selio, who splits his time between Playa San Juan in Tenerife and Helsinki, sits third in the all-time rankings of podium successes on 44 behind Guido Cappellini (103) and Scot Gillman (53), the Finn racking up 13 Grand Prix wins, 15 second and 16 third placed finishes, as well as starting from P1 25 times.

Confirmed alongside Selio and starting his seventh season in the top-flight is the ever-improving 23-year-old Filip Roms from Espoo, who is also coming off the back of a strong showing in 2016 in which he took his best race finish with second in Evian in France and best qualifying position in P2 behind his teammate in Harbin, China and rounding out his year in sixth in the overall standings.

The team ran a series of tests in March and early April ahead off the season opener, with Selio looking to take a third consecutive pole position in Portugal and his first win. "We aim to ensure that this year we are ready from race 1 and the whole team is very motivated. For me a third world title is completely realistic to achieve. There is no other objective we can



aim for. I am already anxiously looking forward to the start of the season," he said.

Probably the biggest news to unravel pre-season was the unexpected change that brings two big names together under one umbrella, with Ahmed Al Hameli and Shaun Torrente teaming-up in the rebranded Scott Gillman Victory Team and a further rebranding realignment which sees EMIC Racing morph into Emirates Racing, the driver line up of Marit Stromoy and Mike Szymura remaining in situ.

The pairing of Al Hameli and Torrente unleashes a formidable driver and team title challenge, Al Hameli running in a BABA Torrente a Moore, and it will be intriguing to see how the two fare as teammates after their rather public 'spat' and heated exchange of words in Sharjah last year.

Al Hameli's return to form and to the top step of the podium in qualifying and his race win Liuzhou was one of the highlights of 2016, but the Abu Dhabi resident, who has won seven Grand Prix, taken a further 11 podium finishes and started from pole ten times, will be hoping his 2017 season is not as blighted with as many technical issues and crashes as he looks to improve on a career-best ever fourth overall in the championship standings. He starts in Portimao looking for his third win in the Algarve.

Teammate Torrente must surely be wondering if the world title is ever going to come his way after coming so close on several occasions – but could 2017 be his year?

One of only two drivers to score points in every Grand Prix in 2016 and the only driver to carry the title fight to Chiappe to the last race, he was by far the most consistent performer last season with a win, three thirds and three fourth-placed finishes to end the year as championship runner-up for the second time, also finishing third overall twice.

Torrente is a fierce competitor and will be expecting to be challenging for race honours from the outset and looking to add to his CV of 17 podiums, including four wins and three pole positions from 34 GP starts.

It is no surprise that Norway's Marit Stromoy enjoys and relishes returning to Portimao, the venue where she claimed her first and only pole position in 2011, but she will be hoping for a big improvement on overall results in 2017 after a disappointing tenth overall last season with just three top-six finishes as she goes in search of her second Grand Prix victory.

Mike Szymura starts his second term in the top-flight after a cautious but solid debut season picking up four points and will again run a



Teammate Torrente must surely be wondering if the world title is ever going to come his way after coming so close on several occasions – but could 2017 be his year?



F1H2O





F1H2O

Dragon F1 Powerboat, but this year extensively modified by boat building consultant David Burgess and Jonathan Jones, at his Cardigan Bay facility. "The work has taken about 10 days and the changes are significant, and which we hope will help move Mike [Szymura] up the field and put Dragon Powerboats on a par with other manufacturers." said Jonathan Jones.

One man hoping the form that he produced during and especially at the end of 2016 carries over is Jonas Andersson, the Team Sweden owner-driver ending a six year win-drought and two year wait to grab his third pole position, then taking two in two races.

Andersson ended last year in fourth overall, his highest finish since 2008, and sets out on his 12th campaign and will be targeting to improve on a career third best championship finish.

But the big news coming out of the Swedish camp, and after much speculation, is that Andersson's fellow-countryman Erik Stark joins the team and replaces Jesper Forss.

For 29-year-old Stark it is a return to the team he made his F1H2O debut with in two races at the end of 2012. The four-time F2 World Champion sat out 2013 but was back with Nautica the following year, switching camps and colours to team-up with Ahmed Al Hameli at Emirates Racing in 2015. In his relatively



Duarte Benavente was one of only two drivers in 2016 to finish in the points in all races.



