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H2O Magazine

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H2O RACING
POWERBOAT PROMOTION



F1H2O

EVIAN ALL SET FOR THRILLER AS DRIVERS TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE THAT LIES IN WAIT ON LAC LEMAN

AQUABIKE

PORTO CESAREO AND VIESTE DOUBLE-HEADER TO KICK-START SEASON

the official championships magazine

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



Index

04 News

06 F1H2O

24 Aquabike

42 Calendar

01

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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

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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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CHIAPPE KICK-STARTS TITLE DEFENCE WITH WIN

Frenchman Philippe Chiappe sent a clear message to his championship rivals that he is intent on defending his title successfully, following his second consecutive win on the Arade River Circuit in the season opener at the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Portugal in Portimao in April.

The defending three-time champion and his CTIC F1 Shenzhen China Team were rightly cautious in their approach, with Chiappe producing a measured performance to seal

his eighth career win to grab the early points' advantage in the title race.

Mad Croc BABA Racing's Sami Selio was more than satisfied with second place and the 15 points better off than he was at this time last year, with Portugal's Duarte Benavente giving the Portuguese fans the home podium success they wanted to see.



DUBAI TO HOST ROUND OF AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Aquabike Promotion (ABP) has confirmed that Dubai, one of the world's most iconic cities, will host the penultimate round of the 2017 UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship on 23-25 November.

The agreement between ABP and DIMC (Dubai International Marine Sports Club) sees the world's most prestigious international

jet ski series returning to the venue that hosted the first ever UIM Aquabike World Championship during the one venue multiple race era that began in 1995.

The collaboration with DIMC further strengthens ABP's racing footprint and its sporting associations in the United Arab Emirates and the Middle East.

100 PLUS RIDERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOR AQUABIKE SEASON OPENER

2017 marks the 23rd season for the UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship, the sport's most prestigious international jet-ski series, which gets underway with a spectacular double header and back-to-back Grand Prix in Porto Cesareo and Vieste in Italy in June.

A spectacular weekend of racing is anticipated for

the first act of the 2017 UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship for Runabout GP1, Ski GP1 and Freestyle and the World Championship for Runabout GP2 & 4 and Ski GP2 & 3, with over 100 riders from 26 countries from as far-a-field as Australia and New Zealand, the USA, China and the Middle East and across Europe set to descend on Porto Cesareo.



TOUGH BREAK FOR ARMILLAS

Nacho Armillas' 2017 world and European title aspirations have been dashed after breaking his left leg at the opening round of the UIM-ABP European Continental Championship in Zadar on the final day.

The Spanish ace crashed heavily on lap 6 during the final Moto in Ski GP1, suffering a triple break to his [left]

femur and was taken to hospital to be operated on.

It was a crushing blow for Armillas, who earlier in the day completed the perfect start to the defence of his GP2 title, sealing overall victory with maximum points after rival Kevin Reiterer was disqualified for a non-conforming Ski.

PENAFIEL TO HOST EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL DECIDER

For the final round of the UIM-ABP Aquabike European Continental Championship the tour heads to the spectacular Douro Valley in northern Portugal and to the picturesque town of Penafiel on 23-25 June.

In addition to the multiple senior categories, Ski Juniors will get their opportunity to take centre stage and bid for world titles.



F1H2O



CHIAPPE

KICK-STARTS SEASON WITH WIN IN PORTUGAL





F1H2O

F

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approach, with Chiappe producing a measured performance to seal his eighth career win to grab the early points' advantage in the title race.

Mad Croc BABA Racing's Sami Selio was more than satisfied with second place and 15 points better off than he was at this time last year. Portugal's Duarte Benavente gave the

Portuguese fans the home podium success they wanted to see.

It was a testing race weekend for the 19 drivers and nine teams from 12 countries, with gale force winds howling and sweeping up the Arade River Estuary and playing havoc with the event schedule, forcing UIM Commissioner Luis Ribeiro to cancel Friday and then Saturday practice and move BRM Official Qualifying to Sunday race day.

There was little that teams could do. The paddock was eerily quiet and looking a little forlorn with pre-race preparations taking place apace behind closed doors. The first sign of any real activity and the welcome sounds of engines came on Saturday afternoon as a slight lull in the wind allowed teams to crane their boats, but still with difficulty, onto the water to turn over the engines.

On Sunday morning and to the relief of all, the winds of change finally arrived and the weather relented, the sun was out and the Arade was calm. The teams now encountered the daunting prospect of facing a 90-minute qualifying session and making



Mad Croc BABA Racing's Sami Selio was more than satisfied with second place.

UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Portugal Podium.



up time to try to find the right set-ups with just a two-and-a-half-hour window before lights out for the Grand Prix of Portugal.

Qualifying was as dramatic as it was intensely close with Francesco Cantando and Ahmed Al Hameli scuppering their race chances after crashing out and the top ten separated by a mere 1.14 seconds.

It was Victory Team's Shaun Torrente who made the early perfect start to the season grabbing the pole for the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Portugal with a 42.80 second lap.

Ahmed Al Hameli then followed up and made it a Victory Team one-two and went to better his teammate before he spectacularly crashed out after posting a time of 43.13s, his time matched by Team Sweden's Erik Stark. "It was almost a great start for us," said Victory team manager Scott Gillman, who later took the decision for a somewhat shaken Al Hameli to sit out the race.

The revised 90 minute format saw Torrente take control early on, setting his best time in the first 30 minutes then coming into the pits to fine tune his engine after starting with a very conservative set-up. "We have got a lot more in the tank and it was very hard not to go for a quicker lap at the end," said Torrente. "The lap that gave me the pole was with a load of boats around me and the engine tuned down. So yes we have a lot more to come with this Ron Andersson power unit."

Al Hameli was pushing his teammate all the way and went for one lap too many and made a mistake coming down the finishing straight letting the boat run out wide and was caught out by the wind, clipping a pontoon that launched the boat spectacularly end-over-end to the shock of F1H2O TV pundit Jonathan Jones. "That was a massive crash. I don't think I've ever

seen that kind of incident before."

Stark's third place on his first start with Team Sweden since 2012 upstaged his 'new' teammate Jonas Andersson who went eighth quickest.

Defending world champion and winner in Portimao last year, Philippe Chiappe, would have his work cut in the race out after qualifying in fourth with a 43.26s lap, Alex Carella a tenth slower in fifth, some relief for Team Abu Dhabi with both Al Qemzis struggling with engine issues and way off the pace. Portugal's Duarte Benavente gave the home crowd something to cheer with a solid top six.

It was a frustrating session for Italy's Francesco Cantando who was in the mix in the top six before he crashed out, his time of 43.52s eventually putting him seventh quickest. "I was really happy with the set-up and I was pushing quite hard because I felt for the first time in a while we had a very competitive engine," he said. "It was maybe a little mistake but you never know what happens in the turns and down by the bridge it was quite rough. I went in quite fast but settled the boat down then dropped into a big hole and over she went. It was a good time but unfortunately I also got wet!"

Qualifying had taken its toll, resulting in a somewhat depleted line up for the race, with both Team Abu Dhabi's Thani and Rashed Al Qemzi sidelined, Victory's Al Hameli watching from the side lines and despite making it to the pontoon, Cantando's Blaze limped off at lights out, the Italian driver retiring on lap 1.

Pole-sitter Shaun Torrente took off like a bat out of hell and immediately put clear water and a lot of time between him and the chasing pack.

Starting from third place off the pontoon Philippe Chiappe was immediately

F1H2O





F1H2O

up to second, passing Erik Stark by the end of the opening lap.

He trailed race leader Torrente for nine of the 50 laps, then hit the front as Torrente slowed and left the circuit with engine problems, a disappointing ending to the day for Victory Team after Torrente and Ahmed Al Hameli's one-two in qualifying.

For the remaining laps Chiappe's main challenge came from Stark who kept the pressure on the leader, but his hopes of a podium on his return to racing for Team Sweden faltered two laps short of the chequered flag with engine problems, retiring but classified in eighth, his teammate Jonas Andersson suffering the same fate after just five laps.

Mad Croc BABA Racing's Sami Selio made up for a frustrating morning session after qualifying in ninth and despite a three-way duel with Duarte Benavente and Bartek Marszalek early on, broke away and drove away to take his second consecutive podium in Portimao.

Benavente and Marszalek enjoyed a race long tussle, albeit somewhat hampered by back marker Mike Szymura, and the late demise of Stark upped the ante with a podium place at stake. Benavente managed to take advantage of a mistake from



Carella salvaging team pride and his early championship hopes with a valuable nine points.



It was a testing race weekend for the 19 drivers and nine teams from 12 countries, with gale force winds howling and sweeping up the Arade River Estuary.

F1H2O

Marszalek who clouted and destroyed a turn buoy and passed him four laps from the flag to take his second podium in Portimao.

The drive of the day belonged to Abu Dhabi's Alex Carella after a desperate weekend for the team, with Carella salvaging team pride and his early championship hopes with a valuable nine points.

Despite qualifying in fifth, an engine change forced the Italian to start from 15th off the pontoon, but he clawed his way through the pack to finish in a remarkable fourth place, after Marszalek was given a one lap penalty for taking out the buoy, a result he [Carella] described that it felt like a win after all the issues they had faced.

Cedric Deguisne marked his and his Maverick F1 Team's full time entry into the championship with sixth place, despite running for 40 laps with a sticking throttle and controlling the boat with the trim. But it was a disappointing debut for his teammate Amaury Jousseume, retiring on lap 27.

Australia's Grant Trask completed a very good day for the F1 Atlantic Team, driving from 16th to take seventh place, Chiappe's new CTIC teammate Peter Morin picking up two championship points on his F1H2O debut in ninth.

It was a disappointing day for Emirates racing with Marit Stromoy retiring on lap seven after qualifying strongly in tenth and teammate Mike Szymura disqualified for failing to respond to the race commissioner's instructions. It was also a frustrating day for Mad Croc's Filip Roms, a loose camera hitting the kill switch on his fuel pump and forcing him to retire on lap 31. ■



It was a frustrating session for Italy's Francesco Cantando who was in the mix in qualifying before he crashed out.



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EVIAN

ALL SET FOR THRILLER AS DRIVERS TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE THAT LIES IN WAIT ON LAC LEMAN

F1H2O

The idyllic internationally renowned Spa Resort of Evian-Les-Bains on the southern shore of stunning Lac Lemman, Europe's highest alpine lake, is the wonderful setting for round 2 of the 2017 UIM F1H2O World Championship and the 21st Grand Prix of France.

Of the 19 drivers from 12 countries who raced in Evian in the previous two years, most will realise that this holds little advantage or comfort and favours no one except possibly the bravest of the brave,

due to the unpredictability of the weather mixed with deceptive rolling waves and the often delayed wake of the busy Lac Lemman ferry traffic.

France is currently enjoying the limelight and top billing in world powerboat racing, boasting the home based world championship winning team, CTIC F1 Shenzhen China, the three-time and defending world champion Phillippe Chiappe running a hull built in France, and many countrymen who have dominated the World Endurance Championship and made the Rouen 24hr their own.

But one prize that eludes the country is that a Frenchman is yet to win an F1H2O Grand Prix on home waters.

Some of the biggest names in the sport have won in France; Van Der Velden the first winner in 1981 in Vichy, Molinari, Spalding, Jones, Boca, Cappellini, Gillman and of the current crop of drivers, Selio and Carella. But in the 20 previous Grand Prix hosted in Vichy, Lyon, Paris, Chalon Sur Saone, La Rochelle and Evian, French success has been limited with

F1H2O



Three time world champion Alex Carella targeting second win on Lac Lemans.



the highest placed finish credited to a certain Francois Salabert with fourth in Paris in 1984 and Cedric Deguisne last year.

Leading the charge to reverse the trend and, on current form the man most likely to succeed, is Chiappe who heads a quartet of Frenchman seeking to end the drought and give the crowd that gather in their tens-of-thousands what they have craved for so long.

But Chiappe, who has the early points' advantage in the title race after winning in Portugal, will be acutely aware that Evian is his bogey circuit and despite qualifying in pole in 2015 and leading the race has failed to get to the chequered flag on both occasions. But he will be hoping to break his run of bad luck, with new teammate Peter Morin looking to better his ninth place last time out on his debut and both drivers hoping they can repeat the success of a month ago, winning the Rouen 24hr together for a remarkable fourth consecutive year.

The team is as yet undecided which boat Chiappe will run, with CTIC racing manager Philippe Dessertenne stating 'that it will all depend on the outcome of the planned test of the new Moore Formula boat [in June] before we finally make a decision but all boats, old and new, will be in Evian'.

Finland's Sami Selio heads to Evian hoping he can improve on his previous outings and repeat his 2007 victory on French waters in La Rochelle, his first win in the F1H2O Championship. The Mad Croc BABA Racing driver is clearly back to the kind of form that won him two world titles and, unlike last year, has made a good start to this year with second place in Portugal.

After the frustration of failing to finish in the season opener teammate Filip Roms will be relishing returning to Lac Lemans where he took his first ever podium with third in 2015 and a year later produced one of his strongest ever drives to give him his highest placed finish in second.

F1 Atlantic's Duarte Benavente is enjoying a remarkable run and now sits as a lone driver to have finished in the points in the last eight races after his excellent podium third on home waters in Portugal and looks more than capable of bettering last year's seventh place, with new teammate and F1H2O rookie Grant Trask also impressing and will make his Evian debut after a second consecutive very solid points finish. "I am so proud of my team, the work we have done and the good run that we are on. Now we must focus and must keep it going in France." said Benavente.

Three time world champion Alex Carella has the dubious record of being first to take the chequered flag in Evian on both occasions, but is only credited with one victory in 2016 when he ruled the waves on Lac Lemans with the pole and race double.

The Italian driver was heroic last time out after a very troublesome season opener for Team Abu Dhabi, dragging his boat from 15th off the dock to fourth to grab valuable championship points and save the team's blushes and will be hoping for a trouble free outing in France. Teammates Thani and Rashed Al Qemzi were both side lined in Portugal and will looking to kick start their season in Evian. Team Manager Guido Cappellini said "we now fully understand the fuel related engine problems we suffered and are working hard to resolve it. All drivers will run the same boats and the team will test in June just before the race."



F1H2O

After a strong early showing in qualifying last time out before he dropped into a hole and turned over, ending his race chances, Italy's Francesco Cantando will line up in Evian looking to end his dismal run there and hopefully in his new Blaze which the team is working frantically to have ready for Evian, whilst his ever improving Blaze Performance teammate Bartek Marszalek will be eager to get back on the water looking to build on his excellent drive to fifth in Portugal, well aware that his post-race penalty cost him his first podium, and despite seeing blue at the end after a discussion with and ensuring an early bath for Emirates Racing's Mike Szymura.

French outfit Maverick F1 Racing will line up for their home Grand Prix for the first time as a fully-fledged 'full time' F1H2O Team, with Cedric Deguise returning to the venue where he enjoyed his best ever result with a fine fourth last year and after a solid season opener finishing in sixth despite technical problems, with teammate Amaury Jousseume looking to make up for the disappointment of retiring after 27 laps on his F1H2O debut.

Team Sweden's Erik Stark is another with a poor record on Lac Lemane and is yet to finish a race and, despite a flat battery costing him a podium in Portugal, the young Swede will be looking for more of the same pace he showed last time out after qualifying in third and running in second for all but two laps.

