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H2O Magazine

N° 4 | NOVEMBER 2017

H2O RACING
POWERBOAT PROMOTION



F1H2O

CARELLA HOLDS THE
WHIP HAND IN TITLE RACE
HEADING INTO SEASON
SHOWDOWN IN THE UAE

AQUABIKE

DUBAI AND SHARJAH
GRAND PRIX TO DEFINE
TITLE RACE AND 2017
AQUABIKE CHAMPIONS

the official championships magazine

TIMING FOR CHAMPIONS

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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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Commercial partners



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AQUABIKE
aquabike.net

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Organisations

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

LONDON TO HOST RACE IN 2018

H2O Racing has confirmed that London will host a round of the 2018 UIM F1H2O World Powerboat Championship in June.

The news marks a welcome return of Formula 1 powerboat racing to the country's capital for the first time in 33 years with the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of London to take place in the iconic Royal Victoria Docks on 15-17 June.

The event will be organised by Championship Promoter H2O Racing in close collaboration with Chinese Sports Promotions Company Tianrong Sports. "We are absolutely delighted to be returning to one of the world's great capital cities," said H2O Racing President, Nicolo di San Germano. "The significance of the opportunity to race again in the heart of London, a city with a great sporting tradition, cannot be underestimated and provides a wonderful platform to further showcase our sport."



CHAMPIONSHIP SET FOR RETURN TO INDIA

H2O Racing has signed an MOU with the Government of Andhra Pradesh that opens the door for the world's flagship powerboat series to return to the subcontinent for the first time since 2004, with the event likely to be held in Amaravati.

Nicolo and Paolo di San Germano travelled to India to meet representatives of the Government of Andhra

Pradesh to lay the foundations and commit to the event. "We are excited at the possibility to be returning to India, to have the opportunity to be a part of the evolution of Amaravati and we look forward to a close working collaboration with the officials of the Government of Andhra Pradesh," said Paolo di San Germano.

JONES ENTERS THE DRAGON - PALFREYMAN TO MAKE F1H2O DEBUT



Jonathan Jones will run the latest incarnation of his Dragon F1 Powerboat in the final two rounds of this year's UIM F1H2O World Championship in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah in December, with Matthew Palfreyman taking the wheel to make his series debut.

The deal, brokered by Jones and Dave Burgess, will see 25-year-old Palfreyman become the first British driver to line-up in the world's flagship powerboat championship since 2010.

The striking looking Dragon was given a final shakedown

test on a lake in Staffordshire in October, with Palfreyman spending several hours out on the water testing various set-ups and a range of propellers with mentor Jones monitoring his every move! "It's coming together. I am very pleased with what I have seen today. So far so good," said Jonathan Jones. "The boat is new to Matt but he has got tremendous potential. He's young, has worked his way up through the ranks and is very enthusiastic. He is interested in every aspect, the set-up, the propeller choice, he watches, listens and is learning the boat very quickly."

THREE MOTO FORMAT FOR AQUABIKE TITLE DECIDERS

Aquabike Promotion, organisers of the prestigious UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship, has confirmed a three moto format for the Grand Prix to be held in the UAE in November and December.

The majority of competitors will adapt easily to this more demanding schedule, with the same format used in the European Continental Championship, and now means a maximum 150 points are on offer for round 3 in Dubai on 23-25 November and round 4 in Sharjah on 18-20 December.

The penultimate round will be held at Kite Beach, Jumeirah, one of Dubai's most pristine stretches of sand and a haven for water sports enthusiasts, with the finale on the stunning Khalid Lagoon in the heart of Sharjah.

In Runabout GP1 defending champion Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq is on top with 70 points, 20 clear of James Bushell with Lars Akerblom a further two points adrift.

The Poret brothers Jeremy and Mickael lockout the top spots in Ski GP1, 78 to 70, with rising star and UIM-ABP tour debutant Quinten Bosche in third with 66 points.

In the fight for the Ladies title Estelle Poret has a ten point advantage over defending champion Emma-Nellie Ortendahl, with Kylie Ellmers in third and enjoying her best season on the tour, whilst in the upside down world of Freestyle the head-to-head between the Florjancic brothers is set to continue, Rok currently holding a ten point lead over Nac.



TEAM SWEDEN CONFIRM EDIN IN THREE BOAT LINE UP FOR UAE RACES

Team Sweden boss Jonas Andersson has confirmed they will run a third boat in the final rounds of the season in Abu Dhabi on 6-8 December and a week later in Sharjah [13-15], with Erik Edin lining up to make his UIM F1H2O World Championship debut.

The news swells the ranks of driver entries for the final two races of the year to 21 with Abu Dhabi and Sweden running three boats and Jonathan Jones confirming the

Dragon-Palfreyman combo will align with Emirates Racing.

Edin, 27, from Stockholm started racing at the age of 14 competing in the sport250 class, then moving up to GT 15 and GT 30, picking up gold and bronze medals in the Swedish and World Championships. He stepped up into F2 in 2013, competing for the next two years against his now teammate Erik Stark. Edin finished runner-up in the UIM F2 World Championship in 2016 and this year clinched the F2 European title.

CARELLA ON TRACK TO LIFT FOURTH WORLD TITLE

A win for Alex Carella at Team Abu Dhabi's home Grand Prix on 6-8 December, the penultimate round of the season, will wrap up the 2017 title race and give the Italian his fourth UIM F1H2O World Championship.

Carella has had a standout season with two imperious pole

and race winning performances in France and in [Liuzhou] China either side of two fourth-placed finishes in Portugal and [Harbin] China. His third victory of the season would spark appropriate celebrations as the UAE capital city hosts its 25th UIM F1H2O Grand Prix.



F1H2O

CARELLA

IN FRONT AND IN CONTROL HEADING INTO TITLE RACE DECIDERS





A

lex Carella holds the whip hand in the title race as the 2017 UIM F1H2O World Championship reaches the business end of the season with the traditional end of year showdown in the United Arab Emirates along the Corniche in Abu Dhabi and on the Khalid Lagoon in Sharjah in December.

Abu Dhabi is the longest serving venue in the sport's 34 year four decade run and hosts the championship for the 24th time and celebrates its 25th Grand prix, providing the curtain raiser before the tour moves north to Sharjah for the 18th time as it stages the year end finale for the 14th time.

It has been a compelling season that has seen three different pole sitters, Shaun Torrente in Portimao, Alex Carella in Evian and Liuzhou and Erik Stark in Harbin and three different race winners, Chiappe, Carella and Stark.

The title race has swung one way, then the other; Chiappe led after winning the season opener in Portugal leading home Sam Selio and Duarte Benavente. Carella grabbed the pole and race double in France but it was Selio who took over top spot in the standings with second place ahead of Shaun Torrente, Chiappe losing ground after failing to finish.

From Europe the tour headed to the Far East for its mid-term campaign in the People's Republic of China and the pendulum swung again; Stark's brilliant pole and race win in Harbin catapulted him right into contention with Carella now on top after a measured drive to fourth behind Thani Al Qemzi and Ahmed Al Hameli. This time it was Selio who faltered, crashing out in qualifying and failing to go the race distance.

In Liuzhou Carella took control of his title destiny, going quickest in qualifying and then driving himself to near exhaustion to take the win ahead of Stark and Chiappe to extend his points advantage over both, with Selio all but conceding his title challenge was over after a second crash in qualifying and again failing to post points.

The scenario for the climax to the year is simple; two races to go 40 points maximum on offer. Mathematically seven drivers are still in it but the percentages are stacked heavily against the majority of them. It looks to be a three-way duel between Carella, Stark and Chiappe.

Carella is in command on 58 points, a 16 point advantage over Stark and further three over Chiappe and one outcome in Abu Dhabi will seal the deal. If Carella wins, the title race is over with one race to go and he is champion for the fourth time. To keep the





F1H2O

championship alive Stark and Chiappe simply have to finish ahead of him.

That said, should any of the three front runners falter the flood gates will open and the permutations as to who will actually be crowned champion are endless.

Of the current line up four drivers, Francesco Cantando, Selio, Carella and Chiappe have won in Abu Dhabi and Sharjah. Jonas Andersson won in Abu Dhabi last year with Thani Al Qemzi, Ahmed Al Hameli, Marit Stromoy and Shaun Torrente all winning in Sharjah.

F1H2O

F1H2O 2017

COUNTING DOWN WITH TWO TO GO

ABU DHABI

5 Thani Al Qemzi (6)

6 Alex Carella (1)

7 Rashed Al Qemzi (18=)

F1H2O

The team is on course to complete a stellar season and a clean sweep of all championships; Carella has led from the front and assumed the mantle of team leader from the start, averting a potentially disastrous season opener for the team salvaging 9 points from 15th of the dock.

Two brilliant pole and race win doubles in Evian and Liuzhou and a measured fourth in Harbin has put the Italian on top, in

control and on track for a fourth title. If he wins in Abu Dhabi the title is his!

Al Qemzi T has played a key role with two top six finishes and a podium third in Harbin, with young rookie Rashed [Al Qemzi] narrowly missing out on bagging his first championship points in the last two races. Maybe his recent history making F2 world title will give the youngster that extra bit of encouragement in the season run in.



SWEDEN

14 Jonas Andersson (10)

15 Erik Stark (2)

16 Erik Edin

F1H2O

Brilliant to see a team with limited budget and resource carrying the fight to the big teams; after a heart breaking start that saw a podium slip away on the penultimate lap in Portugal and with just seven points from two starts, Stark catapulted himself right back into title contention with an awesome pole and race win double in Harbin and followed up with second in Liuzhou. He must finish ahead off Carella in

Abu Dhabi to keep his hopes of a first title alive.

Andersson's two top six finishes sandwiched between two retirements mask what might have been as he is yet to enjoy a full race distance without some form of engine issue. An untroubled run in and mixing it with the title hopefuls could help out his teammate!





VICTORY

3 Ahmed Al Hameli (4=)

4 Shaun Torrente (7)

F1H2O

Arguably two of the quickest drivers on the tour but the race wins have, rather surprisingly, eluded them so far this season.

Al Hameli has been quick in all qualifying sessions, slightly too quick in Portugal and hitting a pontoon that side-lined him from the race, but a podium in Harbin between two fourths has kept him on the edge of the title hunt, but it is a tall order with 28 points to make up.

Bad luck has plagued Torrente from the minute he set pole in Portugal then stopping while a country mile ahead in the race. A brilliant podium third from 15th in France, after going over in qualifying, kept him in the hunt but another retirement in Harbin severely dented his title aspirations. He again showed his dogged resilience in Liuzhou, driving from tenth to fifth. But his title challenge is over.



CTIC F1 SHENZHEN CHINA

1 Philippe Chiappe (3)

2 Peter Morin (15=)

F1H2O

The defending world and teams' champions have it all to do if they are to retain their crowns. Chiappe made the perfect start to his defence with victory in Portugal, but a retirement in France and fifth in Harbin somewhat derailed his chances. He fought back in his new boat to take third last time out but

needs to produce something special with 19 points to make up.

Peter Morin is having a solid rookie season finishing all races, picking up his first points on his debut in ninth in the season-opener and another in Harbin.

MAD CROC BABA RACING

11 Sami Selio (4=)

12 Filip Roms (12)

F1H2O

Selio led the championship after the European rounds with two podium seconds but then endured a disastrous season mid-term in China, crashing out twice in Q2 in both qualifying sessions and banking no points - the two-time champion conceding that hopes of a third title were gone.

Technical problems and two retirements at the beginning of the year put Roms on the back foot, but he has rallied with points finishes in both outings in China.



F1 ATLANTIC

9 Grant Trask (13=)

10 Duarte Benavente (8=)

F1H2O

A frustrating year for Trask beset with technical issues but full of glimpses of his talent; he picked up points with a top-ten finish in the opener, then produced a best ever fifth in qualifying and was running strongly in fifth when he tipped it over in Evian, finishing both races in China but missing out on points.

Despite a strong opener at his home Grand with sixth in qualifying and a podium third and points in France, Benavente's season has been marred by technical issues and two retirements in China.



BLAZE PERFORMANCE

23 Bartek Marszalek (8=)

24 Francesco Cantando (17)

F1H2O

Marszalek's total commitment is really starting to pay off as he looks on course for a season best points' tally, matching his best-ever finish with fifth in Portugal with two further top ten points' finishes. A first podium is now his target.

This season is very much a development year for Cantando as he tweaks his new Blaze Performance hull which he unveiled in France and drove to a points finish, doing it again in Liuzhou. A trouble free run in the next two races will give a better indication of what he and his Blaze can do.



EMIRATES RACING

50 Marit Stromoy (15=)

51 Mike Szymura (13=)

77 Matt Palfreyman

F1H2O

A frustrating and disappointing season so far for Stromoy, just three points her reward after finishing seventh in France after a retirement in the opener and disqualification for taking out two turn buoys in Harbin. In Liuzhou she produced her best qualifying of the year with fourth and was challenging strongly in fifth when her engine let go.

A bit of a roller-coaster season for Szymura but already matching his points' haul of his rookie season; the infamous 'black flag gate' and disqualification cost him sixth place in Portugal, retiring and failing to pick up points in the next two races, then producing his best ever performance with seventh last time out.



MAVERICK RACING

73 Cedric Deguisne (11)

74 Amaury Jousseume (18=)

F1H2O

A welcome addition to the championship but a testing first full season for the team; Deguisne produced a solid start with a sixth and picked up further points with a top-ten finish in Harbin but admits to being limited with set-up options and that his driving style is good

for qualifying but he needs to adapt in the races.

It has been a tougher first term for Jousseume with two retirements and finishes outside the points as well as a spectacular exit from qualifying in Harbin.



F1H2O

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

47 GRAND PRIX WINNERS

271
Grand
Prix

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: 15 minutes, top six go through (times reset)

Q3: top six, two flying laps

Grand Prix : min 45 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	Year	Driver	Country
2016	Philippe Chiappe	France	1997	Scott Gillman	USA
2015	Philippe Chiappe	France	1996	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2014	Philippe Chiappe	France	1995	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2013	Alex Carella	Italy	1994	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2012	Alex Carella	Italy	1993	Guido Cappellini	Italy
2011	Alex Carella	Italy	1992	Fabrizio Bocca	Italy
2010	Sami Selio	Finland	1991	Jonathan Jones	Great Britain
2009	Guido Cappellini	Italy	1990	John Hill	Great Britain
2008	Jay Price	USA	1989	Not competed	
2007	Sami Selio	Finland	1988	Not competed	
2006	Scott Gillman	USA	1987	Not competed	
2005	Guido Cappellini	Italy	1986	Gene Thibodaux	USA
2004	Scott Gillman	USA	1985	Bob Spalding	Great Britain
2003	Guido Cappellini	Italy	1984	Renato Molinari	Italy
2002	Guido Cappellini	Italy	1983	Renato Molinari	Italy
2001	Guido Cappellini	Italy	1982	Roger Jenkins	Great Britain
2000	Scott Gillman	USA	1981	Renato Molinari	Italy
1999	Guido Cappellini	Italy			
1998	Jonathan Jones	Great Britain			

DRIVER STATS

Drivers	Country	GP's Entered	Race Starts	Points Overall	Poles	Wins	Podiums
Sami Selio	FIN	150	147	973,5	25	13	46
Francesco Cantando	ITA	172	168	924,5	5	12	42
Thani Al Qamzi	UAE	125	124	735,5	2	7	31
Philippe Chiappe	FRA	112	108	656	5	8	31
Alex Carella	ITA	49	49	542	14	14	28
Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE	77	72	435	10	7	19
Jonas Andersson	SWE	86	85	447	4	5	15
Shaun Torrente	USA	39	38	309	4	4	14
Duarte Benavente	POR	146	133	360,5	0	0	6
Erik Stark	SWE	24	23	127	2	1	5
Filip Roms	FIN	34	32	83	0	0	2
Marit Stromoy	NOR	75	70	155	1	1	1
Bartek Marszalek	POL	31	28	55	0	0	0
Cedric Deguisne	FRA	18	16	20	0	0	0
Grant Trask	AUS	6	6	9	0	0	0
Mike Szymura	GER	11	11	8	0	0	0
Peter Morin	FRA	4	4	3	0	0	0
Rashed Al Qemzi	UAE	5	4	0	0	0	0
Amaury Jousseau	FRA	4	4	0	0	0	0
Béranger Robart	FRA	1	1	0	0	0	0

TEAMS & DRIVERS 2017

CTIC F1 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)
 16 Erik Edin (SWE)

BLAZE PERFORMANCE

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

EMIRATES RACING TEAM

50 Marit Stromoy (NOR)
 51 Mike Szymura (GER)
 77 Matt Palfreyman (UK)

MAVERICK F1

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

ABU DHABI, GRAND PRIX OF ABU DHABI - U.A.E.

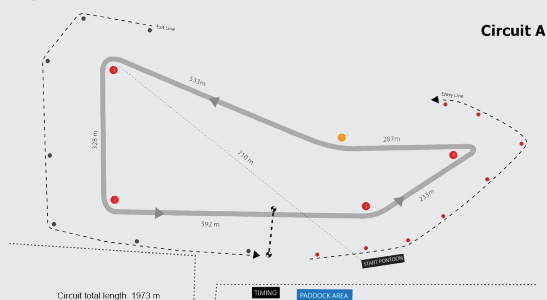
DECEMBER 6-8, ROUND 5

9 teams

21 drivers

13 countries

(Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, UAE, UK, USA)



SHARJAH, GRAND PRIX OF SHARJAH - U.A.E.

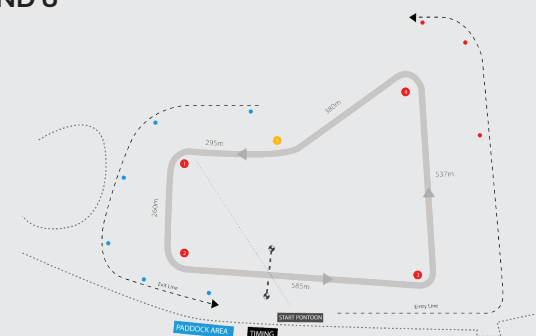
DECEMBER 13-15, ROUND 6

9 teams

21 drivers

13 countries

(Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Sweden, UAE, UK, USA)



PREVIOUS GRAND PRIX WINNERS IN ABU DHABI

2016	Abu Dhabi	Jonas Andersson	SWE
2015	Abu Dhabi	Alex Carella	ITA
2014	Abu Dhabi	Philippe Chiappe	FRA
2013	Abu Dhabi	Sami Selio	FIN
2012	Abu Dhabi	Alex Carella	ITA
2011	Abu Dhabi	Alex Carella	ITA
2010	Abu Dhabi	Sami Selio	FIN
2009	Abu Dhabi R1	Jay Price	USA
2009	Abu Dhabi R2	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2008	Abu Dhabi	Jay Price	USA
2007	Abu Dhabi	Sami Selio	FIN
2006	Abu Dhabi	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2005	Abu Dhabi	Scott Gillman	USA
2004	No grand prix		
2003	Abu Dhabi	Laith Pharaon	SAU
2002	Abu Dhabi	Laith Pharaon	SAU
2001	Abu Dhabi	Francesco Cantando	ITA
2000	Abu Dhabi	Francesco Cantando	ITA
1999	Abu Dhabi	Guido Cappellini	ITA
1998	Abu Dhabi	Jonathan Jones	GBR
1997	Abu Dhabi	Scott Gillman	USA
1996	Abu Dhabi	Guido Cappellini	ITA
1995	Abu Dhabi	Jonathan Jones	GBR
1994	Abu Dhabi	Felix Serrales	USA
1993	Abu Dhabi R1	Felix Serrales	USA
1993	Abu Dhabi R2	Guido Cappellini	ITA

DRIVERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS (AFTER ROUND4)

POS	BOAT	DRIVER	POINTS
1	6	ALEX CARELLA	58
2	15	ERIK STARK	42
3	1	PHILIPPE CHIAPPE	39
4=	11	SAMI SELIO	30
4=	3	AHMED AL HAMELI	30
6	5	THANI AL QEMZI	25
7	4	SHAUN TORRENTE	19
8=	10	DUARTE BENAVENTE	14
8=	23	BARTEK MARSZALEK	14
10	14	JONAS ANDERSSON	12
11	73	CÉDRIC DEGUISNE	7
12	12	FILIP ROMS	5
13=	9	GRANT TRASK	4
13=	51	MIKE SZYMURA	4
15=	50	MARIT STROMOY	3
15=	2	PETER MORIN	3
17	24	FRANCESCO CANTANDO	2
18=	7	RASHED AL QEMZI	0
18=	74	AMAURY JOUSSEAUME	0
18=	70	BÉRANGER ROBART	0

PREVIOUS GRAND PRIX WINNERS IN SHARJAH

2016	Sharjah	Shaun Torrente	USA
2015	Sharjah	Marit Stromoy	NOR
2014	Sharjah	Philippe Chiappe	FRA
2012	Sharjah	Thani Al Qamzi	UAE
2012	Sharjah	Alex Carella	ITA
2011	Sharjah	Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE
2010	Sharjah	Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE
2009	Sharjah R1	Jay Price	USA
2009	Sharjah R2	Sami Selio	FIN
2008	Sharjah	Thani Al Qamzi	UAE
2007	Sharjah	Sami Selio	FIN
2006	Sharjah	Thani Al Qamzi	UAE
2005	Sharjah	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2004	Sharjah	Scott Gillman	USA
2003	Sharjah	Scott Gillman	USA
2002	Sharjah	Massimo Roggiero	ITA
2001	Sharjah	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2000	Sharjah	Francesco Cantando	ITA

WORLD CHAMPION

Philippe Chiappe (FRA)
CTIC F1 Shenzhen China
Team

WORLD GOVERNING BODY

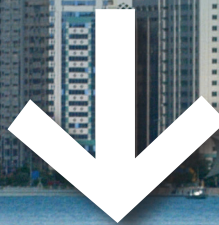
Union International
Motonautique (U.I.M.)
President:
Dr. Raffaele Chiulli

PROMOTER

H2O Racing
President:
Nicolo di San Germano

ABU DHABI

CELEBRATING ITS 25TH GRAND PRIX!



F1H2O

T

he glory and drama that is the Grand Prix of Abu Dhabi started with a pair of races run in 1993 and this year the UAE capital celebrates its 25th UIM F1H2O Grand Prix.

Twenty-five years on it has become the back bone of the tour and one filled with glory and drama where world champions have been commonly crowned and careers ended and is now one of the most anticipated

events on the calendar year-after-year.

The history books show that over time 11 different drivers from seven countries have taken the checkered flag. The most recent being

Swedish driver Jonas Andersson, winning in 2016 to capture his fifth career victory and his first along the corniche in 12 tries.

A brief history lesson; as we look down the long list of success of many drivers the names that stand out with multiple victories in Abu Dhabi must begin with 'Hall-of-Fame' driver Guido Cappellini.

The Italian from Como won the first ever event and went on to win four more races, winning world championships along the way while riding off into the sunset winning for the final time in his last racing season in 2009, sixteen years after his first here along the Gulf in 1993.

Cappellini will once again be along the waters' edge in 2017, not as a race driver but as a Race Manager. The host club he now controls on water is Team Abu Dhabi with a pair of stablemates loaded with experience and talent and a third driver tipped as a future champion.



Sami Selio celebrates one of his three victories

F1H2O

Alex Carella is a pre-race favourite and three-time world champion who captured victories in Abu Dhabi in 2011, 2012 and 2015. He is currently the championship points' leader and odds on favourite for a fourth crown in 2017. Local driver Thani Al Qemzi, a seven time race winner is still searching for his first victory on home waters, whilst youngster Rashed Al Qemzi makes his first start on home waters in the top flight.

Another Team Manager who earned his way to the F1H2O 'Hall-of-Fame' is Scott Gillman who leads the Dubai based Victory Team.

The likeable Californian is one of three American drivers to have won in Abu Dhabi, his favorite moment his victory in 1997 cementing his first of four world titles in just his rookie season.

His two talented drivers, fellow American Shaun Torrente from Florida and local hero Ahmed Al Hameli, are still dark horses for a title this year, with both looking for their first victory in the UAE's second largest city.

Italian drivers have had more victories in the past years in Abu Dhabi than any other

nationality with ten. They are just ahead of the American drivers Felix Serralles, Scott Gillman and Jay Price with a total of six taking two apiece.

Serralles, who is from the island of Puerto Rico, was actually the first multi-time winner in Abu Dhabi capturing back-to-back race wins in 1993 and 1994.

Some of the many race weekends that officially handed out world championships in Abu Dhabi go all the way back to 1995. Welshman Jonathan Jones won the race but Italian Guido Cappellini did what he needed to do as he cruised home to a top ten finish to win his third straight championship at the time.

A year later Cappellini capped his record breaking season winning on the Corniche and capturing his eighth win in nine starts to finish off the most dominating season in the 34 year history of the sport.

1997, it was all about the rookie from America Scott Gillman as he won his first of two events in Abu Dhabi (the other being in 2005) cementing his world trophy after winning three straight North American titles.

1998 was one of the most tension-filled action packed races ever in Abu Dhabi. Three drivers were still in the mix for a title with all three at one time leading the event.

Cappellini held point early but dropped out at the mid-way point of the race and lost the title. Gillman took the lead and then a few laps later Gillman did the same thing missing out on back-to-back titles. The final driver in the mix, Jonathan Jones, took over in the late stages, led and won his only race of the season, capturing his second and final world title that day.

Almost a decade later, Finnish star and current Mad Croc BABA driver Sami Selio, needed a 'must win' performance and got just that, winning his first of two titles in 2007 and doing the same in 2010. This year Selio will be hoping to be only the second driver to win four or more races in Abu Dhabi.

Five of the past winners will be racing in the Grand Prix in 2017 including three past world champions; Italian Francesco Cantando, a back-to-back winner in 2000 and 2001 is in his 22nd year of racing on the UIM F1H2O

**FIVE OF THE PAST WINNERS
WILL BE RACING IN THE GRAND
PRIX IN 2017 INCLUDING THREE
PAST WORLD CHAMPIONS.**



F1H2O

tour and is still in search of his first world title after three times finishing runner-up in the championship. Nobody has raced more in Abu Dhabi, this year's event marking his 21st race start as he heads the Blaze Performance Team.

Defending three-time world championship winning driver Philippe Chiappe of France is looking for his second win in four years in Abu Dhabi. He took the top-step in 2014 on his way to his first title for the CTIC F1 Shenzhen China Team and needs a victory in 2017 to have any chance of making it four straight titles.

Last year's victory went to Team Sweden's Jonas Andersson who had gone 50 races without a victory until his dominating run. The driver from Fruvi will be looking this time around for his sixth career win in his 12th season of racing.

Oddly enough, drivers from the Middle East region haven't done particularly well in Abu Dhabi other than Saudi Arabian driver Laith Pharaon who won back-to-back events in 2002 and 2003.

Surprisingly, no driver from the Emirates has ever won in Abu Dhabi, one of two home Grand Prix on the calendar each season. So you better believe that Thani Al Qemzi and Rashed Al Qemzi of Team Abu Dhabi, along with Victory Team's Ahmed Al Hameli will try and break the tradition in front of the thousands of race fans that are expected to line the corniche on the 7-8 December. ■



**Five-time winner
Guido Cappellini**



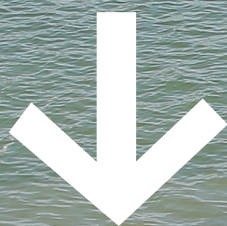


Two-time winner
Scott Gillman



F1H2O

TITLE RACE PENDULUM SWINGS AGAIN AFTER BRILLIANT MID-TERM RACES IN CHINA





F1H2O

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he mid-term races in Harbin and Liuzhou in the People's Republic of China were outstanding and produced two standout performances by Team Sweden's Erik Stark and Team Abu Dhabi's Alex Carella.

From relative obscurity as a title contender after the opening two rounds, Stark put himself right back into contention following a perfect weekend in the first of the China double-headers, backing up his stunning pole in BRM Qualifying on the Saturday with a brilliant drive

in the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Harbin to take his maiden Grand Prix victory and then followed up with the runners-up slot in Liuzhou.

But in the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Liuzhou it was all about the brilliance and heroics of Carella who, after sealing a 14th career pole and his second of the season, pushed himself to the limits of complete exhaustion to take the Grand Prix victory and match his pole win tally, but more crucially extend his lead in the title race.

STARK POLE AND WIN DOUBLE IN HARBIN PUTS HIM INTO CONTENTION IN TITLE RACE..



F1H2O

The 29-year-old from Toaby battled through a thrilling and dramatic qualifying session which saw Maverick F1 driver Amaury Jousseume blow his boat over one and half times in Q1 then last year's Harbin pole-sitter and race winner Sami Selio barrel-roll out in Q2, both drivers emerging relatively unscathed from their excursions.

Stark topped the time sheets in a frantic first 20 minute session with just 1.72s splitting the top 12, then survived a breathless second session posting the fourth fastest time, with Abu Dhabi's Thani Al Qemzi and Victory duo Ahmed Al Hameli and Shaun Torrente locking out the top three slots, 0.31s the difference between the lead quartet.

Remarkably Selio's 42.20s lap, the identical

time of Stark, remained good enough for fifth quickest and a shoot-out slot before the Mad Croc BABA Racing driver spectacularly barrel-rolled out of the session. There was more drama to come right at the end when it looked as though Abu Dhabi's Alex Carella's last flying lap had bumped him up into second spot and demoted defending champion Philippe Chiappe to seventh. But Carella's time was discarded as he was deemed to have started the lap after the chequered flag was raised to end the 15 minute session and giving CTIC F1 Shenzhen driver Chiappe a lifeline and a shot at the pole, Carella dropping to seventh.

With Selio side-lined Chiappe was the first out in Q3 and set the mark to be beat with a 41.36s lap but was unable to improve on his second. Stark followed him out and immediately grabbed the provisional pole with 41.05 then improved on his second to set a target of 40.65 for the remaining three to chase down.

Torrente went next but missed out with a best lap of 41.23s and was then edged out by teammate Al Hameli's 40.83 but still Stark had provisional pole. The last man out was Thani Al Qemzi but like all before him failed with his first and then his second lap, his time of 40.78s securing P2 ahead of Al Hameli.

Marit Stromoy produced another solid qualifying performance going eighth quickest, ahead of Jonas Andersson with Filip Roms rounding out the top ten.

From pole, Stark produced a faultless drive and held his nerve over 53 gruelling laps around the 1.92km Hulan Estuary Wetland Park circuit to take the win by 9.31s and become the newest member of the elite Grand Prix winners club in his 22nd race.

Second place went to Thani Al Qemzi with Ahmed Al Hameli coming home in third place.



F1H2O

Stark made a perfect start holding off an initial attack from Al Qemzi to the first turn and then held off his relentless challenge for 16 laps when the yellow flag was raised after Emirates Racing's Marit Stromoy took out two turn buoys, resulting in her disqualification and allowing the field to bunch up.

The race leader managed the restart to perfection but still had to contend with Al Qemzi's persistent pressure, eventually breaking free in the second half of the race to open up a considerable lead and go on to take the win.

The pace of the race was ferocious and despite all his efforts, Al Qemzi was unable to get close enough to force a mistake from the leader.

The yellow flag proved the key moment in the race for Al Hameli who had been running in fifth place, but at the restart immediately made the pass on Carella and then his teammate Torrente, who was forced to retire on lap 22 when his engine let go.

Al Hameli was able to hold off Carella and go on to take his first podium of the year.

Defending champion Chiappe had a relatively low key race and was never really in the mix to challenge for a podium finish coming home in sixth place, his CTIC F1 Shenzhen China teammate Peter Morin producing a good performance driving up from P16 to finish in tenth spot.

F1H2O

Marit Stromoy produced another solid qualifying performance going eighth quickest, ahead of Jonas Andersson with Filip Roms rounding out the top ten.

F1H2O

Jonas Anderssson brought the second Team Sweden boat home in sixth place ahead of another very good drive from Blaze Performance driver Bartek Marszalek.

After struggling with technical issues earlier in the season Mad Croc BABA Racing's Filip Roms finally got the opportunity to run the full race distance and eighth place was some consolation for the team after the retirement of Selio on lap 8, ninth place going to Maverick F1 Racing's Cedric Deguisne.

Rashed Al Qemzi just missed out on picking up his first championship points finishing in eleventh ahead of Grant Trask and Mike Szymura.

The result added spice to the championship race with Alex Carella now moving to the top of the points table on 38, Sami Selio dropping to second and eight points adrift with Philippe Chiappe and Erik Stark tied in third on 27 points.





CARELLA PUSHES TO THE LIMIT AND TAKES SENSATIONAL WIN IN LIUZHOU

F1H2O

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s Carella celebrated his fourth pole position in Liuzhou his championship rival Sami Selio, sitting just eight points behind him in the title race, was left to evaluate the damage to his boat and engine after crashing out of Q2 for the second time in as many race weekends.

With Q2 timing out under the yellow flag following Selio's crash several drivers were left stranded and unable to take their final runs to try and make it into the top six shoot out, Thani Al Qemzi and Shaun Torrente two notable casualties.

Sweden's Jonas Andersson was sitting in sixth spot and through but any hopes of challenging for the pole ended when his session ended under tow with a suspected gearbox issue.

Marit Stromoy was the first to go in the shootout and immediately produced her best time with a 45.67s lap on her first run to seal fourth

SAMI SELIO CRASHES OUT SPECTACULARLY IN BRM QUALIFYING



place and give the Emirates Racing driver her best qualifying result since Sharjah 2015.

Harbin pole-sitter and race winner Stark was next out and grabbed the provisional pole for Sweden with 44.81 then upped the ante on his second run with a 44.74s lap.

But his place at the top of the time sheets was short-lived when Carella came out and immediately went quicker and then improved again to seal his 14th career pole position with a best time of 44.72s.

Victory Team's Ahmed Al Hameli was the penultimate driver out on the circuit but was unable to topple the top two, going third quickest with a 44.79s lap, with last man out Philippe Chiappe unable to better anyone and would start from fifth for CTIC f1 Shenzhen China.

The race was brutal and Carella pushed himself to the absolute limits of exhaustion to take a sensational victory.

The Team Abu Dhabi driver was near to collapse at the end of the gruelling 48 lap race, the extreme heat and oppressive humidity clearly

taking its toll. "I think I give 99 per cent and leave one to get out of the boat," he said.

Second place went to Sweden's Erik Stark who described the race as 'one of the hardest of his life', with defending champion Philippe Chiappe coming home in third place for CTIC F1 Shenzhen China.

Carella led from pole and for the opening laps absorbed the early pressure from Stark before opening out a comfortable lead. But his hard work was undone on lap 14 when the yellow flag was raised to replace a drifting turn buoy allowing the chasing boats to close up.