Cappellini has confirmed a three boat line up for 2017 in their bid to regain the team title it won in 2015 and a first driver's title under his tutelage.



F1H2O

short 20 Grand Prix career he has finished on the podium three times and started from pole once.

If ever there is a team that will be intent and focussed on upping their game this season it is the mighty Abu Dhabi outfit.

By its own very high standards, the team led by Guido Cappellini since 2015 under achieved last year despite a promising start.

Cappellini has confirmed a three boat line up for 2017 in their bid to regain the team title it won in 2015 and a first driver's title under his tutelage.

Spearheading the attack is three-time world champion Alex Carella, his hat-trick of titles coming with Qatar before making the switch in 2015, with teammates Thani Al Qemzi and 'rookie' Rashed Al Qemzi, who made his F1H2O debut at the end of last season in Sharjah, his reward for winning the F4-S Championship. "All three will drive the same boats as last year for the first race in Portimao and after that we will decide about new modifications and strategy," said Cappellini. "Everyone has been testing in Abu Dhabi, in particular Rashed, because he has very limited experience at this level."

Cappellini also alluded to a backroom restructuring, "We're working very hard and this year we will not be working with Brendan Power for engines, 'my team will work on them', the same people that allowed me to win 10 world championships."



Both Carella and [Thani] Al Qemzi are proven winners; Carella, 32 from Piacenza in Italy has an impressive strike rate since his championship debut in 2010, taking 12 wins, a total of 26 podiums and 12 pole positions from his 45 GP starts, with Abu



Cantando is one of the most experienced off all the drivers and starts his 21st campaign.



F1H2O

Dhabi resident Al Qemzi taking seven wins, 23 podiums and two pole positions.

Duarte Benavente was one of only two drivers in 2016 to finish in the points in all races and will be looking to kick start his season with more of the same at his home Grand Prix and in Portimao in particular, where he made his F1H2O debut in 1999 and in 2009 grabbed a podium third in race 2.

The F1 Atlantic team has undergone a second driver change in as many seasons, and despite a move to a UAE team announced earlier in the year, Australia's Grant Trask has surfaced in Portugal as Benavente's teammate.

The 28-year-old from Brisbane, who followed in his father's and uncle's footsteps last year to make his F1H2O debut in Abu Dhabi, missed out on points initially but delivered a very credible top 12 qualifying performance then finishing in sixth with five points in Sharjah.

Italian outfit Blaze Performance retains its driver line up with the experienced Francesco Cantando once again joined by Poland's Bartek Marszalek.

Cantando is one of the most experienced off all the drivers and starts his 21st campaign. He has the second highest career points of the current crop of drivers with 922.5. His 12 Grand Prix victories and 42 podiums and five pole positions from 168 starts, makes him one of the most prolific scorers of points in the series history.



Marszalek starts his seventh season on the tour and will be looking to start 2017 with the form he produced in Sharjah last time out, earning his best ever showing in qualifying with P6.

The final piece in the 2017 team and driver jigsaw puzzle is the confirmation that Cedric Deguine's Maverick F1 Team will join the UIM-F1H2O tour full time this season, with fellow Frenchman Amaury Jousseume as the second driver. ■

ALGARVE Portimão

Southern Portugal all year round

Turismo de
Portimão
Promotion Bureau



FIH20
U.I.M. WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
WILL VISIT
PORTIMÃO ON
21-23 APRIL



PORTIMÃO



GOLF



PRAINHA



AUTÓDROM

INAUGURAL SEASON 1981

(no World Championship 1987 – 1989)

32 COUNTRIES**34TH SEASON****13 WORLD CHAMPIONS****7 MULTIPLE WORLD CHAMPION**

Guido Cappellini (ITA) 10

Scott Gillman (USA) 4

Philippe Chiappe (FRA) 3

Alex Carella (ITA) 3

Renato Molinari (ITA) 3

Sami Selio (FIN) 2

Jonathan Jones (GBR) 2

45 GRAND PRIX WINNERS

The F1H2O World Championship is a multiple Grand Prix series taking place in Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Points allocated at each Grand Prix count towards the overall World Championship standings.

