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H2O Magazine

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H2O RACING
POWERBOAT PROMOTION



FIH2O

TEAM ABU DHABI LOOK SET
TO CLOSE OUT DRIVERS
AND TEAMS WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIPS

AQUABIKE

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE RIDERS
ALL SET FOR SHARJAH
SHOWDOWN ON
KHALID LAGOON

the official championships magazine

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Contact

For marketing information, contact:
email: marketing@h2oracing.net

For media information, contact: Nigel Quilter
tel: +44 1252 713223
mob: + 44 7785 325346
email: media@h2oracing.net

Web

F1H2O
f1h2o.com

NC
cuph2o.com

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Photographers: Simon Palfrader, Vittorio Ubertone, Arek Rejs
Editorial: H2O Racing

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

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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

TEAM ABU DHABI ALL SET TO CLOSE OUT DRIVERS AND TEAMS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

After a season of near dominance Team Abu Dhabi look all set to close out the coveted UIM F1H2O Drivers and Teams World Championships – and securing one or both could well happen in round 6 at their home Grand Prix on 6-8 December, the penultimate round of the season.

In an unprecedented season its current driver line up has won all five Grand Prix, picking up 11 of the 15 available podium slots and locking out the podium at successive Grand Prix in France and China and are locked in a three way fight for the title.

Shaun Torrente leads the championship standings on 72 points and a win in Abu Dhabi will hand him the title if teammate Erik Stark, who is 7 points adrift in second, finishes fifth or lower. To keep his title hope alive, teammate Thani Al Qemzi has to win. In the teams championship Abu Dhabi are well and truly in command and sit in top spot on 126 points, 43 clear of CTIC F1 Shenzhen China and are poised to lift a third teams championship in four years.



WHAT A WEEKEND IN #INCREDIBLE INDIA – TORRENTE WINS TO GO BACK TO THE TOP OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Fourteen years after the UIM F1H2O World Championship's first visit to the subcontinent to Mumbai in 2004, the series returned for the Grand Prix of India in Amaravati in November – and the wait was absolutely worth it.

And what a treat the organisers Malaxmi Group, the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority and the people of Amaravati served up - and the drivers and teams responded with two days of simply brilliant action on the Krishna River.

Official figures put the race weekend attendance at 175,000 and the electric

atmosphere, cacophony of noise and colour and wonderful chaos carried all the way from the town and the streets to the river banks as the crowds cheered every passing boat and raised the roof every time a Team Amaravati boat went by.

On the water the weekend belonged to Team Abu Dhabi's Shaun Torrente who delivered an imperious performance to deliver a seventh career pole position and matched that tally with a lights-to-flag victory in the race to move back to the top of the championship standings for the first time since the season opener in Portugal in May.

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE RIDERS ALL SET FOR SHARJAH SHOWDOWN ON KHALID LAGOON



The battles for the honour of being crowned a UIM-ABP Aquabike World Champion, the most coveted title in international jet ski racing, will take place on the spectacular Khalid Lagoon when the championship returns to the United Arab Emirates for the Grand Prix of Sharjah on 11-14 December for the title showdown for the fourth year in a row.

After two Grand Prix over back-to-back weekends in Gallipoli and Olbia in Italy the battle to end the year as world champion

will again be fought out over three Motos, with the final day's action of the year in the Aquabike Championship crossing over with the final Grand Prix of the season of the UIM F1H2O World Championship.

With 75 points on offer the coveted UIM-ABP world titles in all categories, Runabout GP1, Ski GP1, Ski GP1 Ladies and Freestyle are all still wide open and up for grabs.

SHARJAH TO HOST WEEK LONG SPORTING SPECTACULAR TO CLOSE OUT AQUABIKE AND F1H2O SEASON

Khalid Lagoon in the heart of the Emirate of Sharjah is the fabulous setting for a week of non-stop action to close out the 2018 UIM-ABP Aquabike and UIM F1H2O World Championship season.

The world's two most prestigious international championships will share centre stage and the water from the 11 to 15 December, with the jet ski riders

first out on Tuesday and Wednesday for practice, qualifying and motos 1&2 with the final moto of their year on Friday.

The final round of the F1H2O World Championship gets underway on Thursday with two practice sessions and BRM Official Qualifying with a days' break before the final race of the year on Saturday.



LUIS RIBEIRO APPOINTED CHAIRMAN FORMULA 1 COMMITTEE

Luis Ribeiro has been appointed Chairman of the Formula 1 Committee, the body responsible for all aspects of F1 Racing and reporting directly to [UIM] Council.

The appointment comes following the 91st UIM General Assembly which took place last month in Beirut, with long-time

Chairman Fred Hauenstein stepping aside and Ribeiro elevated to top spot from his position as Vice Chairman.

Ribeiro will chair meetings of representatives which include the F1H2O Promoter, engine manufacturers, local organisers, team owners, drivers and safety officials to ensure the smooth

transition and ratification of decisions taken by the F1 Daily Management Committee.

Ribeiro is long-serving and ever present figure in F1H2O circles with the, at times, difficult task of Race Director at Grand Prix and responsible for the smooth running of all on water activities.

FIH20

WHAT A WEEKEND IN #INCREDIBLE INDIA

TORRENTE WINS TO GO BACK TO
THE TOP OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP
STANDINGS





F

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On the water the weekend belonged to Team Abu Dhabi's Shaun Torrente who delivered an imperious performance to deliver a seventh career pole position and matched that tally with a lights to flag victory in the race to move back to the top of the championship standings for the first time since the season opener in Portugal in May.

