



**Press release – official information from the opening round of the 2008 U.I.M.
Formula 2 World Cup Series in Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal**

May 26, 2008

Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal

Jonas Andersson wins the Grand Prix of Portugal

Jonas Andersson of Sweden proved that he still can set the tone for F2 racing and wins the opening round of the U.I.M. Formula 2 World Cup round in Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal.

Jonas Andersson takes away all top trophies in Portugal by winning the Match Race, Speed Record, Pole Position, and Grand Prix race. Reigning champion Colin Jelf of Great Britain had no tools to stop the Swede and finished 2nd. Rick Haakonsen of Norway finished third.

In total 14 pilots from 10 countries started their boats at the Grand Prix of Portugal where they had complete 45 laps to capture the first title of the year. Former F2 champion Jonas Andersson lead the race from his pole position all the way through. The only one who was putting up a good fight against him was Colin Jelf. Norwegian Rick Haakonsen showed marvelous driving and by starting only from 6th position was capable of passing the Flying Frenchman Jean Baptist Thomas and the two Latvians – Uvis Slakteris and Ugis Gross, who all started ahead of him from 3rd, 4th and 5th positions, respectively. Jean Baptist finished 4th, followed by Ugis Gross in 5th place. As usual, Ugis Gross and Uvis Slakteris were fierce competitors on the course were, this time around, Ugis was better as he passed Uvis, while he still had enough fuel. Uvis was not able to complete the race due to miscalculation for the fuel reserve and ended up in eleventh position. Others who did not finish the race were Tisto Orozco of Spain (lap 1), Alex Carella (lap 14), Francisco Consuegra (lap 34).

Owen Jelf finished 7th, in a position where he also started the race. Italian veteran Gianni Manici, who is now representing Switzerland, finished right after Owen and was followed by Sweden's Sven Jansson. The youngest pilot in 2008 Nick Besterfeld of Team Germany finished in 10th place.

Opening round of the U.I.M. Formula 2 World Cup series in Vila Real de Santo Antonio, Portugal is a success as it was a great show for the spectators who, despite unfavorable weather conditions, were present in large crowds. Now the teams and pilots are heading to northern part of Europe where they will begin competition for European Cup title.



Colin Jelf nearly flips his boat and Jonas Andersson wins the Match Race and Speed Record competition

In a best-of-three Match Race final Jonas Andersson beat Colin Jelf and also set the fastest speed in Vila Real de Santo Antnio. Latvian Uvis Slakteris showed great driving skills and was better than Alex Carella for the fight for third place.

Eight boats participated in Match Race competition and it seemed that winner of each match-up was decided already before the heat, as in all heats boat that was inside and was making the short lap first, always was victorious. The only exception was in the heat for third place when Uvis beat Alex.

In the Match Race final there were supposed to be three heats, but in reality there was only one. In first heat Jonas had a jump start and lost it. During the second heat, Colin nearly flipped the boat at one of the turns and got his engine full of water. Thus, Jonas won the Match Race competition as Colin was not able to run the last heat.

In Speed Record competition, which was run as warm-up before the Match Race, Jonas set the fastest speed of 154 km/h. As always, Yousef Al Rabayan also performed well in this contest and posted second best result of 153 km/h. Ugis Gross earned another podium spot for Latvia setting third fastest speed of 152 km/h. As you can see from the results, Speed Record competition was very close and anyone of these three pilots could have won it.

Please check the official U.I.M. Formula 2 World Cup Series website – www.F2worldcup.com – for up to date news, video interviews, pictures, downloads, and more.