(1st 20, 2nd 15, 3rd 12, 4th 9, 5th 7, 6th 5, 7th 4, 8th 3, 9th 2, 10th 1)

A Grand Prix weekend consists of two/three practice sessions, official qualifying, race.

Qualifying : 60 minutes

Q1: 20 minutes, top 12 go through (times reset)

Q2: 20 minutes, top six go through (times reset)

Q3: top six, two flying laps

Grand Prix: min 40 min / max 60 min

RACE BOATS

single-seater, enclosed cockpit, tunnel-hull catamarans

Construction: carbon fibre/composite

Hull: 6 metres

Width: 2.1 metres

Weight: 390kgs

Engine: Mercury 2.5litre

HP: +/- 400

Top Speed: 220km/h – 136mph

HALL OF FAME WORLD CHAMPIONS

Year	Driver	Country
2016	Philippe Chiappe	France
2015	Philippe Chiappe	France
2014	Philippe Chiappe	France
2013	Alex Carella	Italy
2012	Alex Carella	Italy
2011	Alex Carella	Italy
2010	Sami Selio	Finland
2009	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2008	Jay Price	USA
2007	Sami Selio	Finland
2006	Scott Gillman	USA
2005	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2004	Scott Gillman	USA
2003	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2002	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2001	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2000	Scott Gillman	USA
1999	Guido Cappellini	Italy
1998	Jonathan Jones	Great Britain
1997	Scott Gillman	USA
1996	Guido Cappellini	Italy
1995	Guido Cappellini	Italy
1994	Guido Cappellini	Italy
1993	Guido Cappellini	Italy
1992	Fabrizio Bocca	Italy
1991	Jonathan Jones	Great Britain
1990	John Hill	Great Britain
1989	Not competed	
1988	Not competed	
1987	Not competed	
1986	Gene Thibodaux	USA
1985	Bob Spalding	Great Britain
1984	Renato Molinari	Italy
1983	Renato Molinari	Italy
1982	Roger Jenkins	Great Britain
1981	Renato Molinari	Italy

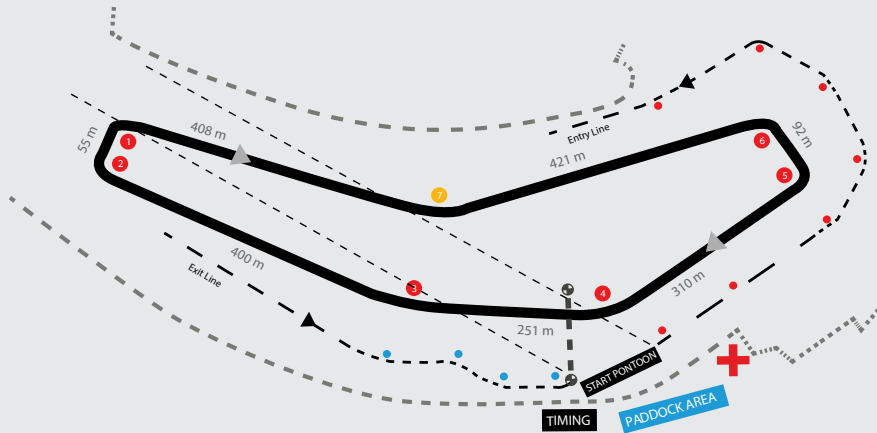
DRIVER STATS

Drivers	Country	GP's Entered	Race Starts	Points Overall	Poles	Wins	Podiums
Sami Selio	FIN	146	143	943,5	25	13	44
Francesco Cantando	ITA	168	164	922,5	5	12	42
Thani Al Qemzi	UAE	121	121	710,5	2	7	30
Philippe Chiappe	FRA	108	104	617	5	7	29
Alex Carella	ITA	45	45	484	12	12	26
Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE	73	69	405	10	7	18
Jonas Andersson	SWE	82	81	435	4	5	15
Shaun Torrente	USA	35	34	290	3	4	13
Duarte Benavente	POR	142	129	346,5	0	0	5
Erik Stark	SWE	20	19	85	1	0	3
Filip Roms	FIN	30	28	78	0	0	2
Marit Stromoy	NOR	71	66	152	1	1	1
Bartek Marszalek	POL	27	24	41	0	0	0
Cedric Deguisne	FRA	14	12	13	0	0	0
Grant Trask	AUS	2	2	5	0	0	0
Mike Szymura	GER	7	7	4	0	0	0
Rashed Al Qemzi	UAE	1	1	0	0	0	0

PORTIMAO, GRAND PRIX OF PORTUGAL - ALGARVE RACE MAP

ALGARVE , 21-23 APRIL, ROUND 1

9 teams – 19 drivers – 12 countries - Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, UAE, USA



TEAMS & DRIVERS 2017

CTIC FI SHENZHEN CHINA

- 1 Philippe Chiappe (FRA)
- 2 Peter Morin (FRA)

VICTORY TEAM

- 3 Ahmed Al Hameli (UAE)
- 4 Shaun Torrente (USA/*UAE)

TEAM ABU DHABI

- 5 Thani Al Qemzi (UAE)
- 6 Alex Carella (ITA/*UAE)
- 7 Rashed Al Qemzi (UAE)

F1 ATLANTIC

- 9 Grant Trask (AUS)
- 10 Duarte Benavente (POR)

MAD-CROC BABA RACING

- 11 Sami Selio (FIN)
- 12 Filip Roms (FIN)

TEAM SWEDEN

- 14 Jonas Andersson (SWE)
- 15 Erik Stark (SWE)

BLAZE PERFORMANCE

- 23 Bartek Marszalek (POL)
- 24 Francesco Cantando (ITA)

EMIRATES RACING TEAM

- 50 Marit Stromoy (NOR)
- 51 Mike Szymura (GER)

MAVERICK FI

- 73 Cedric Deguisne (FRA)
- 74 Amaury Jousseau (FRA)

PREVIOUS GRAND PRIX / WINNERS IN PORTUGAL

Year	City	Driver	Country
2016	Portimao	Philippe Chiappe	FRA
2015	Porto	Philippe Chiappe	FRA
2011	Portimao	Jay Price	USA
2010	Portimao	Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE
2009	Portimao R1	Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE
2009	Portimao R2	Thani Al Qamzi	UAE
2008	Portimao	Jay Price	USA
2007	Portimao	Scott Gillman	USA
2006	Portimao	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2005	Portimao	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2004	Portimao	Scott Gillman	USA
2003	Portimao	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2002	Portimao	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2001	Portimao	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2000	Portimao	Guido Cappellini	ITA
1999	Portimao	Guido Cappellini	ITA

WORLD CHAMPION

Philippe Chiappe (FRA)
CTIC FI Shenzhen China Team

WORLD GOVERNING BODY

Union International Motonautique (U.I.M)
President: Dr. Raffaele Chiulli

PROMOTER

H2O Racing
President: Nicolo di San Germano

THE YOUNGEST WHO SCORED

First Race	Filip Roms	18
First Pole	Alex Carella	25
First Win	Alex Carella	25
First Podium	Filip Roms	21
First Points	Filip Roms	18
First Title	Alex Carella	26

THE OLDEST WHO SCORED

First Race	Philippe Chiappe	39
First Pole	Philippe Chiappe	51
First Win	Philippe Chiappe	49
First Podium	Philippe Chiappe	45
First Points	Philippe Chiappe	40
First Title	Philippe Chiappe	51



AQUABIKE

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR FASCINATING SEASON

The early signs are that 2017 looks all set to be another fascinating season for the prestigious UIM-ABP Aquabike Circuit World Championship with big rider numbers from 23 countries expected.

The season kicks-off in June with back-to-back Grand Prix in the stunning region of Puglia in Italy, starting with a spectacular action-packed event in Porto Cesareo and the opening round of the Runabout and Ski GP1 and Freestyle world championship and the one event world championship for Runabout GP2, GP4 and Ski GP2 and GP3.

The championship will then immediately head north and across to the Adriatic coast to the picturesque city of Vieste.

In October the championship heads east to China for back-to-back events which will be announced in the coming weeks by the newly appointed exclusive partner of ABP in China, BUND Holding Group.

The first batch of contracted riders to have signed on the dotted line includes a raft of World, European and National Champions, as well as an influx of newcomers.

In all categories the defending world champions head the listings; in runabout GP1 Kuwait's Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq is aiming to become the first rider to win three consecutive titles and take his tally to four. But he faces some tough challengers, Briton James Bushell and Swede Lars Akerblom. Also looking to unseat the champion is world ranking number one, two-time championship runner-up and four-time European champion Jeremy Perez.

In Ski the intense rivalry between the world's top four will continue, with champion Jeremy Poret chasing a staggering fifth crown and having to contend with the likes of Kevin Reiterer, Nacho Armillas and Stian Schjetlein, not to mention his brothers Mickael and Morgan and veteran Alberto Monti.

Emma-Nellie Ortendahl will undoubtedly be the bookies favourite to retain her title, with Estelle Poret, Virginie Morlaes and Kylie Ellmers hoping they can produce something special to challenge the champion. ■



A RAFT OF RIDERS LINING UP TO TRY TO TAKE ABDULRAZZAQ'S RUNABOUT GP1 TITLE



Defending champion Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq knows there will be a raft of riders amongst the 16 from 12 countries already signed up for this season who will be queuing up to try to wrestle the Runabout GP1 world title from his grasp.

The rider from Kuwait successfully defended his crown last season racking up six race and three Grand Prix wins to take his world championship tally to three and earn himself a place in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Leading the campaign to try dethrone him will be last year's runner-up from Great Britain, James Bushell, who impressed on his UIM-ABP tour debut, taking pole position and a podium finish in his first outing, a podium on his second start then two race wins to lift the GP title in Shanghai.

Sweden's Lars Akerblom is another who is more than capable of running the champion close, has blistering pace is a proven winner and finished third overall last year for the second time in just three years of UIM-ABP tour action.



JAMES BUSHELL IMPRESSED ON 2016 DEBUT

Another to make his mark in 2016 was young Danish rider Marcus Jorgensen, winning both races on his debut and finishing second overall at the next GP before the 'wheels' spectacularly came off and derailed his title challenge.

One man looking to break his world title duck in seven seasons of campaigning is Jeremy Perez. The Frenchman has been so close on numerous occasions, finishing runner-up in 2014 and claiming third overall twice. And despite topping the prestigious UIM-ABP World Ranking since its introduction in 2013 and winning four European titles on the bounce, the world title has so far eluded him.

There is strength in depth in Runabout and a host of podium finishers all capable on their day of mixing it at the front, Christophe Agostinho, Andrzej Wisniewski and Johan Johanssen as well as five newcomers all looking to make a name for themselves; Burak Erverdi, Guy Greenland, Carl Lampe, James Masterton and Anton Pankratov. ■



RUNABOUT GP1 - provisional

- 1 Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq (kuw)
- 10 Christophe Agostinho (fra)
- 11 Marcus Jorgensen (den/*hun)
- 13 Burak Erverdi (ger)
- 15 James Bushell (gbr)
- 20 Guy Greenland (aus)
- 21 Patrice Pellier (fra)
- 25 Andrzej Wisniewski (pol)
- 30 Lars Akerblom (swe)
- 66 Frederik Brandao (ger)
- 84 Johan Johansson (swe)
- 86 Jeremy Perez (fra)

Carl Lampe (nzl)
James Masterton (aus)
Anton Pankratov (est)



ANOTHER TITANIC BATTLE FOR TOP SPOT ANTICIPATED IN SKI GP1

The battle for the 2017 UIM-ABP Aquabike Ski GP1 World Championship looks all set to deliver another titanic fight to claim top spot this season, with the world's top ten riders amongst the 16 contracted who have already signed up.

All eyes will be on the quartet that traded

wins, podiums and qualifying slots last year, with defending and four-time world champion, Jeremy Poret, the man they want to depose and the one with the target on his back.

Poret didn't have it all his own way in 2016, claiming four race wins and two GP titles, and knows that he will have to maintain a higher level throughout 2017 to hold onto his crown.

Chasing the most successful rider in the categories' history is a trio of top talent, Austrian Kevin Reiterer, Spaniard Nacho Armillas and Norwegian Stian Schjetlein who, with Poret, locked out the top four places in the first three Grand Prix of 2016 and each

grabbing a P1 slot in qualifying.

Reiterer will be desperate to regain the crown he won in 2015, and despite five race wins and three GP titles in 2016, a brace of DNFs and technical issues proved costly, but he ended last year as he intends to start this year, with victory.

Armillas will be thinking that it is about time he broke his title duck having come close on several occasions, the three-time GP and five-time race winner finishing third overall for the last two years, his best, runner-up in 2012, whilst for Schjetlein the first target will be to grab his first race and GP win.



But the top four will have to watch out for a trio of riders all capable on their day of stealing their thunder; multiple world champions and race winners Mickael Poret and Alberto Monti and the youngest of the Poret brothers, Morgan, who ended 2016 on the podium in Sharjah.

Joining the UIM-ABP tour will be series newcomers, Luc Hermesen from the Netherlands and Belgian rider Quinten Bossche, who won the Ski GP3 world title in Denia, Spain last year. Returning full time is Hungary's Gabor Szabo, Lukas Binar from the Czech Republic and USA rider Kyle Araiza. ■

SKI GP1 - provisional

- 2 Stian Schjetlein (nor)
- 7 Morgan Poret (fra)
- 10 Kyle Araiza (usa)
- 11 Markus Lutsokert (est)
- 18 Nicola Piscaglia (ita)
- 19 Gabor Szabo (hun)
- 30 Alberto Monti (ita)
- 36 Nacho Armillas (esp)
- 39 Lukas Binar (cze)
- 72 Jeremy Poret (fra)
- 73 Luc Hermesen (ned)
- 77 Mickael Poret (fra)
- 88 Daniel Svae Andersen (nor)
- 90 Kevin Reiterer (aut)
- 95 Axel Courtois (fra)
- 98 Quinten Bossche (bel)



Armillas set to challenge for title.





11-STRONG ENTRY IN SKI LADIES GP1

The continued upsurge in numbers in the ladies division in Ski GP1 is again reflected this season by an 11-strong entry of contracted riders representing nine countries, with numbers anticipated to swell during the year.

Heading up the entry is defending world champion Emma-Nellie Ortendahl, who will start as the odds-on-favourite and the target to chase for her 10 challengers.

Ortendahl, 18 from Alvangen, was outstanding last season winning nine out of ten races and matching those statistics in qualifying with nine pole positions.

Leading the field of ten challengers and looking to try to unsettle the champion is France's Estelle Poret, the only other rider last season to qualify in pole and take a race and Grand Prix win.

Three newcomers join the UIM-ABP tour this season; multiple Estonian champion Katriin Nilbe from Tartu, four-time Latvian champion Krista Uzare from Riga and Portuguese champion Joana Graca from St Estevão.

Starting her second season on the tour and looking for her first podium is France's Virginie Morlaes, one of the most consistent performers in 2016, taking a pair of third place race results, a string of top five finishes and just missing the podium, finishing fourth overall three times and finishing the year in fifth spot.

Arguably the busiest lady at events and the 'elder stateswoman'



France's Estelle Poret is the only other rider last season to qualify in pole and take a race and Grand Prix win.

of the 11 is Kylie Ellmers who seems to have a hand in prepping half the bikes in the paddock. The New Zealander, who lives and works in Melbourne, Australia, and races on a Russian license starts her third full season and will be looking to improve on last season's sixth overall.

Sofie Borgstrom, who made her debut in Castro in 2015 at just 16, is still the youngest competitor in the division at 18 and starts her second full season and is joined by elder sister Joanna who made the podium on her debut in 2014 in Milan, and along with seasoned- campaigner Marta Sorrentino and Lisa Caussin Battaglia will all be looking to challenge for top six slots. ■

SKI LADIES GP1 - provisional

- 4 Marta Sorrentino (ita)
- 7 Virginie Morlaes (fra)
- 13 Kylie Ellmers (nzl/*rus)
- 23 Sofie Borgstrom (swe)
- 25 Joanna Borgstrom (swe)
- 33 Katrin Niiibe (est)
- 44 Joana Graca (por)
- 66 Lisa Caussin Battaglia (mon)
- 95 Krista Uzare (lat)
- 96 Estelle Poret (fra)
- 98 Emma-Nellie Ortendahl (swe)



THE INSIDE-OUT UPSIDE-DOWN WORLD OF FREESTYLE

In Freestyle the man to beat is without doubt defending and four-time champion Rok Florjancic who will be looking to add to his current 17 Grand Prix win haul, his main opposition at this stage is most likely to be brother Nac.