The American delivered two moments of pure magic when under immense pressure; the first in BRM Official qualifying when with less than 30 seconds on the clock in Q2 he was in danger of missing the cut but delivered on his final lap as the clock timed out to jump six spots and go quickest and into the shootout.

In the shootout and the last to go of the six he fluffed his lines on his first flying lap after Marit Stromoy had grabbed the provisional pole with a monster 44.72s lap, but again when it mattered Torrente went into 'party mode' and went quickest by 0.18s, much to the relief of team manager Guido Cappellini!

The other star of the weekend was Stromoy – she was just mighty, outstanding in qualifying and produced one moment in the race that completely dispelled any argument that women struggle at the top level in motorsport.

After fluffing her own lines from P2 off the dock and dropping places, the yellow flag following the first corner mayhem between Philippe Chiappe and Duarte Benavente that side lined both, threw her a lifeline.

Again she was a little shy at the restart, lost ground to race leader Torrente and was caught and momentarily passed by Abu Dhabi's Erik Stark, the two all but rubbing paint at turn 5 and Stromoy pushed wide on the outside. But the Emirates Racing driver was

Marit Stromoy produced by far her best performance of the season to finish in second



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SHARJAH



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having none of it, out dragged her rival heading to turn one, made the pass and stole the corner to maintain P2 as Stark caught some air through the turn – her second place lauded and praised by both Abu Dhabi drivers.

Despite the setback of suffering his first DNF of the year with engine issues and losing his championship lead the third member of the Abu Dhabi triumvirate, Thani Al Qemzi, is still in touch, just, in the title race with his two teammates, with Peter Morin once again having another good weekend for CTIC F1 Shenzhen China in fourth and 2004 winner Francesco Cantando enjoying his best outing of the year bringing his Blaze home in fifth ahead of Erik Edin.

Victory Team's Alex Carella was having a good weekend in yet another next generation Victory hull, until qualifying when docked his best lap in Q2 for a course infringement on another lap and missing the cut as a result and then effectively failing to launch of the dock at the start of the race and retiring.

There were tales of woe throughout the weekend and the 44 lap race around the 2.125km five pin circuit on the Krishna River. But none more so than for Mad Croc BABA Racing's Sami Selio whose run of bad luck continued, the cruellest cut of all coming after morning practice on race day with more engine issues and unable to start.



A weekend of mixed fortunes for Victory teammates Al Hameli and Carella





Official figures put the race weekend
attendance at 175,000

TORRENTE AND STROMOY SLUG IT OUT IN BRM QUALIFYING...

Torrente was quickest in extra free practice on the Friday, teammate Stark hitting back in practice on Saturday and Sunday, but it was Torrente who really delivered when it mattered most and produced a stunning final run in the top-six shootout to cap a thrilling BRM Official Qualifying session, setting the fastest time with a 44.54s lap around the five-pin 1.125km circuit on the Krishna River and would start the Grand Prix of India from pole position.

Stromoy produced her best qualifying session of the season and went second quickest with a 44.72s lap, Stark sealing third spot with a time of 45.00s.

Torrente was made to work hard for his seventh career-pole and his third of the season, leaving it late into Q2 and sitting outside the top six before jumping to the top of the time sheets to progress into the shootout on his final lap as the clock timed out the 20 minute session, his Abu Dhabi teammates Thani Al Qemzi and Stark locking out the top three spots.





Carella was the big loser in the middle session after having his best lap time of 46.27s deleted for cutting the course on another run, dropping him to eighth and elevating Stromoy to fourth, Victory's Ahmed Al Hameli to fifth and handing a lifeline and shootout slot to Team Amaravati's Jonas Andersson.

Andersson opened the shootout with a best lap of 45.22s which Al Hameli was unable to better, missing out by a mere one hundredths of a second.

Next out was Stromoy and targeting a first pole position since Portugal in 2011 and immediately posted the fastest time of the day with a staggering 44.72s lap to take the provisional pole. Stark followed and produced his best time on his first run but missed out by 0.26s with Al Qemzi's time of 45.06s eventually putting him fourth.

Torrente was last out and the tension mounted as he pulled out of his first run and was suddenly under massive pressure to deliver the team its fourth pole of the season, but then produced a simply breath taking run to snatch pole position from Stromoy by 0.18s. "The whole day was a series of mistakes by me

and then to get it done at the last second is great," Torrente said. "In Q2 I changed to a bigger propeller which I thought I needed and I did. But with less than 30 seconds to go I was out. But I made a good solid lap and went P1. Then in Q3 having seen Marit's time which was huge I pressed too hard and made a mistake so I aborted and just had to pull out a near perfect lap, which I did."

It was another massively frustrating day for the CTIC F1 Shenzhen China duo who had been struggling with engine issues and ahead of a race that they really need to be running in the top three or four to keep any flickering title hopes alive, but now faced a huge mountain to climb with Peter Morin qualifying in seventh and Philippe Chiappe in tenth behind Blaze Performance's Francesco Cantando.

The Abu Dhabi trio starting one-three and four [on Sunday] were going for an unprecedented third successive Grand Prix podium lockout, the woman standing in their way was Stromoy, bidding for a second Grand Prix win.



BRILLIANT THREE WAY DICE AT THE FRONT ON RACE DAY

Shaun Torrente capped a perfect weekend in Amaravati with a faultless drive to win the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of India and moved back to the top of the world championship standings. Marit Stromoy produced by far her best performance of the season to finish in second with Erik Stark making it an Abu Dhabi one-three.

There was drama almost immediately when CTIC F1 Shenzhen China's Philippe Chiappe collided with F1 Atlantic's Duarte Benavente and crashed heavily on the start lap at the first turn, ending his title hopes with defending champion Alex Carella's race ending almost before it began.