He made no mistake on the restart and again held off Stark and was then able to dictate the pace for the remainder of the race and go on to take the win by 4.47seconds.

Despite all his efforts and the race long pressure he applied, Stark was unable to get close enough to force an error out of the race leader and following him home to take his second podium of the season to move up into second place in the title race.

F1H2O





“ The Grand Prix of Liuzhou marks the city’s 10th anniversary of hosting a round of the UIM F1H2O Championship. ”

F1H2O

Chiappe trailed Al Hameli up until lap 14 but took full advantage of the yellow flag, making the telling pass two laps after the restart to secure the final podium slot to keep in touch in the title race in third spot.

Torrente produced a gutsy drive after starting from tenth and was another to take advantage of the yellow flag situation. He was up into seventh when the flag was raised and from the restart immediately passed Andersson, whose race came to a premature end on lap 37. He then set about chasing down Stromoy, passing her on lap 36, her race ending on lap 40 when her engine let go, Torrente running out the race in fifth behind his teammate.

Thani Al Qemzi completed the top six, with Mike Szymura producing his

best performance and result since moving up into the top-flight from the F4-S Championship to finish in seventh after passing his former F4 rival Rashed Al Qemzi, who again agonisingly missed out on his first championship points finishing in eleventh.

Bartek Marszalek made up places from starting in 14th to finish in eighth ahead of Filip Roms, with Francesco Cantando overcoming a difficult weekend to take a point in tenth.

Carella's win, the 14th of his career and his second of the season, extended his lead in the championship standings to 16 points with Abu Dhabi moving further ahead in the Teams' Championship.

TIGHT AT THE TOP IN THE F4-S CHAMPIONSHIP



F-4S

Just two points separate the top four in the F4-S Championship after its mid-term outings in Harbin and Liuzhou in China, with Emirates Racing's Mansoor Al Mansoori the new points' leader on 60.

Al Mansoori's win and second place in Harbin gave the Emirati driver his first GP title and a slender one point lead in the standings, which he stretched to two after finishing fifth overall Liuzhou.

Three drivers sit tied in second place on 58 points and the one that all should pay attention to is 15-year-old Australian ace Louise Vella.

Having gifted her F4 rivals a 20 point advantage after missing the season-opener she announced her arrival in Harbin with a pair of fourths on her debut and followed up by completely outclassing her peers in Liuzhou, dominating both races by a country mile to win twice for Team Sweden, pick up her first title in just her second GP to stake her claim as a real title contender.

F1 Atlantic's Jeremy Brisset saw his championship lead disappear in Harbin despite a win and third overall, but his failure to start race 2 after second in race 1 in Liuzhou could prove costly.

Mohammed Al Mehairbi completes the trio tied on 58 points, the Abu Dhabi driver putting himself very much into contention

with three top three finishes and two podium seconds in China.

Thirty one points adrift of the leader and tied on 29 in fifth is Mad Croc BABA Racing's Kalle Viippo whose season best was third overall in Portugal and Maverick F1's Corentin Guesnel whose season best so far was fourth overall last time out.

CTIC F1 Shenzhen China's Wu Bingchen produced his best off the year with a third and his first podium of the season in Liuzhou, but still languishes down in seventh place ahead of Victory Team's Mohamed Al Yamahi, who didn't start in Liuzhou and Sebastien Haugaard and Blaze Performance's Daman Cohen with one outing each this year.

Team Sweden's Louise Vella made light work of the opposition as she cruised to her second win of the weekend in Liuzhou to take her first Grand Prix victory in the F4-S Championship.



F4-S TROPHY CHAMPIONSHIP 2017 after round 3

POS	NOS	RIDER	TEAM	POINTS
1	27	Mansoor Al Mansoori	EMIRATES RACING TEAM	60
2=	10	Jeremy Brisset	F1 ATLANTIC TEAM	58
2=	41	Louise Vella	TEAM SWEDEN	58
2=	5	Mohammed Al Mehairbi	TEAM ABU DHABI	58
5=	29	Kalle Viippo	MAD-CROC BABA RACING	29
5=	73	Corentin Guesnel	MAVERICK F1	29
7	88	Bingchen Wu	CTIC F1 SHENZHEN CHINA	26
8	3	Mohamed Al Yamahi	VICTORY TEAM	16
9	41	Sebastian Haugaard	TEAM SWEDEN	15
10	55	Damon Cohen	BLAZE PERFORMANCE	8



AQUABIKE

DUBAI AND SHARJAH GRAND PRIX TO DEFINE TITLE RACE AND 2017 AQUABIKE CHAMPIONS

The UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship will play out the final and crucial acts of the 2017 season in November and December when the elite riders competing in the world's most prestigious jet ski championship battle it out at the penultimate Grand Prix of year in Dubai [23-25 November] and the now well-established season-finale, the Grand Prix of Sharjah [18-20 December].

With two rounds to go the most coveted titles in international jet ski competition are all up for grabs, with a twist in the tail announced by Aquabike Promotion in October, confirming that a three moto format will be introduced at the remaining Grand Prix.

The majority of competitors will adapt easily to this more demanding schedule, which is the same format used in the European Continental Championship, but now means a maximum 150 points are on offer from the Grand Prix in Dubai and in Sharjah.

The penultimate round and curtain raiser in the title run in will be held at Kite Beach, Jumeirah, one of Dubai's most pristine stretches of sand and a haven for water sports enthusiasts and marks a return to the city that staged the first UIM sanctioned Aquabike World Championship in 1995, 14 years after hosting

its last round in 2003, with the final curtain call of the season taking place for the third successive year on the stunning Khalid Lagoon in the heart of Sharjah.

Two spectacular events in Porto Cesareo and Vieste in Italy set the tone for the year; in Runabout and Ski eight different riders enjoyed moto wins, five riders grabbing the Grand Prix titles, with the heat wins and Grand Prix titles in Freestyle belonging to the Florjancic brothers.

In Runabout GP1 defending champion Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq is currently on top with 70 points, 20 clear of James Bushell with Lars Akerblom a further two points adrift.

The Poret brothers Jeremy and Mickael lockout the top spots in Ski GP1, 78 to 70, with rising star and UIM-ABP tour debutant Quinten Bossche in third with 66 points.

In the fight for the Ladies title Estelle Poret has a ten point advantage over defending champion Emma-Nellie Ortendahl with Kylie Ellmers in third and enjoying her best season on the tour, whilst in the upside down world of Freestyle the head-to-head between the Florjancic brothers is set to continue, Rok currently holding a ten point lead over Nac.



DEFENDING CHAMPION
YUSEF AL ABDULRAZZAQ
IS CURRENTLY ON TOP, 20
CLEAR OF JAMES BUSHELL
WITH LARS AKERBLOM
A FURTHER TWO POINTS
ADRIFT



RUNABOUT GP1

Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq kick started his title defence with overall victory in the opening round of the year.

The defending world champion trailed pole-sitter James Bushell and Lars Akerblom in Moto 1 and needed seven laps before passing Akerblom to move in to second place and then set his sights on the leader. His opportunity came when the lead duo hit a gaggle of backmarkers and Bushell struggled to cut his way through, Abdulrazzaq making the telling pass on lap 13 and going on to take the chequered flag and win by over 15 seconds.