Teammate Jonas Andersson has two podiums on French waters, his last in Evian in 2015 and is targeting his first points of the season. The pair will run the same boats and have been testing back home in Sweden, trying different propeller set ups and running the engines on the dyno and on water with the same fuel used in Portugal to try to better understand how the engine reacts to it.

Despite having the fastest two boats in Portugal and pole-sitter Shaun Torrente leading the race by a country mile for 10 laps before his engine let go, Victory Team will arrive in Evian pointless with Torrente and especially Ahmed Al Hameli, after his spectacular crash, desperate to get their title challenges back on track.

Torrente will also be eager to get the win that eluded him last year after an uncharacteristic mistake cost him the lead and probably victory. The American is always the first to hold his hand up if he makes an error and equally shrugs off and accepts misfortune, always seeing the glass half full. "It was just one of those things. It happens. The engine breaks," he said. "The positive is I can't wait to start in France. We are really fast and I know I have the pace to beat the number 1 boat. We will keep our heads down and keep working," said Torrente.

Emirates Racing will also be looking to turn their fortunes around in Evian and post their first points of the year after engine issues side-



Emirates Racing will also be looking to turn their fortunes around in Evian and post their first points of the year.



F1H2O

lined Marit Stromoy last time out and teammate Mike Szymura was disqualified.

But Stromoy, who finished sixth in 2016, is already anxious about what lies ahead after her problems and despite taking the positives that her boat was quick in Portugal she says 'you can prepare as much as you want in terms of tuning, testing, new technology, but a different fuel can take matters out of your hands.'

Szymura is expected to switch back into his upgraded Dragon 'Evo' which has been considerably modified by Dragon F1 Powerboat boss Jonathan Jones, working closely with Dave Burgess and Dai Morgan.

Whilst both previous Grand Prix held in Evian have run to schedule and delivered up spectacular racing, both BRM Qualifying sessions succumbed to the weather and waves; in 2015 Q3 was rolled over to the Sunday and the following year a revised 20 and 30 minute format was also held on the Sunday.

There is much for the teams and drivers to think about as they prepare to take on the demanding 2080 metre Evian circuit and the notoriously unpredictable weather conditions and waves that the mighty Lac Lemman might serve up. ■



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: circa 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

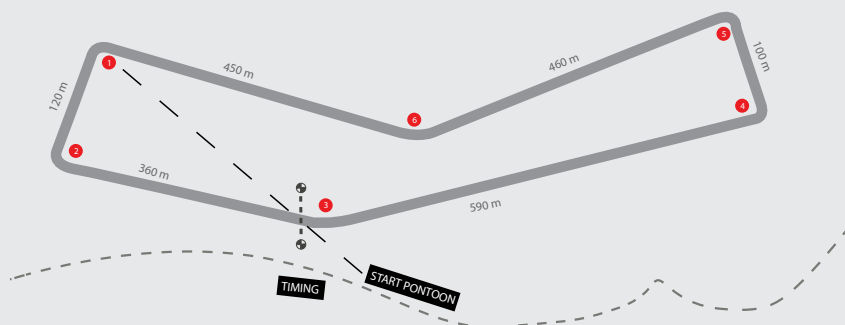
DRIVER STATS

Drivers	Country	GP's Entered	Race Starts	Points Overall	Poles	Wins	Podiums
Sami Selio	FIN	147	144	958,5	25	13	45
Francesco Cantando	ITA	169	165	922,5	5	12	42
Thani Al Qamzi	UAE	122	121	710,5	2	7	30
Philippe Chiappe	FRA	109	105	637	5	8	30
Alex Carella	ITA	46	46	493	12	12	26
Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE	74	69	405	10	7	18
Jonas Andersson	SWE	83	82	435	4	5	15
Shaun Torrente	USA	36	35	290	4	4	13
Duarte Benavente	POR	143	130	358,5	0	0	6
Erik Stark	SWE	21	20	88	1	0	3
Filip Roms	FIN	31	29	78	0	0	2
Marit Stromoy	NOR	72	67	152	1	1	1
Bartek Marszalek	POL	28	25	48	0	0	0
Cedric Deguisne	FRA	15	13	18	0	0	0
Grant Trask	AUS	3	3	9	0	0	0
Mike Szymura	GER	8	8	4	0	0	0
Peter Morin	FRA	1	1	2	0	0	0
Rashed Al Qemzi	UAE	2	1	0	0	0	0
Amaury Jousseume	FRA	1	1	0	0	0	0

EVIAN, GRAND PRIX OF FRANCE

JUNE 30/JULY 2, ROUND 2

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



DRIVERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (AFTER ROUND 1)

POS	BOAT	DRIVER	POINTS
1	1	PHILIPPE CHIAPPE	20
2	11	SAMI SELIO	15
3	10	DUARTE BENAVENTE	12
4	6	ALEX CARELLA	9
5	23	BARTEK MARSZALEK	7
6	73	CÉDRIC DEGUISNE	5
7	9	GRANT TRASK	4
8	15	ERIK STARK	3
9	2	PETER MORIN	2
	12	FILIP ROMS	0
	74	AMAURY JOUSSEAUME	0
	4	SHAUN TORRENTE	0
	50	MARIT STROMOY	0
	14	JONAS ANDERSSON	0
	24	FRANCESCO CANTANDO	0
	3	AHMED AL HAMELI	0
	5	THANI AL QEMZI	0
	7	RASHED AL QEMZI	0
	51	MIKE SZYMURA	0

BRM POLE POSITION CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (AFTER ROUND 1)

POS	BOAT	DRIVER	POINTS
1	4	SHAUN TORRENTE	20
2	3	AHMED AL HAMELI	15
3	15	ERIK STARK	12
4	1	PHILIPPE CHIAPPE	9
5	6	ALEX CARELLA	7
6	10	DUARTE BENAVENTE	5

TEAMS & DRIVERS 2017

CTIC FI SHENZHEN CHINA

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

EMIRATES RACING TEAM

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

MAD-CROC BABA RACING

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

FI ATLANTIC

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

VICTORY TEAM

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

TEAM SWEDEN

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

BLAZE PERFORMANCE

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

TEAM ABU DHABI

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

MAVERICK FI

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

PREVIOUS GRAND PRIX WINNERS IN FRANCE

2016	Evian	Alex Carella ITA
2015	Evian	Youssef Al Rubayan KUW
2007	La Rochelle	Sami Selio FIN
2000	Chalon Sur Saone	Guido Cappellini ITA
1999	Chalon Sur Saone	Guido Cappellini ITA
1998	Chalon Sur Saone	Guido Cappellini ITA
1997	Chalon Sur Saone	Scott Gillman USA
1996	Chalon Sur Saone	Guido Cappellini ITA
1995	Chalon Sur Saone	Guido Cappellini ITA
1994	Chalon Sur Saone	Jonathan Jones GBR
1993	Chalon Sur Saone	Fabrizio Bocca ITA
1992	Chalon Sur Saone	Anders Andersson SWE
1991	Chalon Sur Saone	Jonathan Jones GBR
1990	Chalon Sur Saone	Craig Bailey AUS
1985	Lyon	Bob Spalding GBR
1984	Paris	Renato Molinari ITA
1984	Lyon	Cees Van der Velden NED
1983	Lyon	Renato Molinari ITA
1982	Vichy	Renato Molinari ITA
1981	Vichy	Cees Van der Velden NED

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



F4-S

F1 ATLANTIC'S JEREMY BRISSET DOMINATES F4-S

Jeremy Brisset continued in 2017 where he left off last year, dominating the F4-S season opener in Portimao to complete a very good day for the F1 Atlantic Team with a lights-to-flag victory just moments after seeing team owner-driver Duarte Benavente take third place in the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Portugal.

With the F4-S champions of the last two years stepping up into the top flight, three-time champion Mike Szymura moving up in 2016 and Rashed Al Qemzi this year, the accolade of new champion is up for grabs and Brissett looks to be the pace setter.

The 21-year-old topped the time sheets in practice and qualifying and was equally strong in the race. He held off an early first lap challenge from Team Sweden's F4-S Danish debutant, Sebastian Haugaard, before racing off into the distance to take the chequered flag and win comfortably by 12.56 seconds.



The 21-year-old topped the time sheets in practice and qualifying and was equally strong in the race.





F4-S TROPHY CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

after round 1

POS	NOS	RIDER	TEAM	POINTS
1	10	Jeremy Brisset	F1 ATLANTIC TEAM	20
2	41	Sebastian Haugaard	TEAM SWEDEN	15
3	29	Kalle Viippo	MAD-CROC BABA RACING	12
4	27	Mansoor Al Mansoori	EMIRATES RACING TEAM	9
5	5	Mohammed Al Mehairbi	TEAM ABU DHABI	7
6	73	Corentin Guesnel	MAVERICK F1	5
7	3	Mohamed Al Yamahi	VICTORY TEAM	4
8	88	Bingchen Wu	CTIC F1 SHENZHEN CHINA	0

F4-S

The battle for the final podium slot was fought out between Mad Croc BABA Racing's Kalle Viippo and Emirates Racing's Mansour Al Mansoori, Viippo stealing it on the final lap having trailed in fourth for most of the race.

Team Abu Dhabi's Mohammed Al Mehairbi finished in fifth ahead of Maverick F4 newcomer Corentin Guesnel and Victory's Mohamed Al Yamahi. It was a disappointing start to the season for CTIC F1 Shenzhen China driver Wu Bingchen who retired early on lap 3.

The next round of the F4-S Championship is in Harbin, China on 11-13 August. ■





The next round of the F4-S Championship is in Harbin, China on 11-13 August.





AQUABIKE

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS SET FOR FASCINATING SEASON OF THRILLS AND SPILLS

2017 looks all set to be yet another nail biting season full of intense drama, complete dedication, thrills, spills and cutthroat competition, with the kind of sportsmanship and camaraderie that sets the UIM-ABP tour a part.

The season kicks-off in June with back-to-back Grand Prix in the stunning region of Puglia in Italy, with the Grand Prix of Italy on 2-4 June in Porto Cesareo and followed a week later by the Grand Prix of the Mediterranean in Vieste on 9-11 June.

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 penultimate and final acts of the year will be played out in the United Arab Emirates with the Grand Prix of Dubai on 23-25 November and the Grand Prix of Sharjah on 22-22 December.

This year marks the 23rd season for the UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship, the sport's most prestigious international jet-ski series and a spectacular weekend of racing is anticipated for the first act of 2017 with over 100 riders from 26 countries set to descend on Porto Cesareo, and the world's elite riders competing in the UIM-ABP world tour sharing the water with competitors bidding to win world titles in Runabout GP2 & GP 4 and Ski GP2 & 3, with riders from as far-a-field as Australia and New Zealand, the USA, China and the Middle East and right across Europe set to face

three days of intense non-stop competition.

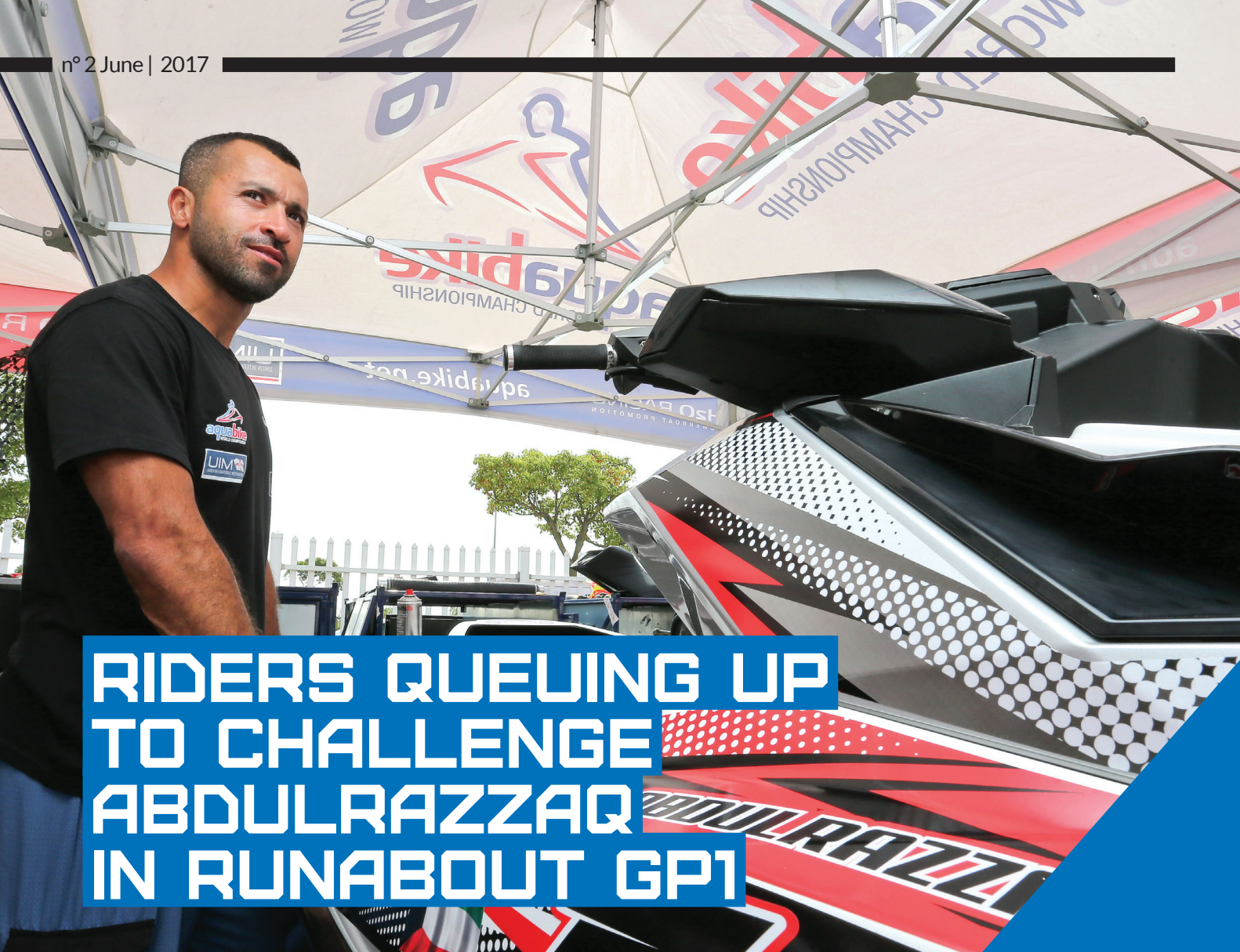
The line-up for the 2017 world championship and the year ahead is impressive and includes a raft of World, European and National Champions, as well as an influx of talented newcomers.

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 1, two-time championship runner-up and four-time European champion Jeremy Perez.

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

Missing from the fight will be Spain's Nacho Armillas who is likely to be out for most of the season after breaking his leg in Zadar at the opening round of the European Continental Championship.

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. ■



RIDERS QUEUING UP TO CHALLENGE ABDULRAZZAQ IN RUNABOUT GP1



Defending champion Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq knows he will face stiff opposition in Italy and throughout the year from a raft of riders 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.

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 Johansson as well as five newcomers all looking to make a name for themselves; Burak Erverdi, Guy Greenland, Carl Lampe, James Masterton and Anton Pankratov. ■





A FEROCIOUS FIGHT ANTICIPATED IN SKI GP1 TITLE

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 trio 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 duo of top talent, Austrian Kevin Reiterer and Norwegian Stian Schjetlein who, with Poret, shared top four finishes 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. For Schjetlein the first target will be to grab his first race and GP win.