It was a disappointing afternoon for the local favourite Jonas Andersson, the Team Amaravati driver retiring after running in fourth place for 33 of the 44 lap race.

Pole-sitter Torrente made the perfect start but would have to do it all again when the yellow flag was shown for Chiappe's dramatic exit, the incident benefitting Stromoy who had a poor start and dropped several places but with no laps completed the boats reverted to their starting positions.



After 14 years and 99 Grand Prix since the first visit to Mumbai the championship returns to India



Torrente made no mistake at the restart and took off and opened up an early lead, but for the majority of the race was unable to shake off the challenge of a very persistent Stromoy who would not let him get away, but the Abu Dhabi driver was faultless, absorbed the pressure from behind and maintained his relentless pace to complete the 44 laps and win by 2.17s to record his seventh-career victory and leapfrog his two teammates to hit the front in title race. "Marit did a wonderful job. She pushed so hard and I knew she would," said Torrente. "I made two great starts and it was all about managing the race. For me it's about winning the championship not just races. The goal is to be in this position after Sharjah. Our home race is next so we hope we can keep it going."

Stromoy's drive to second sandwiched between the Abu Dhabi pair for the full race distance was immense and received high praise from both her rivals and was by far her best outing this year, keeping Torrente in her sights and fending off a relentless challenge from Stark. "I tried and pushed as hard as I could till the bitter end but it was a great race for me," Stromoy said. "I had a bad start and was a bit lucky with the yellow flag but I could see Shaun was controlling things at the front and I also had to keep my eye on Erik."

Despite all his efforts and a near coming together with Stromoy, Stark was unable to get passed. "I was a little unlucky with the yellow because for once I made a really good start," Stark said. "After the restart I got up beside her but she held on and after that I pushed as hard as I could but it was not enough. The podium is great but the points' tally after Sharjah is what matters and we have two races to go."

Behind the front three it was a race of attrition with eight of the 18 starters failing to go the distance; Benavente out on lap 1 after the coming together with Chiappe, his teammate Grant Trask going out on lap 13, Al Qemzi seeing his championship lead disappear with his retirement on lap 5. Bartek Marszalek was running a strong race in eighth until engine issues ended his afternoon on lap 23, Cedric Deguisne's race ending on lap 27.

Andersson was looking strong in fourth before his exit with Morin taking over the slot and running a solitary race to the chequered flag and some consolation for the CTIC China Team, with Francesco Cantando picking up his best result of the year bringing his Blaze home in fifth.

Francesco Cantando picking up his best result of the year bringing his Blaze home in fifth



Team Amaravati's Erik Edin produced one of the drives of the day, moving up from 18th off the pontoon to finish in sixth ahead of Mad Croc BABA Racing's Filip Roms and Ahmed Al Hameli who was struggling with technical issues.

It was a very good afternoon for two championship rookies, Simone Schuft and Sutthiphan Sookbuangbon, both picking up their first championship points in ninth and tenth.

With two races to go Shaun Torrente leads the championship standings on 72 points from Stark on 65 and Al Qemzi slipping to third on 54, with Morin now the closest challenger in fourth on 39 points.

The next and penultimate round of the season is the Grand Prix of Abu Dhabi in the UAE on the 6-8 December, the final round of the season in Sharjah on 13-15 December.



THREE WAY FIGHT AT THE TOP IN THE F4-S CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE RACE

H leading to the UAE for the penultimate and final rounds of the year and with 80 points on offer the F4-S Championship title race is wide open with 17 points the difference between the lead trio, Max Stilz on 87, Mohamed Al Mehairbi on 86 and Sam Whittle with 70.

In India Sam Whittle secured his first Grand Prix title for F1 Atlantic with a solid second place in the second race of the weekend in Amaravati behind Victory Team's Ahmed Al Fahim, the win putting him into third overall in the Grand Prix standings,

with series newcomer Ben Jelf completing a very impressive debut coming home in third place to seal the runners-up slot for Team Amaravati.

In a somewhat processional race it was pole-sitter Al Fahim who dominated from lights out and again at the restart on lap 3 after the yellow flag was raised to remove the stationary Mad Croc boat of Rudi Mihaldinecz.

Behind the lead trio, Blaze Performance's Max Stilz made up for the disappointment of his race 1 DNF, finishing in fourth after staving off a strong challenge from Emirates Racing's Tom Chiappe and moved back to the top of the championship standings by one point from Abu Dhabi's Mohamed Al Mehairbi, who finished sixth.

In a highly entertaining race 1, veteran driver Rudi Mihaldinecz used all his experience to take victory and led the race from pole position, but a mistake on lap 4 allowed series debutant Ben Jelf to take the lead which he held onto until lap 12 when the yellow flag was raised to allow race marshals to remove the stationary Max Stilz.

At the restart on lap 16 Mihaldinecz immediately jumped Jelf to retake the lead, going on to win the 20-lap race by 5.22s with Jelf in pursuit but coming up short.

The middle order produced a great scrap before and after the yellow, Stilz running in third from Whittle until both were passed on lap 9 by Al Fahim. The yellow flag bunched up the pack with Whittle making up a place after Al Fahim hooked and dropped to sixth, with Tom Chiappe also taking advantage and getting the better of Mohamed Al Mehairbi to move up and take fourth.

It has been a highly competitive season with four drivers and teams grabbing Grand Prix titles and six drivers taking at least one race win; Pedro Fortuna took the Grand Prix victory for Team Sweden in Portugal, Max Stilz completing the win double in London for Blaze Performance, Abu Dhabi's Mohamed Al Mehairbi winning in China and Sam Whittle winning for F1 Atlantic last time out.

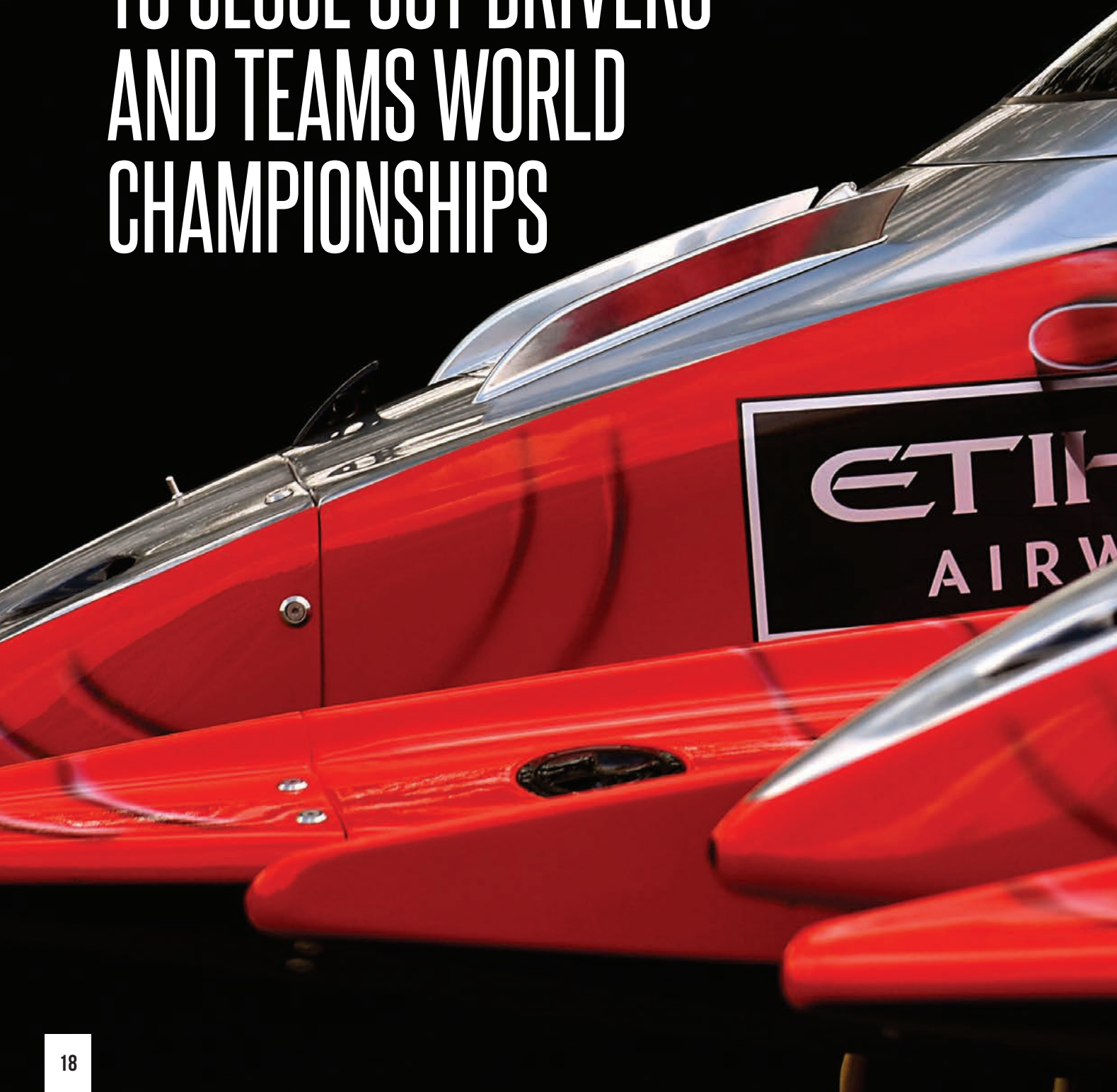


Series newcomer
Ben Jelf completed
a very impressive
debut



F1H2O

TEAM ABU DHABI LOOK SET TO CLOSE OUT DRIVERS AND TEAMS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS





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fter a season of near dominance Team Abu Dhabi look all set to close out the coveted UIM F1H2O Drivers and Teams World Championships – and securing one or both could well happen in round 6 at their home Grand Prix on 6-8 December, the penultimate round of the season.

For the 18th year in the championships' 35-year history the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Sharjah will host back-to back Grand Prix weekends to close out the season; the double header kicks off in Abu Dhabi which first hosted a round of the championship in 1993 and has hosted 25 events, Sharjah joining the calendar in 2000 and has held 18 Grand Prix and since 2004 has been the season finale. Of the 32 countries the championship has visited the UAE boasts staging the most Grand Prix with 44, Dubai hosting its only round in 2016.

2018 has been an unprecedented season for Abu Dhabi and its current driver line up which has won all five Grand Prix, picking up 11 of the 15 available podium slots and locking out the podium at successive Grand Prix in France and China – and are locked in a three-way fight for the title. The only blemish to its year coming in London when Shaun Torrente popped two turn buoys and was disqualified and Thani Al Qemzi missed the podium in fourth. And in India last time out an engine failure for Al Qemzi and subsequent retirement was a stark reminder that nothing is a given!



Shaun Torrente leads the championship standings on 72 points and a win in Abu Dhabi will hand him the title if teammate Erik Stark, who is 7 points adrift in second, finishes fifth or lower. To keep his title hope alive, teammate Thani Al Qemzi has to win. In the teams championship Abu Dhabi are well and truly in command and sit in top spot on 126 points, 43 clear of CTIC F1 Shenzhen China and are poised to lift a third teams championship in four years.

