



22nd April 2007

Round 3 - Donington Park

Asmer Triumphs as Greg Mansell Scores First Podium

Marko Asmer (#7 Hitech Racing Dallara F307 Mercedes) took his second win in three races in a lights to flag victory but he had to fight off a last lap challenge from Stephen Jelley (#1 Raikkonen Robertson Racing Dallara F307 Mercedes). The Mansell name returned to the British Formula 3 podium for the first time since 1979 with Greg Mansell (#50 Fortec Motorsport Dallara F307 Mercedes) finishing in third ahead of his rapid Fortec teammate Sebastian Hohenthal (#5 Fortec Motorsport Dallara F307 Mercedes).

In the National Class Michael Meadows (#55 Master Motorsport Dallara F304 Mugen Honda) came under some early pressure from Sergio Perez (#31 T Sort Dallara F304 Mugen Honda) but pulled away from the Mexican in the latter half of the race. Alistair Jackson (#35 Raikkonen Robertson Racing Dallara F304 Mugen Honda) was a new face on the podium after a three way battle with 'Frankie' Cheng (#39 Performance Racing Dallara F304 Mugen Honda) and Alex Waters (#34 Promatecme Dallara F304 Mugen Honda).

RACE

At the green flag it was Asmer who led the 31 car field away with Jelley slotting in behind the Estonian and Greg Mansell holding onto his 3rd spot on the grid as they rounded Redgate corner for the first time. Sebastian Hohenthal made a good start, moving up two places to get ahead of Jonathan Kennard and Niall Breen, the Irishman also dropping behind Maro Engel and Esteban Guerrieri, who was up from 13th on the grid.

As the cars completed the opening lap Asmer had a 1 second lead over Jelley but the Safety Car was deployed after Leo Mansell and Sean Petterson ended up in the gravel at Coppice.

The cars circulated at reduced speed until lap 5 when racing resumed. Normal service also resumed at the front with Asmer holding off a determined challenge from Jelley while Mansell was being caught by Fortec teammate Hohenthal and Jonathan Kennard.

At the rear of the field Alberto Valerio, who had started at the back of the field due to his qualifying times being disallowed for overtaking under yellows was moving up the field, picking off the back markers. Michael Meadows and Sergio Perez were also having a battle royale for the lead of the National Class, but by mid distance Meadows managed to break away from the Mexican, a gap he managed to grow as the chequered flag drew near. The battle for 3rd place in the National Class was providing some racing action as Alistair Jackson had to defend his podium position against a determined 'Frankie' Cheng and Alex Waters, a fight that went all the way to the flag.

Meanwhile back at the front Asmer opened up a 2 second lead over Jelley but the Englishman reeled his opponent in as they started to lap the backmarkers. However Asmer used his considerable experience to pass the slower cars without leaving an opening for Jelley to exploit. Greg Mansell also managed to find some breathing space to Hohenthal who had to defend against the rapidly closing Jonathan Kennard as the race drew to a conclusion.

At the flag it was Asmer from Jelley, with 0.5 seconds separating the two cars. Greg Mansell took the final podium slot to the delight of his Fortec Motorsport team and his Father who was watching from the race from the pitwall.

Michael Meadows took the flag to win his first race in British F3 with a good margin over Sergio Perez. Alistair Jackson held on to take the final podium position in the National Class.

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Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series

Round 3 - Provisional Result

- 1 - 7 - C - Marko ASMER - EST - Hitech Racing - 30:33.255 - 25 laps
 - 2 - 1 - C - Stephen JELLEY - GBR - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +0.545s
 - 3 - 50 - C - Greg MANSELL - GBR - Fortec Motorsport - +3.186s
 - 4 - 5 - C - Sebastian HOHENTHAL - SWE - Fortec Motorsport - +5.723s
 - 5 - 2 - C - Jonathan KENNARD - GBR - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +6.560s
 - 6 - 14 - C - Esteban GUERRIERI - ARG - Ultimate Motorsport - +20.205s
 - 7 - 23 - C - Maro ENGEL - GER - Carlin Motorsport - +20.529s
 - 8 - 4 - C - Mario MORAES - BRA - Carlin Motorsport - +20.669s
 - 9 - 26 - C - Atte MUSTONEN - FIN - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +20.794s
 - 10 - 3 - C - Sam BIRD - GBR - Carlin Motorsport - +21.661s
 - 11 - 22 - C - Alberto VALERIO - BRA - Carlin Motorsport - +23.523s
 - 12 - 9 - C - Rodolfo GONZALEZ - VEN - T-Sport - +23.756s
 - 13 - 55 - N - Michael MEADOWS - GBR - Master Motorsport - +36.974s
 - 14 - 6 - C - Walter GRUBMULLER - AUT - Hitech Racing - +37.319s
 - 15 - 31 - N - Sergio PEREZ - MEX - T-Sport - +39.263s
 - 16 - 10 - C - Ricardo TEIXEIRA - ANG - Performance Racing Europe - +42.438s
 - 17 - 35 - N - Alastair JACKSON - GBR - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +57.390s
 - 18 - 39 - N - Cong Fu CHENG - CHI - Performance Racing Europe - +58.003s
 - 19 - 34 - N - Alex WATERS - GBR - Promatecme F3 - +58.520s
 - 20 - 61 - I - Max CHILTON - Arena International Motorsport - +58.958s
 - 21 - 38 - N - Hamad AL FARDAN - BHR - Performance Racing Europe - +59.929s
 - 22 - 8 - C - Francesco CASTELLACCI - ITA - Alan Docking Racing - +61.625s
 - 23 - 77 - N - Salman AL KHALIFA - BHR - Promatecme F3 - +1lap
 - 24 - 36 - N - Albert COSTA - ESP - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +1lap
 - 25 - 37 - N - Viktor JENSEN - ISL - Alan Docking Racing - +1lap
 - 26 - 15 - C - Michael DEVANEY - IRL - Ultimate Motorsport - + 2laps
 - 27 - 33 - N - Juan Pablo GARCIA SAMANO - MEX - Fluid Motorsport Development - +6laps
-
- NC - 21 - C - Niall BREEN - IRL - Carlin Motorsport - +6laps
 - NC - 44 - C - Leo MANSELL - GBR - Fortec Motorsport - +24laps
 - NC - 32 - N - Sean PETTERSON - RSA - Fluid Motorsport Development - +24laps
 - NC - 24 - C - John MARTIN - AUS - Alan Docking Racing - +25laps

Fastest Laps

- 7 - C - Marko ASMER - EST - 1:01.594 - 114.36mph
- 55 - N - Michael MEADOWS - GBR - 1:02.954 - 111.89mph
- 61 - I - Max CHILTON - GBR - 1:03.693 - 110.59mph

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22nd April 2007

Round 4 - Donington Park

Asmer Does the Double

Marko Asmer converted his second pole position start of the day into a further win that saw him extend his championship lead to 34 points over nearest rivals Maro Engel and Stephen Jelley.

In the National Class Sergio Perez and Michael Meadows swapped places on the podium from Round 3 with Perez climbing onto the top step. Frankie Cheng came through to take a closely fought 3rd, which gives him a 17 point lead in the championship over Michael Meadows.

RACE

A slight drizzle had started to fall on the Donington Park race track as the cars lined up for Round 4 but certainly not enough to cause the teams to consider switching to Avon wets for the race. At the start Marko Asmer gets a good getaway but Stephen Jelley bogs down from second on the grid and the cars behind pounce to take advantage. Niall Breen moved up from 6th on the grid, while Jonathan Kennard also made rapid progress from 8th, as did Mario Moraes from 11th. There was contact between a number of cars at the bottom of Craner Curves and mayhem ensued as drivers took avoiding action in the slightly damp conditions.

The race continued as cars were pushed out of the way at the Old Hairpin and at the end of the opening lap Asmer had opened up a three second gap to Niall Breen who was in second place and Mario Moraes in third. Maro Engel was 4th but coming under pressure from Kennard. The losers in the opening lap were Jelley, who was down in 11th and Valerio who dropped from 4th to 10th.

Lap 2 saw Kennard get past Engel and Jelley moved ahead of Valerio, while Asmer continued to pull away from Breen. Jelley made further progress as he passed Michael

Devaney on lap 3 but then a spin at the Old Hairpin stopped his charge in its tracks.

Another driver on the move was Rodolfo Gonzalez, the reigning British F3 National Class Champion setting the fastest lap on lap 3, having moved up from 13th to 6th place.

In the National Class Sergio Perez was having to watch his mirrors as Michael Meadows was challenging for his second win of the day, despite his Dallara understeering due to a broken front wing. However Meadows also had a problem in the form of the Dallara of 'Frankie' Cheng who was tracking his every movement on the track and these three National Class front runners were nose to tail as they each tried to exploit any weakness in their rivals.

While Marko Asmer continued to circulate at the front Mario Moraes was trying to find a way around his Carlin teammate for 2nd place, but Niall Breen was not going to be denied his first podium in British F3. Moraes then had a problem on lap 9 as Kennard challenged the Brazilian as they came into the Chicane. Moraes spun away in a cloud of smoke and was able to rejoin in 8th place, but his Carlin Motorsport Dallara soon dropped down the order and into retirement, a bitter disappointment for the rapid young Brazilian.

This promoted Kennard in 3rd but he then had Maro Engel challenging for the position. As the race entered the second half the order at the front settled down. Further down the order the drivers who had been caught out in the opening lap chaos but had been able to keep going were making progress back up the field.

Fortec's Sebastian Hohenthal was slicing his way through the backmarkers but was a lap down on the leaders. However a lap time of 1m02.283 just before the end of the race salvaged a point for the Swedish driver. His Fortec teammate Greg Mansell was also coming back up the field, picking off a number of cars on his way 10th place and a championship point.

At the chequered flag Asmer was a comfortable 4.4 seconds ahead of Breen and took the salute of his Hitech Racing team with both arms raised out of the cockpit as he crossed the line. Niall Breen held on to finish second, 0.4 seconds ahead of Jonathan Kennard, who had the consolation of picking up the Donington Park Raymond Mays trophy for the top scoring British Formula 3 driver.

Maro Engel and Carlin teammate Alberto Valerio were 4th and 5th respectively, just ahead of Rodolfo Gonzalez, the Venezuelans best finish of the year so far. Michael Devaney was 7th in the Ultimate Motorsport Mygale, rounding off a good weekend for the new manufacturer after Esteban Guerrieri finished 6th in Round 3 earlier in the day.

Atte Mustonen, Sam Bird and Greg Mansell rounded out the top 10 in the Championship Class.

The National Class trio of Perez, Meadows and Cheng stayed in that order until the flag but only 0.8 seconds separated the three protagonists, a great display of race craft by the three rookie drivers.

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Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series

Round 4 - Provisional Result

- 1 - 7 - C - Marko ASMER - EST - Hitech Racing - 27:55.340 - +26 laps
 - 2 - 21 - C - Niall BREEN - IRL - Carlin Motorsport - +4.416s
 - 3 - 2 - C - Jonathan KENNARD - GBR -Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +4.832s
 - 4 - 23 - C - Maro ENGEL - GER - Carlin Motorsport - +8.710s
 - 5 - 22 - C - Alberto VALERIO - BRA - Carlin Motorsport - +11.184s
 - 6 - 9 - C - Rodolfo GONZALEZ - VEN - T-Sport - +12.413s
 - 7 - 15 - C - Michael DEVANEY - IRL - Ultimate Motorsport - +20.735s
 - 8 - 26 - C -Atte MUSTONEN -FIN - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +21.290s
 - 9 - 3 - C - Sam BIRD - GBR - Carlin Motorsport - +21.716s
 - 10 - 31 - N - Sergio PEREZ - MEX - T-Sport - +47.438s
 - 11 - 55 - N - Michael MEADOWS - GBR - Master Motorsport - +47.868s
 - 12 - 39 - N - Cong Fu CHENG - CHI - Performance Racing Europe - +48.301s
 - 13 - 50 - C - Greg MANSELL - GBR - Fortec Motorsport - +56.195s
 - 14 - 32 - N - Sean PETTERSON - RSA - Fluid Motorsport Development - +61.4s
 - 15 - 10 - C - Ricardo TEIXEIRA - ANG - Performance Racing Europe - +62.3s
 - 16 - 77 - N - Salman AL KHALIFA - BHR - