



NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2019

CONTENTS

UIM RACES

- UIM XCAT GRAND PRIX OF ITALY, STRESA – 21ST JULY
- UIM F2 GRAND PRIX OF NORWAY, TONSBERG 4TH AUGUST

UIM JUNIOR RACES

- UIM FORMULA FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN ST PETERSBOURG, RUSSIA 30TH JULY TO 4TH AUGUST
- UIM GT15 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN ALUKSNE, LATVIA 14TH JULY
- UIM OFFSHORE CLASS 3J WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN OREGRUND, SWEDEN 31ST JULY

UIM XCAT GRAND PRIX OF ITALY, STRESA – 21ST JULY

The Stresa GP of Italy, the first round of the 2019 UIM XCAT World Championship, featured both new and expected results. The surprise was the pole position and the fast pace of Tom Barry Cotter and Ross Willaton of Team Maritimo on a totally new boat, while the highly expected result was the victory in both races by the 2018 XCAT World Champions Shaun Torrente and Faleh al Mansoori on Abu Dhabi 4.

This was the fourth time XCATs went to Stresa after the events held in 2013, 2014 and 2018. 13 teams from UAE, Australia, Italy, Sweden, Russia, Kuwait and Spain with 26 drivers from four Continents ensured a line-up that was as exciting as ever. The stunning location on Lake Maggiore offered once again the perfect background, with thousands of people watching the action from the elegant shores, the luxurious hotels and the boats anchored around the Borromean Islands.

From a racing point of view, Maritimo's pole position on Saturday could be deemed a true surprise because their catamaran arrived brand-new in Stresa after having been built in Gold Coast,

Australia, by Maritimo Racing.

The qualifying session also evidenced the power of XCAT Teams such as Abu Dhabi 4, Dubai Police, Team Australia, along with several others.

The victory in race 1 went to Abu Dhabi 4, confirming the renewed ambitions of the 2018 XCAT World Champions. At the green flag, the Aussie duo of Maritimo missed the right instant and dropped down to fourth, while a perfect start from Shaun Torrente and Faleh al Mansoori took Boat Abu Dhabi 4 into the lead, with Dubai Police (Arif al Zaffein and Nadir Bin Hendi) and Team Australia (Pål Virik Nilsen and Jan Trygve Braten) in pursuit.

In race 2 Shaun Torrente and Faleh al Mansoori started from first and had no trouble in keeping the lead. They crossed the line only once in 2nd position, on lap 8, when they went for their long lap and Team Australia provisionally stepped up to first. But when the Norwegian duo took their long lap as well, Abu Dhabi 4 got back to the front where they stayed until they saw the checkered flag.

UIM F2 GRAND PRIX OF NORWAY, TONSBERG 4TH AUGUST



Stefan Hagin took his maiden UIM F2 World Championship victory in Tonsberg when he held off the hard charging Rashed Al Qemzi at the Grand Prix of Norway. The German racer, who made his F2 debut at the 2011 Hungarian Grand Prix sped away from the pontoon in Tonsberg leaving many of his rivals languishing on the start line, amongst them were pole sitter Al Qemzi and the local hero Tobias Munthe-Kaas. "Finally, we have done it" said the delighted Hagin. "It's been so hard through the years when you score no points in a season, sometimes a small problem has totally ruined my race weekend but today feels perfect."

At the start the Abu Dhabi Team needed 2 attempts to start Rashed Al Qemzi's engine. "I just pressed the starter and watched everybody get away from me, it was like being back in Kaunas" he said. Due to that bad start the Abu Dhabi Team racer was set to play a waiting game. "My race strategy changed, and I was told not to take any risks". I tried to catch Stefan each time by the marina, but the straights are too short in Tonsberg to overtake or put pressure on the leader."

Munthe-Kaas (NOR) was pushing hard to make up for his poor start and went to the 5th place before spinning and losing the rear cowling from his hull. He then missed the pin turn and tried to re-take it; unfairly to the eyes of the UIM Officials though, who disqualified him from the Grand Prix. Daniel Segenmark, who had been challenging for a podium position would also receive the same sanction as Munthe-Kaas.

With the race finally settling down, it looked like Hagin was followed by the two Team Abu Dhabi boats. However, Rashed Al Tayer had been found to not have maintained his lane on the opening lap and incurred a one-lap penalty which had him drop back to fifth place. That would promote Duarte Benavente to third overall. "My team have done a superb job all weekend and this is the best reward. For me it's special because my Mum passed away exactly five months ago, so this is a big kiss to her", the Portuguese said.

The next event of the UIM F2 World Championship shall be held in Brindisi, Southern Italy, in the second half of August.



UIM FORMULA FUTURE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN ST PETERSBOURG, RUSSIA 30TH JULY TO 4TH AUGUST



July 30 - August 4, 2019 St. Petersburg (Yacht Club Vostochny) hosted the World and European Championships in the UIM's youth class "Formula Future". The Event was organized by the Motorboat Federation of Russia, with the support of the Ministry of Sports of the Russian Federation, the Committee of Physical Culture and Sports of St. Petersburg, the "Center for the Training of Sports National Teams of St. Petersburg" and "Sports Federation of Motorboat of St. Petersburg".

This year, the record number of 86 participants assembled in St. Petersburg, from age 6 to 18 years old, forming teams from 11 countries. National Teams consisted of a maximum of ten drivers, with each age class represented by two athletes.

Dr. Raffaele Chiulli, President of the Union International Motonautique (UIM) during the meeting with the drivers declared:

"I am happy to be in St. Petersburg at this Championship. I am proud that we have a new generation of drivers, without which our sport would not have a future".

The young drivers competed in two disciplines: maneuvering and parallel slalom.

Semifinal and final races of the World Championship were held on the last day of the competition - August 4th. As a result of this tight challenge, with time differences of few hundredths of a second, the following new world champions were crowned:

- Gleb Kudryashov (Russia) in the Dolphin Class,
- Mihs Lazarenoks (Latvia) in Class 1
- Rasul Alichuyev (Russia) in Class 2
- Maxim Chernikov (Russia) in Class 3

- Maxim Shakhvorostov (Russia) in Class 4
- Arthur Shvarev (Russia) in Class 5

In the Team Event, the Russian Hosts obtained an undisputed victory and were presented for the 8th time with the Ralph Frohling Cup, named after the former President of the UIM. Team Latvia finished second and Team Germany took the third step of the podium.

"I am very proud of the results of our Russian athletes. They have achieved a great success, despite the fact that our drivers do only have very limited training opportunities, The open water season in St. Petersburg lasts only three to four months, and the rest of the time they have to train indoor and in the pool. Winning even in such conditions puts even more emphasis on the merits of our drivers" said Yunis Lukmanov, President of the Motorboat Federation of Russia.





UIM GT15 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN ALUKSNE, LATVIA 14TH JULY

The 2019 UIM GT15 World Championship took place in Pilssala on lake Aluksne (LAT), mid-July. The decisive factor for qualification was lap speed, allowing 18 pilots from different countries to participate.

The experienced UIM Commissioner Susan Key from Great Britain spoke very highly of the advantages of Lake Aluksne and the Venue of Pilssala for such powerboat competitions and praised the work of the Local Organizers and the support and participation of the local municipality.

The total sum of the three best heats ensured the gold medal to Alex Cewe from Sweden, silver for Laura Lakoviča-Lakovica from Latvia and bronze for Nils Slakteris from Latvia. The medalists were followed by Hilmer Viberg from Sweden, Calvin Thomas Royster from Estonia and Nida Kilinskaite from Lithuania.

"We are proud not only of the City of Aluksne and its inhabitants, but also of our powerboat traditions in Latvia. Despite technical possibilities and experience of guest pilots, Latvian pilots, Laura and Nils demonstrated their characters in fierce competition. All competitors having travelled to Lake Aluksne expressed their satisfaction about the excellent place and conditions for the powerboat sport and their appreciation of the City of Aluksne as tourist destination." said Atis Slakteris, President of the Latvian Water Motorsports Federation.





UIM OFFSHORE CLASS 3J WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN OREGRUND, SWEDEN, 31ST JULY

End of July the first ever UIM World Championship in Offshore Class 3J took place in Oregrund, Sweden. This was a great offshore racing experience for drivers who were used to more indulgent water conditions in Circuit racing. In the overall count, Circuit driver Stefan Arand from Estonia, multiple World Champion in GT15 and GT30 proved that he was a great driver even under rough conditions. Stefan got to use a boat from Swedish Team Wiberg Racing and he teamed up with Mathilda Wiberg as co-pilot.

In the first race, 16 boats from six countries lined up behind the starting boat to cover the bad weather course over 26 nautical miles. The biggest swells were almost two meters high and one leg of the course was in rough head seas. The Swedes Hilmer Wiberg and William Sjoström got the best end and won ahead of Benjamin Vuorihovi and Filemon Sundberg from Finland and Estonian Stefan Arand and Mathilda Wiberg from Sweden.

In the second race, the fastest on the water were Stefan Arand and Mathilda Wiberg. Second over the finish line were Rikard Ingvarsson and Ronja Häggström from Sweden who shared the position with Benjamin Vuorihovi and Filemon Sundberg who had made a stop when Mathilda and Adam Wrenkler from Sweden almost lost their engine.

The last race offered tight navigation between the Swedish islands and sea marks on slightly calmer

water. From the start, Stefan Arand and Mathilda Wiberg took the lead and never gave it up, while Thomas Braaten and Silje Moen Knutsen from Norway showed that they also could be in the top and they finished on a great second place. Third over the finish line were Swedes Hilmer Wiberg and William Sjöström.

This class has all the chances to grow bigger and be present in more countries. In this competition there were four different boat types. The age of the drivers ranged from 14 to 25 and the age of co-drivers ranged from 14 to 59. Driving these smaller boats requires a lot from the driver and communication with the co-pilot is very important.