In the inter-team head-to-head this season Torrente holds court with three pole and race wins to Stark's two, with Al Qemzi on the podium either side of the winner three times, but neither of the trio has won in Abu Dhabi and if the title race should go to the wire in Sharjah with all three still in it, Al Qemzi might fancy his chances having won there three times to Torrente's one with Stark still to get off the mark!

With the team on the cusp of a brace of titles the 'Cappellini factor' cannot be underestimated as he looks to steer his team to a successive drivers title and a third teams championship in the four years since he took over at the helm as team manager in 2015. Arguably his hardest role as the season closed out has been the management of three drivers from the same team bidding for the title. "It's not just managing three very good drivers it's managing three that are separated by just 18 points. It's not an easy task because each driver has a clear motivation which is to win a first

world title," he said. "Every time a driver goes out on the water I remind him, and not just me, that what is important for the team is not to make a mistake especially with a team member. Right now there are no issues and everything is working out very well and I hope it continues in this direction.

"They are free to race. It is difficult to have a preferred driver, why, because Shaun is Shaun, Erik is Erik and Thani is Thani. For me to win the title as a driver you cannot have any mistakes. One mistake by whoever it is will cost him the championship and I always stress this to all of them." And when asked who he thought will win the title he said 'inshalla one of them!'

Mathematically the CTIC F1 Shenzhen China duo is still in it [the title race] but in all reality their time is limited unless there is a complete out of body capitulation by the trio at the top over the next two races, but a championship podium slot is still a possibility.

Philippe Chiappe's hopes of keeping any flickering title challenge alive were all but extinguished in India after his first corner malaise with Duarte Benavente, and in a season that has not been the teams' strongest he heads to Abu Dhabi to defend his Grand Prix title.

Despite a solid start to the year with a podium for Chiappe in Portugal and for both CTIC drivers in London with Chiappe at that



point leading the title race, the year then began to unravel. Chiappe now sits in fifth spot on 34 points and it is his son-in-law and teammate Peter Morin carrying the fight to the front runners and five points better off in the standings above him and having a very good season and currently leading the points chase in the Fast Lap Trophy.

For the remainder of drivers in the championship the title race is run but with two races left and 40 points on offer there is still the opportunity to move up in the standings and finish the year strongly.

After her brilliant second in qualifying and in the race in India Marit Stromoy leads the best of the rest in sixth spot with 26 points and will line up in Abu Dhabi looking to go one better than her second place there last year. And on her performance last time out a win is more than possible, knowing that she has the boat, the engine, the race craft and the sheer bloody-minded determination to do it.

For teammate Bartek Marszalek the final two races are an opportunity to show what he is more than capable of after a frustrating year plagued by engine issues and try to move up in the standings from a lowly 16th.

Erik Edin sits in seventh on 18 points and currently has the edge over teammate Jonas Andersson in the Amaravati camp in ninth after a strong showing in India finishing sixth, with Andersson looking to bounce back after failing to go the distance after running in fourth for the majority of the race.

Victory Team will be desperate to end its season on a positive note and build on the marked improvements that they showed at times in India but still under achieved, Ahmed Al

Hameli currently sitting in eighth with Alex Carella in 11th. But Carella was very positive and optimistic in India stating that the latest evolution Victory boat was by far the best and that he felt very comfortable in it and that he would continue to push to challenge at the front. His next chance to do that is at a circuit which he has won at three times!

Sami Selio will be the first to admit that this season has been one to forget for him, for Filip Roms and for everyone at Mad Croc BABA Racing with engine issues lurking at every turn and limiting Selio to just one fifth place finish and Roms picking up his only points last time out.

Francesco Cantando rounds out the top ten for Blaze Performance in a season where his points tally does not reflect some outstanding performances in his Blaze and heads into the final two races on the back of his best finish of the year in India in fifth, with teammate Simone Schuft looking to build on her last performance picking up her first championship points.

It has been a frustrating last couple of outings for both the F1 Atlantic drivers after failing to go the distance and both times from middle order positions, engine issues side lining

Chiappe now sits in fifth spot on 34 points, but it is his son-in-law and teammate Peter Morin carrying the fight to the front runners





Grant Trask from ninth last time out and Duarte Benavente an innocent passenger in the coming together with Chiappe, with Maverick F1 Racing's Cedric Deguisne looking to round out his season by adding to his points tally and teammate Sutthiphon Sookbuangbon aiming to end his first year by going the distance in all his four starts and hopefully in the points again.

For Team Abu Dhabi the title outcomes, when and where not if, are in their own hands. Both can be decided at their home Grand Prix but a three way inter-team battle for the drivers' title at the final race of the year in Sharjah would be something to savour.

Whatever the outcome in Abu Dhabi, Khalid Lagoon in the heart of the Emirate of Sharjah is the fabulous

setting for a week of non-stop action to close out the 2018 UIM F1H2O World and UIM-ABP Aquabike Championship season.

The world's two most prestigious international championships will share centre stage and the water from the 11 to 15 December, with the jet ski riders first out on Tuesday and Wednesday for practice, qualifying and motos 1&2 with the final moto of the year on Friday.

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INAUGURAL SEASON 1981

(no World Championship 1987 – 1989)

32 COUNTRIES

35th SEASON

13 WORLD CHAMPIONS

7 MULTIPLE WORLD CHAMPION

Guido Cappellini (ITA) 10

Scott Gillman (USA) 4

Alex Carella (ITA) 4

Philippe Chiappe (FRA) 3

Renato Molinari (ITA) 3

Sami Selio (FIN) 2

Jonathan Jones (GBR) 2

47 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: 15 minutes, top six go through (times reset)

Q3: top six, two flying laps

Grand Prix – not to exceed 60 minutes

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
2017	Alex Carella	Italy
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

WORLD CHAMPION

Alex Carella (ITA) - Victory Team

WORLD GOVERNING BODY

Union International Motonautique (UIM)

President: Dr. Raffaele Chiulli

PROMOTER

H2O Racing

President: Nicolò di San Germano

DRIVER STATS

Drivers	Country	GP's Entered	Race Starts	Points Overall	Poles	Wins	Podiums
Sami Selio	FIN	157	154	980,5	25	13	46
Francesco Cantando	ITA	179	174	934,5	4	12	42
Thani Al Qamzi	UAE	132	131	805,5	2	7	35
Philippe Chiappe	FRA	121	116	719	6	9	34
Alex Carella	ITA	56	56	583	15	15	30
Ahmed Al Hameli	UAE	84	79	453	10	7	19
Shaun Torrente	USA	46	45	390	7	7	18
Jonas Andersson	SWE	93	92	481	4	5	16
Erik Stark	SWE	31	30	99	4	3	9
Duarte Benavente	POR	153	140	366,5	0	0	6
Marit Stromoy	NOR	82	77	199	1	1	3
Filip Roms	FIN	41	38	90	0	0	2
Peter Morin	FRA	11	11	49	0	0	1
Bartek Marszalek	POL	38	33	66	0	0	0
Cedric Deguisne	FRA	25	23	23	0	0	0
Grant Trask	AUS	13	13	19	0	0	0
Erik Edin	SWE	7	6	18	0	0	0
Rashed Al Qemzi	UAE	8	7	2	0	0	0
Simone Schuft	GER	5	3	2	0	0	0
Sutthiphon Sookbuangbon	THA	2	2	1	0	0	0
Mette Brandt Bjerknaes	NOR	2	2	0	0	0	0

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

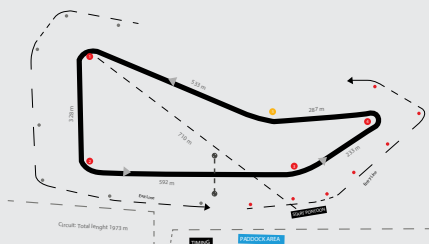
6-8 DECEMBER 2018, ROUND 6

9 teams

19 drivers

14 countries:

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



GRAND PRIX OF SHARJAH - U.A.E.

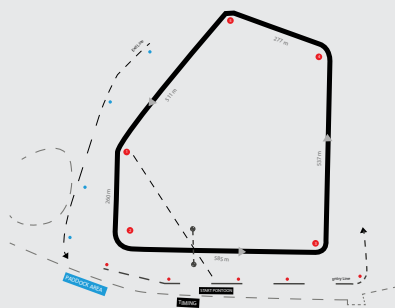
13-15 DECEMBER 2018, ROUND 7

9 teams

19 drivers 14

countries:

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



PREVIOUS GRAND PRIX WINNERS IN ABU DHABI

2017 Philippe Chiappe FRA
2016 Jonas Andersson SWE
2015 Alex Carella ITA
2014 Philippe Chiappe FRA
2013 Sami Selio FIN
2012 Alex Carella ITA
2011 Alex Carella ITA
2010 Sami Selio FIN
2009 R2 Jay Price USA
2009 R1 Guido Cappellini ITA
2008 Jay Price USA
2007 Sami Selio FIN
2006 Guido Cappellini ITA
2005 Scott Gillman USA

2004 No Grand Prix
2003 Laith Pharaon SAU
2002 Laith Pharaon SAU
2001 Francesco Cantando ITA
2000 Francesco Cantando ITA
1999 Guido Cappellini ITA
1998 Jonathan Jones GBR
1997 Scott Gillman USA
1996 Guido Cappellini ITA
1995 Jonathan Jones GBR
1994 Felix Serrales USA
1993 GP2: Felix Serrales USA
1993 GP1: Guido Cappellini ITA

PREVIOUS GRAND PRIX WINNERS IN SHARJAH

2017 Alex Carella ITA
2016 Shaune Torrente USA
2015 Marit Stromoy NOR
2014 Philippe Chiappe FRA
2012 Thani Al Qamzi UAE
2012 Alex Carella ITA
2011 Ahmed Al Hameli UAE
2010 Ahmed Al Hameli UAE
2009 R1 Jay Price USA
2009 R2 Sami Selio FIN
2008 Thani Al Qamzi UAE
2007 Sami Selio FIN

2006	Thani Al Qamzi	UAE
2005	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2004	Scott Gillman	USA
2003	Scott Gillman	USA
2002	Massimo Roggiro	ITA
2001	Guido Cappellini	ITA
2000	Francesco Cantando	ITA

DRIVERS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

(AFTER ROUND 5)

TEAMS & DRIVERS 2018

Victory Team

1 Alex Carella (ITA/*UAE)
3 Ahmed Al Hameli (UAE)

Team Abu Dhabi

5 Thani Al Qemzi (UAE)
6 Shaun Torrente (USA/*UAE)
35 Erik Stark (SWE)

CTIC F1 Shenzhen China

7 Philippe Chiappe (FRA)
8 Peter Morin (FRA)

F1 Atlantic

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

Mad-Croc BABA Racing

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

Team Amaravati

14 Jonas Andersson (SWE)
15 Erik Edin (SWE)

Blaze Performance

36 Simone Schuft (GER)
37 Francesco Cantando (ITA)

Emirates Racing Team

50 Marit Stromoy (NOR)
51 Bartek Marszalek (POL)

Maverick F1

73 Cedric Deguisne (FRA)
74 Sookbuangbon Sutthiphan (THA)

AQUABIKE

UIM-ABP AQUABIKE RIDERS ALL SET FOR SHARJAH SHOWDOWN ON KHALID LAGOON







In Ski GP1 Kevin Reiterer looks well-placed to regain the title



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he battles for the honour of being crowned a UIM-ABP Aquabike World Champion, the most coveted title in international jet ski racing, will take place on the spectacular Khalid Lagoon when the championship returns to the United Arab Emirates for the Grand Prix of Sharjah on 11-14 December for the title

showdown deciders for the fourth year in a row.

After two Grand Prix over back-to-back weekends in Gallipoli and Olbia in Italy the battle to end the year as world champion will again be fought out over three Motos, with the final day's action of the year in the Aquabike Championship crossing over with the final Grand Prix of the season of the UIM F1H2O World Championship.

With 75 points on offer the coveted UIM-ABP world titles in all categories, Runabout GP1, Ski GP1, Ski GP1 Ladies and Freestyle are all still wide open and up for grabs.

Arguably the most anticipated face off is in Runabout between points leader France's Jeremy Perez and the defending world champion from Kuwait, Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq. It is a mouth-watering prospect, Perez looking for his first world title at the tenth time of asking and Abdulrazzaq going for a fifth and looking to make it four on the bounce.

The two title protagonists have traded moto wins and Grand Prix titles this season and are separated by just one point, 86 to 85, heading into the decider.

Perez has hit a rich vein of form and is enjoying a stellar year so far, taking his first Moto win and title [in Olbia] since 2014, but will have to produce something extra special in Sharjah where his record is poor with just two top three finishes and one runners-up podium slot in 2016.

UAE's Rashed Al Mulla is as big as odds on favourite as there is to win the title



With 75 points on offer the coveted UIM-ABP world titles in all categories are all still wide open and up for grabs

The four-time UIM-ABP European Champion has come close to lifting the world title on numerous occasions, finishing runner-up to Teddy Pons in 2014 and finishing third in 2013 and 2015 – on both occasions the title going to Abdulrazzaq, but the Frenchman once again stands on the cusp of lifting the sport's biggest prize that has so far eluded him.

Standing in Perez' way is Abdulrazzaq whose record in Sharjah is super impressive winning five of the seven Motos and the Grand Prix title there for all three years on Khalid Lagoon, his most dramatic win coming in 2015 to clinch the title when Jean-Baptiste Botti snatched defeat from the jaws of title glory after breaking down on the last lap whilst leading and handing the Moto win and the title to the Kuwaiti.

One rider who may well have a big say in the overall outcome should either of the front runners falter is the man in third place, Hungary's Gyorgy Kasza.

Kasza is blindingly quick, a two-time Moto winner with three podiums under his belt and but for a technical problem in the season opener in Moto 2 after winning the first and a post-race penalty that dropped him from first to third in the second Moto in Olbia he would be within touching distance of his rivals if not holding the points lead instead of needing to overhaul a 17 point deficit.

Outside the top three but with too much ground to make up to challenge for title honours are a clutch of riders capable of taking wins and points out of the lead trio and are previous GP winners; Lars Akerblom, currently fourth in the standings and runner-up in the title race last year and James Bushell, runner-up in 2015 and who has qualified in pole in Sharjah twice but is having a poor season and down in 12th, whilst the likes of this year's European Champion Christophe Agostinho and Marcus Jorgensen are both capable of challenging for podium places.

In Ski GP1 Kevin Reiterer looks well-placed to regain the title he first and last held in 2015 and heads

to Sharjah with a 14 point margin over the 2018 European Champion Raphael Maurin, picking up a first Moto win and podium for Victory Team in the season opener and then taking the GP win in Olbia with maximum points.

Reiterer is another with an impressive record on Khalid Lagoon, winning the GP title twice but his breakdown in last years' final Moto ended his unbeaten run and will be a stark reminder for the Austrian ace that nothing is a given.

Frenchman Maurin is the closest challenger and will feel that he is in with great chance after edging Reiterer in Gallipoli for overall victory and following that with another podium in third.

Forty points plus is the unlikely margin to overturn facing a chasing trio of hopeful outsiders led by former two-time champion Mickael Poret, defending champion and last years' Sharjah victor Quinten Bossche and Stian Schjetlein who has podiumed twice in Sharjah.

The Ladies division has produced some of the outstanding racing and performances of the season and is a three way fight for the title between Latvia's Krista Uzare, Sweden's two-time and defending





Uzare has the advantage of a nine point cushion over Ortendahl



The Ladies division has produced some of the outstanding racing and performances of the season

champion Emma-Nellie Ortendahl and Estonia's Katriin Nilbe – all three picking up Moto wins this year and locking out the podium places.

Uzare has the advantage of a nine point cushion over Ortendahl, the pair delivering two standout Motos in Gallipoli with the Latvian rider picking up her maiden UIM-ABP Moto and GP win and they were at it again in the first Moto in Olbia, Uzare again coming out on top. Then Nilbe stepped up and joined the title challengers' party, picking up her maiden Moto success to split Uzare and Ortendahl, but has work to do in third, 23 points back of the points' leader.

Heading the chase to try to get amongst the end of year podium slots is Britain's Mollie Fearn who has enjoyed a very solid debut season on the UIM-ABP tour with a best Moto third and fourth overall in Olbia, Estonia's Jasmiin Yprause with two top six finishes, the younger of the Borgstrom sisters Sofie, who picked up her best ever Moto and GP result with a third and fourth overall in Gallipoli and Jonna, who looks to be coming back to form after her crash and suffering a broken arm in Sharjah last year.

There may be only 20 points separating first and second spots in Freestyle but barring some sort of meltdown or not

turning up at all, the UAE's Rashed Al Mulla is as big as odds on favourite as there is to win the title.

The Emirati aerial trickster is in a league of his own, has maxed points in qualifying and every heat this year and heads to Sharjah unbeaten in five Grand Prix, with Italy's Roberto Mariani looking pretty much assured of the world ending runners-up slot, countryman Alberto Camerlengo locked in a three way fight for third with Russia's Alexander Kuramshin and Portugal's Paulo Nunes.

UIM-APB AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP DEFENDING CHAMPIONS

Runabout GP1 – Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq (kuw)
Ski GP1 – Quinten Bossche (bel)
Ski GP1 Ladies – Emma-Nellie Ortendahl (swe)
Freestyle – Nac Florjancic (slo)

2018 UIM-APB AQUABIKE EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS

Runabout GP1 – Christophe Agostinho (por)
Ski GP1 – Raphael Maurin (fra)
Ski GP1 Ladies – Emma-Nellie Ortendahl (swe)
Freestyle – Roberto Mariani (ita)



Only 20 points separating first and second spots in Freestyle but Al Mulla favourite





SEASON RECAP...

ABDULRAZZAQ, MAURIN, UZARE AND AL MULLA WIN IN GALLIPOLI

The 24th season of the UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship got off to a fantastic start at the Grand Prix of Italy held in the lovely port town of Gallipoli in the province of Lecce in the south of Puglia (Apulia).

An impressive 76 rider turnout from 29 countries showcased the sport in its best possible light during a weekend of spectacular competition filled with incident, drama and emotion the testing and at times very rough seas providing a perfect stage and setting for some great racing.

In Runabout GP1 defending and four-time world champion Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq showed his absolute class to win his 11th Grand Prix title, finishing second in the opening Moto then simply destroying the field of 25 in the second to notch up a 19th career win. Jeremy Perez produced a strong performance with two top three finishes to claim second overall, Moto 1 winner Gyorgy Kasza rounding out the podium places despite retiring from Moto 2, with Lars Akerblom, Johan Johansson and Christophe Agostinho rounding out the top six.



2017 European Champion Raphael Maurin laid down a huge marker in Ski GP1, stealing the thunder from an array of champions that he lined up alongside to win his first Moto and GP title. Kevin Reiterer gave his new team Victory a podium on its debut, matching Maurin in results and points but Maurin's Moto 2 win gave him the overall victory, Mickael Poret taking third overall.

Krista Uzare repeated the surprise result in the Ladies division and giving defending champion Emma-Nellie Ortendahl something to ponder about, the duo both taking a win and a second place, Uzare claiming overall victory with the Moto 2 win, Katriin Nilbe taking the final podium slot.

In Freestyle the absence of the two and four time champions Nac and Rok Florjancic meant a new champion will emerge in 2018 and the man most likely to succeed, even at this ridiculously early stage of the season is Abu Dhabi's brilliant aerial trickster Rashed Al Mulla who owned the top spot in qualifying and both heats to win his fourth successive Grand Prix title, ahead of Italians Roberto Mariani and Alberto Camerlengo.







The UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship discovered a sparkling new jewel for its crown, the enchanting town of Olbia on the north east coast of the island of Sardinia, which welcomed the UIM-ABP tour for round 2, the Grand Prix of the Mediterranean.

It was a spectacular first event in Olbia and an action packed weekend with 149 competitors from over 30 countries on show, the elite riders in GP1 joined by fellow racers in GP2, GP3 and GP4 competing in the single event three Moto UIM-ABP World Championship.

In Runabout GP1 Jeremy Perez continued his return to form winning twice and climbed back onto the top step of the podium taking his first GP title since 2014 to take the lead in the championship standings, Yousef Al Abdulrazzaq and Gyorgy Kasza completing the podium and trail Perez in the standings in the same order.

Victory Team's Kevin Reiterer completed the Olbia win-double to take his first Grand Prix win of the year to move 14 points clear at the top of the world championship standings ahead of Raphael Maurin, who finished third overall behind

SEASON RECAP...

OLBIA – AQUABIKE'S SPARKLING NEW JEWEL



defending world champion Quinten Bossche. In the Ladies division a three-way fight for the title emerged; Emma-Nellie Ortendahl producing a stunning lap to go quickest in qualifying, Krista Uzare hitting back to win Moto1, claim a second GP title and the lead in the points, Katriin Nilbe stunning both her rivals to take her maiden win in Moto2.

In Freestyle, Rashed Al Mulla's brilliance and unbeaten run continued, taking his fifth straight Grand Prix title.

The sensational story from the weekend was all about 16-year-old Swedish rider Samuel Johansson taking two wins and a second place to win the UIM-ABP Runabout GP2 World Championship, Germany's Philip Salobir winning in GP4. In Ski GP2 Benjamin Scharff went three for three to claim the world title for France, with Hungary's Barnabas Szabo crowned champion in GP3.

A post-race penalty dropped Gyorgy Kasza from first to third in the second Moto in Olbia



6-8
DECEMBER

F1H2O

Grand Prix of Abu Dhabi
Abu Dhabi - U.A.E.

2018 CALENDAR

2018 is another spectacular and exciting season for H2O Racing with 14 events planned over nine months, taking its UIM sanctioned Championships, F1H2O and Aquabike to four continents.



Sharjah - U.A.E.
Grand Prix of
Sharjah

11-14
DECEMBER



Sharjah - U.A.E.
Grand Prix of
Sharjah

13-15
DECEMBER



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for information: marketing@h2oracing.net