The Slovenian duo from Maribor have locked out the title for the last five years, Nac winning in 2012 before big brother took over, the pair racking up an impressive 20 Grand Prix titles and 22 podiums.

The daunting task of facing off against them falls to 2015 world ranked number 1 and European Champion Roberto Mariani and fellow Italian Alberto Camerlengo. ■



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AQUABIKE

UIM-ABP WORLD EUROPEAN AND CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aquabike Promotion (ABP) and the UIM National Authorities in Croatia, Portugal and China face a hectic season ahead in this year's UIM-ABP Aquabike Circuit, Endurance and Offshore Championships.

With the rescheduling of the UIM-ABP European Continental Endurance Championship, due to take place in Portimao, Portugal on 28-30 April, to the 27-29 October the Aquabike season now kicks off in Croatia.

Two new venues host the this year's Circuit Championship for Runabout GP1, 2 and 4, Ski GP1 and 2, Ski Juniors and Freestyle on 19-21 May in Zadar, Croatia and then heading north to the Douro region in Portugal on 23-25 June.

The European rounds are as hotly contested and renowned for huge rider numbers and a gathering of big stars; in Runabout GP1 the man to try to dethrone is France's four-time and defending champion Jeremy Perez, with Dane Marcus Jorgensen carding a perfect score last season to win GP2.

In Ski GP1 the rivalry between champion Kevin Reiterer, Stian Schjetlein, Jeremy Poret and Nacho Armillas looks set to continue, Armillas also looking to defend his GP 2 title, with Emma-Nellie Ortendahl the hot favourite in the Ladies division and it is rumoured that she may well take on the men as well.



The UIM-ABP European Continental Endurance Championship take place in Portimao, Portugal on 27-29 October.

ZADAR, CROATIA HOST THE THIS YEAR'S CIRCUIT CHAMPIONSHIP FOR RUNABOUT GP1, 2 AND 4, SKI GP1 AND 2, SKI JUNIORS AND FREESTYLE ON 19-21 MAY





← **WILL JEAN-BAPTISTE BOTTI LINE UP TO DEFEND HIS ENDURANCE TITLE?**

Local Organiser Davor Hundic anticipates a huge turnout of riders in Zadar, a city of exceptional history and exceptional cultural heritage, with the town also hosting the Offshore Championship on the same weekend.

The circuit course runs close to the heart of the city with the offshore circuit running around the island of Otok Uglian. A full schedule of racing kicks off proceedings with practice and qualifying on the Friday, as well as a special VIP slalom competition – Races of Aces – featuring a raft of European rally drivers, the three motos in circuit and the two for offshore taking place on the Saturday and Sunday.

The venue for the UIM-ABP Aquabike Offshore World Championship on 17-20 August will be confirmed by ABP and the Chinese Motorboat Association (CMA) in the coming weeks. ■

2017 CALENDAR

2017 looks all set to be another fascinating and challenging season for H2O Racing, with over 20 events planned in nine months, taking its UIM sanctioned Championships, F1H2O, Aquabike and Nations Cup to four continents.

NB: dates and locations subject to change

F1

UIM F1H2O WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

21/23 April - Portimao, Portugal
30 June/2 July - Evian, France
11/13 August - Harbin, China
29 September/1 October - tba, China
10/12 November - tba, Asia
6/8 December - Abu Dhabi, UAE
13/15 December - Sharjah, UAE



AB

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE CLASS PRO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP - Circuit

2/4 June - Porto Cesareo, Italy
9/11 June - Vieste, Italy
1/3 October - tba, China
6/8 October - tba, China
23/25 November - tba, Middle East
20/22 December - Sharjah, UAE

AB

UIM-ABP WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Offshore

17/20 August - tba, China

AB

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Circuit

19/21 May - Zadar, Croatia
23/25 June - Douro, Portugal

AB

UIM-ABP EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Offshore

19/21 May - Zadar, Croatia

AB

UIM-ABP EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Endurance

27/29 October - Portimao, Portugal



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