Norwegian Stian Schjetlein

But the top three will have to watch out for another 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. ■

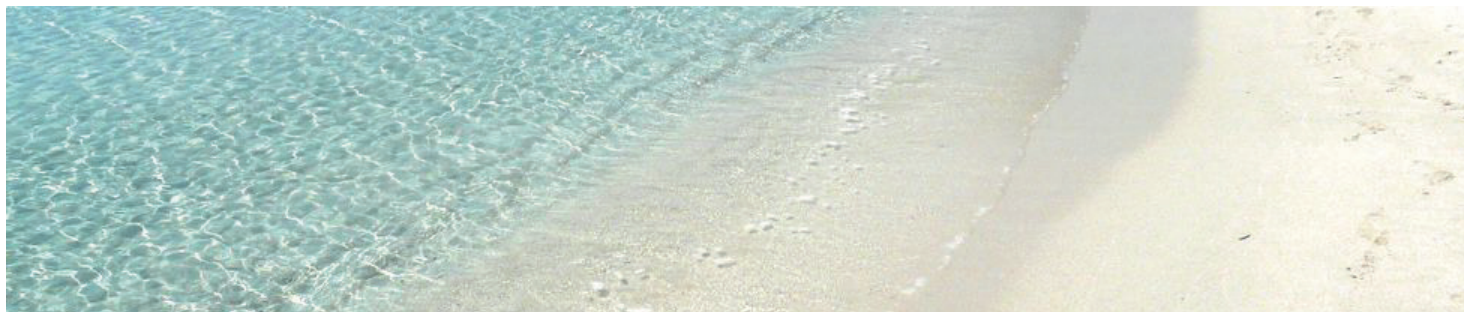


Armillas' World and European championship happens dashed after breaking his leg



PORTO CESAREO

PUGLIA, ITALY



UNIONE EUROPEA
POR FESR-FSE 2014 - 2020
Asse VI - Azione 6.8



REGIONE PUGLIA
ASSESSORATO INDUSTRIALE, TURISTICO E CULTURALE
GESTIONE E VALORIZZAZIONE DEI BENI CULTURALI



PROMOZIONE
Agenzia Regionale del Turismo





Reiterer will be desperate to regain the crown he won in 2015.





SKI LADIES GP1 GOING FROM STRENGTH-TO-STRENGTH



Emma-Nellie Ortendahl will start as the odds-on-favourite and the target to chase for her 10 challengers.

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' 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 15, is still the youngest competitor in the division at 17 and starts her second full season and is again joined by elder sister Jonna 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. ■



THE INSANE INSIDE-OUT UPSIDE-DOWN AERIAL WORLD OF FREESTYLE

F

reestyle is arguably the biggest crowd puller on the UIM-ABP tour Freestyle and 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 it 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. ■





REGIONE PUGLIA

ASSESSORATO INDUSTRIA TURISTICA E CULTURALE
GESTIONE E VALORIZZAZIONE DEI BENI CULTURALI



VIESTE PUGLIA, ITALY



UNIONE EUROPEA
POR FESR-FSE 2014 - 2020
Asse VI - Azione 6.8



PROMOZIONE
Agenzia Regionale del Turismo





AQUABIKE

ZADAR OPENS UIM-ABP AQUABIKE EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

T There was a huge turnout for the launch of the 2017 UIM-ABP Aquabike European Continental Championship, with 118 riders lining up for the opening round of Circuit and Offshore in Zadar, Croatia.

The action packed schedule over three days delivered multiple surprises, thrills and some painful spills, with many of the sport's biggest names struggling to find their form and overshadowed by some brilliant individual performance.

JORGENSEN THE STANDOUT RIDER IN RUNABOUT

Denmark's Marcus Jorgensen was the standout rider from day one; the absence of defending GP1 European champion Jeremy Perez left the door open for others to stake an early claim to the title and Jorgensen took full advantage, cruising to victory in the first two Motos and despite breaking in Moto 3 sneaked overall victory by a single point from the consistent Austrian Daniel Lasselsberger, finishing third, fourth and second.

Victory in Moto 3 secured third place for Italy's Alessio Schintu ahead of Austrian Markus Schick, who looked to be on course for the overall runners-up slot after finishing behind Jorgensen in the opening two Motos, but lost out after being disqualified in the last.



Jorgensen rounded out his weekend in Zadar dominating GP2, with a perfect start to his title defence, taking three wins and maximum points and was followed to the chequered flag each time by UAE rider, Ali Al Lanjawi, with Lasselsberger taking the final podium slot.

Spain's Jordi Thomas took overall honours in GP4, with Hungarian and French riders Oliver Gerencser and Laurent Escrig completing the podium.

In Offshore, Al Lanjawi won both heats to take victory in a cumulative time of 2:14:06.890s ahead of Croatia duo, Anthony Radetic and Tihomir Kotarski. Morocco's Yahya Rammah was challenging for a podium finish after taking third spot in Moto 1, but crashed out in Moto 2, sustaining head and back injuries.

MAURIN THE MAN IN CONTROL AND ON TOP IN SKI GP1

Raphael Maurin simply outclassed his UIM-ABP world championship rivals in Zadar to dominate the competition in Ski GP1 with the perfect scorecard.

The Frenchman made his first point by qualifying in pole and winning Moto 1 and then going on to complete his win hat-trick for overall victory.

Norway's Daniel Svae Anderssen delivered a very solid performance to record one of his best results in second spot, with Spaniard Nacho Armillas in third, despite crashing in Moto 3 and breaking his leg.

It was [also] a troublesome weekend for two of the pre-race favourites; defending champion Kevin Reiterer could only manage seventh in Moto 1, retired from the second but bounced back to finish second in Moto 3. Stian Schjetlein started well taking second spot ahead of Armillas, but joined the retirees list in the second Moto, managing only seventh in his final outing.

Swiss rider Alec Enderli grabbed overall victory with three wins out of three in Ski GP3, ahead of Portugal's Goncalo Rodrigues who followed Enderli home each time, with UAE rider Salman Alawadhi taking third overall.

Two wins gave Hungary's Marcus Erlach top spot in Ski Veterans, ahead of Moto 1 winner Dona Giuseepe and Janis Uzare, with Mattias Reinaas winning Ski Junior GP3.3 and Esteban Diaz Lopez in GP3.2.



TOUGH BREAK FOR ARMILLAS AFTER WINNING SKI GP2

Nacho Armillas' 2017 World and European title aspirations were dashed after breaking his left leg on the final day.

The Spanish ace crashed heavily on lap 6 during the final Moto in Ski GP1, suffering a triple break to his [left] femur and was taken to hospital to be operated on.

It was a crushing blow for Armillas, who earlier [on the Sunday] completed the perfect start to the defence of his GP2 title, sealing overall victory with maximum points after rival Kevin Reiterer was disqualified for a non-conforming Ski. Second place went to Svae Anderssen, with Estonian rider Marten Manni in third.

BRILLIANT BORGSTROM TOP IN SKI LADIES

Jonna Brogrstom sent a clear message to her world and European rivals that she very much intends to be in the fight for titles this year after producing a brilliant string of performances to take overall victory in the opening round.



Slovenian brothers Rok and Nac Flojancic started their year with a one-two to set up their anticipated season-long battle, with Roberto Mariani in third.



The Swedish rider was outstanding, taking all three Moto wins and maximum points to launch her 2017 international championship campaign in emphatic style.

Estonia's Katrin Nilbe, who joins the UIM-ABP world tour this year, followed Borgstrom to the chequered flag in all three outings, with France's Virginie Morlaes sealing the final podium slot.

It was a torrid race weekend for world and European champion Emma-Nellie Ortendahl, despite a promising start; mixing it with her male peers she produced an impressive fourth in qualifying and then grabbed pole in the Ladies division by over nine seconds. But that was as good as it got, finishing fourth in Moto 1, retiring after four laps in the second and failing to start Moto 3. ■



PENAFIEL (ENTRE-OS-RIOS) PORTUGAL

For the final round of the UIM-ABP Aquabike European Continental Championship the tour heads to the spectacular Douro Valley in northern Portugal and to the picturesque town of Penafiel on 23-25 June.

In addition to the multiple senior categories, the Ski Juniors will get there opportunity to take centre stage and bid for world titles. Last year's Ski Junior category was dominated by Estonian duo, Mattias Reinaas and Marten Manni, each taking maximum points in their respective classes, Ski GP3.2 and GP3.3 to clinch the titles.

AQUABIKE

The municipality of Penafiel extends within an area of 212.2 square kilometers of mountains, valleys and rivers, which can be brought to fruition from various spots and places like the beautiful water plains arising from the Tâmega reservoir or the steep slopes of the Douro River.

Penafiel is the centre for therapeutic treatments and spas, highlighted by the Inatel of Entre-os-Rios and the Termas de São Vicente, one Roman Spa dated 315 AD. Both spas are famous for the hyper-mineralized waters, that include concentrated sulphurous and carbonaceous alkaline silicates and fluoridated water, considered the most alkaline among the sulphurous waters of Portugal and Europe, with temperatures about 18.5 °C (65.3 °F), advocated for the treatment of respiratory diseases and musculoskeletal system ailments.

In the land of Sousa's valley, Tâmega and Douro, in the heart of the North of Portugal, stands an important architectural heritage of Romanesque origin, common traits that carry legends and stories born with the foundation of the Nationality which witness the significant role that this territory formerly played in the history of nobility and religious orders in Portugal.

Tourism is influenced by the staggering of religious and secular activities, but marked by special events throughout the year, particularly around the religious celebrations of Endoenças, at Entre-os-Rios, and São Martinho, at the city centre. This includes the literary festival Escritaria and the agricultural fair Agrival, which had its basis in the traditional medieval fairs.

In 2016, Penafiel was awarded with the Best Municipal Cultural Program of Portugal prize by the Portuguese Society of Authors (SPA) and was elected, among the region of Tâmega and Sousa, the best place to live and visit, according to a study by the international consultancy Bloom Consulting.

This inter-fluvial region has granite soils and is rich in water resources, allowing intensive agriculture and extractive industries.

The southwest extension of the municipality includes a complex of schist and Greywacke geology, resulting of mountainous, uncultivated and largely forestry lands.

Penafiel is around 30 kilometers from Oporto city and 40 kilometers from Oporto airport. ■

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 F1H20 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 - Dubai, UAE
- 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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