Akerblom lost ground but held on to take third place with Jeremy Perez moving up from being in ninth place at the end of lap one to take fourth ahead of Johan Johanson and Markus Schick.

Abdulrazzaq sealed overall victory with second place in Moto 2 but was outclassed by Hungary's Gyorgy Kasza, charging from the back of the field of 21 to take the win.

He [Abdulrazzaq] trailed in third for six laps behind Bushell and Akerblom who hit the front on lap 7 when Bushell stopped and retired. But the man on the move was Kasza,

scything his way through the pack, overhauling Abdulrazzaq and then Akerblom a lap later with the Swede then dropping to third.

Kasza's remarkable drive jumped him from nowhere in the standings at race start to take third overall behind Akerblom.

James Bushell hit back in round 2 and powered to a superb start-to-finish victory in Moto 1 and then recovered from a crash after the start of Moto 2 that forced him back into the pits to repair his damaged Ski, fighting his way from last to finish in 11th to salvage five points and snatch overall victory from [Moto2] winner Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq. Third place overall went to Estonia's Anton Pankratov.

After the disappointment of breaking down in round 1, Bushell took revenge, launching from the start to jump pole-sitter Abdulrazzaq and led into the first turn from Christophe Agostinho, Abdulrazzaq and Lars Akerblom.

The front four ran line astern for four laps when Abdulrazzaq stopped and was eventually towed off the circuit. Bushell was able to control the pace of his race from the front and despite easing off in the latter stages took his first win of the year by over 20 seconds. Agostinho enjoyed his best result on the UIM-ABP tour with second, Akerblom taking a third consecutive third place finish.

New Zealand's Carl Lampe was enjoying a strong outing and running in fourth when his Moto ended on lap 9 of 16 with a broken driveshaft, gifting fourth place to Estonia's Anton Pankratov, Markus Schick and Patrice Pellier completing the top six.

In Moto 2 the expected head-to-head between pole sitter Bushell and Abdulrazzaq in P2 was short-lived with Bushell's race compromised on the run to the first turn when he collided violently with Akerblom, the coming together forcing Bushell to pit, Akerblom dropping to 11th his race then coming to a premature end on lap 6.

At the front it was France's Agostinho who coped with the rough conditions best, but his race ended on lap 4, with Abdulrazzaq hitting the front and running out a comfortable winner.

After breaking down in Moto1 Jeremy Perez turned things around and produced a battling performance fighting his way up from ninth to finish in second place, with New Zealander Carl Lampe enjoying his best outing in only his second Grand Prix on the UIM-ABP tour, coming home in third.

France's Patrice Pellier finished in fourth ahead of Anton Pankratov, with Johan Johanson completing the top six.





SKI GP1

Defending champion Jeremy Poret started his title defence with overall victory, but it was the young Belgian rider Quinten Bossche who stole the headlines with a brilliant win in Moto 2 on his UIM-ABP debut.

Victory for Jeremy Poret in Moto1 was sealed almost immediately after a brilliant start gave the champion the upper hand. Starting from P3, he got the jump on pole-sitter Raphael Maurin and Stian Schjetlein and never looked back, leading from start-to-finish to run out the winner by a narrow margin after a late charge by Schjetlein.

With Poret out front the chase was initially led by Maurin, but his challenge eventually faded, dropping back and his race coming to a premature end on lap 6. Schjetlein and Quinten Bossche traded places mid race with Schjetlein winning the battle and then setting about chasing down the race leader, closing the gap considerably but running out of laps and settling for second place.

Bossche's third place completed a memorable day for the youngster, with Mickael Poret overcoming a back injury to take fourth ahead of Daniel Svae Andersen and Morgan Poret.

In the second Moto Poret looked to be on target for a second win after storming to the front from pole position, but was chased down and passed by Bossche on lap 3 who then disappeared off into the distance to take his maiden win on the tour by 26.28s and take second overall.

Despite pressure from older brother Mickael, Jeremy Poret held out to take second place and the Grand Prix victory, with Stian Schjetlein filling the final podium slot after finishing in fourth ahead of Morgan Poret and Raphael Maurin.

In round 2 Mickael Poret celebrated his first Moto win in over a year and a first Grand Prix title since lifting his first world championship in 2010 following the dramatic disqualification of Quinten Bossche in Moto 2.

**THE PORET BROTHERS
JEREMY AND MICKAEL
LOCKOUT THE TOP SPOTS
IN SKI GP1**





Bossche produced a brilliant performance in Moto 1 to take victory with defending champion Jeremy Poret following the young Belgian to the chequered flag for the second time in two outings, Mickael Poret taking third.

Despite starting from pole Bossche dropped places immediately and trailed the Poret brothers off the start.

Behind the leader a titanic battle developed with Bossche closing down and attacking Mickael Poret, eventually making the successful pass on lap five. Two laps later he moved in on and passed race leader Jeremy Poret and going onto to take his second win of the year by 5.54s.

Morgan Poret ran all but the final metres of the race in fourth place and looked to be on course to make it a Poret two-three-four, but dramatically came off his Ski passing a group of backmarkers just before the finish line, eventually clambering back on board and finishing in eighth.

Raphael Maurin made up ground from sixth place passing Stian Schjetlein on lap 4 and then passing a floundering Poret to finish in fourth. Fifteen-year-old Marten Manni produced another impressive outing moving up from ninth to take fifth place ahead of Markus Lutsokert.



It was a disappointing afternoon for two of the championship's big names; Schjetlein struggling with his set-up and coming off his Ski after colliding with another rider but salvaging seventh spot, whilst Kevin Reiterer was forced to jump off his preferred SDC before the start and jump on to Jonna Borgstrom's Kawasaki. The switch forced the 2015 champion to start from the outside line of 29, and despite carving his way through the pack of riders ahead of him could only manage to finish in 12th.

In Moto 2 Mickael Poret and Bossche traded places at the front early on, Poret losing the lead after the opening lap then getting it back before being passed by the young Belgian rider for the second time on lap three and trailing him to the chequered flag.

But the victory that would have given him his first Grand Prix title was short-lived with Bossche penalised and disqualified for cutting the course, handing the win and title to Poret.

Raphael Maurin made it a France one-two with his best result from the opening rounds of the season and was unchallenged in second and secured his first podium, with 2015 world champion Kevin Reiterer ending his run of bad luck moving up from 12th to take third and finally put some solid points on the board.

Defending champion Jeremy Poret struggled in the rough conditions but fourth place after finishing in second in Moto 1 put him on the podium in third overall. Fifteen-year-old Estonian rider Marten Manni produced another impressive performance coming home in fifth with Stian Schjetlein in sixth.



SKI LADIES GP1

Estelle Poret pulled off a dramatic last lap win in Moto 2 to snatch the overall Grand Prix victory at the season opener from defending champion Emma-Nellie Ortendahl.

Ortendahl needed four laps before stamping her authority in the opening Moto of the year to eventually run out a comfortable winner by 21.65s.

In a highly entertaining Moto it was Kylie Ellmers on her new ski who grabbed the early advantage to lead from Poret, with an unusually slow starting Ortendahl in third.

Ortendahl moved into second spot after a mistake by Poret on lap 2 and a lap later overhauled Ellmers and going on to take a comfortable victory.



PODIUM CELEBRATIONS IN VIESTE





Despite losing the lead Ellmers performance on a relatively untried Ski was impressive and was unchallenged in second and went on to take her best result on the UIM-ABP tour.

Poret's tumble saw her drop to fourth behind Sofie Borgstrom but she regained the place to secure third spot when Borgstrom also went down momentarily, then hanging on to finish ahead of her elder sister Jonna by just over a second, with UIM-ABP debutant Krista Uzare coming home in sixth.

A sensational second Moto produced two moments of high drama and was ultimately a tale of two laps. Poret made a brilliant start from P2 to lead from Ortendahl, but fell on lap two to hand the lead to the defending world champion from Sweden.

Ortendahl then opened up a seemingly unsailable lead when she fell at the start of the penultimate lap allowing Poret to retake the lead and go on to take the win and overall victory.

Ortendahl recovered to finish in fourth and take second overall, with New Zealander Kylie Ellmers making up for a poor start to finish third and take the final podium slot, her best result on the UIM-ABP tour.

Jonna Borgstrom enjoyed one of her best results finishing second, Katriin Nilbe taking fifth with Sofie Borgstrom coming home in sixth. Estelle Poret capped a memorable 10 days in Italy sealing her second Grand Prix title of the season with victory in Moto2.

Second place overall went to defending champion and Moto1 winner Emma-Nellie Orten-

dahl despite only managing fourth, with Kylie Ellmers' second place sealing the remaining podium place.

Ortendahl simply outclassed the field of 11 in Ski Ladies to take her second win of the season in the opening Moto after a blistering start from pole and was eight seconds clear by the end of lap 1 and then simply disappeared into the distance to run out a comfortable winner by over a minute.

Despite picking up a place at the start Poret had no answer to the exceptional pace of her main rival and was comfortable in second for the majority of the eight laps but then had to stave off a late challenge from New Zealander Kylie Ellmers, who continued her impressive run of form, finishing third.



Jonna Borgstrom lost ground after starting from P2 and despite pushing hard at the end missed out on a top three slot by one second, with Katriin Nilbe and Virginie Morlaes rounding out the top six.

With the start of Moto2 delayed due to strong winds and large swells it was the Ladies who were first to take on the testing conditions. Poret made a poor start and was lying in third at the end of lap 1 with New Zealander Ellmers out front with Italy's Marta Sorrentino in second place.

Ellmers led for five of the eight laps but it was Poret who was on the charge, passing Sorrentino on lap 2 and then Ellmers to hit the front and go on to win comfortably by 15.42s.

Ellmers second place continued her great run of form in 2017 and on her relatively untested new SDC 'whale', racking up four top three finishes and two podiums.

If the conditions were too much for champion Ortendahl, managing only fourth, Marta Sorrentino relished in them getting her best result for a long time with a fantastic ride to third to take fourth overall and saying at the end 'I told you. I am from Sardinia. We don't fear the waves'. UIM-ABP newcomer Krista Uzare took her best result with fifth, finishing ahead of Jonna Borgstrom.



ROK FLORJANCIC ON TOP IN BID FOR FIFTH WORLD TITLE



FREESTYLE

In round 1 Rok Florjancic completed the clean sweep, topping the points' sheets in qualifying and both heats to take his 18th GP title.

In the first he made a last minute switch of Ski, borrowing brother Nac's after a problem with his new RNF Hull just moments before he was due to start, and then proceeded to take the win. The brothers were evenly matched; both picked up 30 points for quantity of tricks with Rok grabbing the advantage in variety and style to get the judges vote 88 to 79.

Roberto Mariani edged out Jaroslav Tirner by just 3 points to take third, with Alberto Camerlengo in fifth.

In heat 2 Rok was again challenged closely by Nac, matching him in quantity of tricks but outpointing him on variety and style. Italy's Roberto Mariani claimed the final podium slot.

In round 2 Nac Florjancic turned the tables on brother Rok, who took top spot in heat 1, with a brilliant performance to win the second and take overall victory, outscoring big brother 90 points to 88 to take his fourth heat and Grand Prix win, Italy's Roberto Mariani taking third overall.



PORTIMAO

HOSTS UIM-ABP AQUABIKE EUROPEAN ENDURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP

AQUABIKE

The final act of the 2017 UIM-ABP Aquabike Continental season was played out in Portimao at the end of October with the staging of the Endurance Championship for Runabout and Ski.

A strong turnout of Portuguese riders mixed it with competitors from France, Italy and Spain and battled it out over two demanding rounds

on Portugal's Atlantic coast off Praia de Rocha.

Dominating all in Runabout was Portuguese duo Carlos Trutta and Filipe Filipe, taking the chequered flag in both heats to seal overall victory and class titles in GP1 and Veterans.

Trutta and Filipe carried a 4:27.826s advantage over in to round 2 after finishing ahead of Frenchman Thomas Favolin and countrymen, Roland Couhet and Arnaud Bourreau. Round 2 was a repeat result with the Portuguese pairing again in control, extending their advantage to take overall honours by 8:13s, coming home 3:14.999s

ahead of Spain's Juan Cuevas Iroz and Aitzol Arakistain Beristain, with Favolini in third place.

Second place in GP1 went to Couhet and Bourreau, who also sealed the GP2 title, with Italy's Michele Cadei and Stefano Ciani finishing in seventh overall and third in class. Overall honours in GP3 went to Thomas Favolini.

In Ski there was more success for the predominantly Portuguese entry with Vicente Cano and Sebastian Fragoso taking overall honours and class title in GP1 and GP3.



Cano and Frago established a 1:13.605s advantage in the opening round over Matteo Valente and Diogo Barbosa and despite trailing them home by 13.102s in round 2 had done enough to secure the titles. Valente and Barbosa secured the runners-up slot in GP1, with Vasco Brito and Miguel Pita completing an all-Portuguese podium. In Ski there was more success for the predominantly Portuguese entry with Vicente Cano and Sebastian Frago taking overall honours and class title in GP1 and GP3.

Cano and Frago established a 1:13.605s advantage in the opening round over Matteo Valente and Diogo Barbosa and despite trailing them home by 13.102s in round 2 had done enough to secure the titles. Valente and Barbosa secured the runners-up slot in GP1, with Vasco Brito and Miguel Pita completing an all-Portuguese podium.

2017 CALENDAR

2017 is proving to be another fascinating and challenging season for H2O Racing with 14 events in nine months, taking its UIM sanctioned championships, F1H2O and Aquabike 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 – Liuzhou, China
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
23/25 November – Dubai, UAE
18/20 December – Sharjah, UAE

AB

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Circuit

19/21 May – Zadar, Croatia
23/25 June – Penafiel, Portugal

AB

UIM-ABP EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Offshore

19/21 May – Zadar, Croatia

UIM-ABP EUROPEAN CONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP - Endurance

27/29 October – Portimao, Portugal



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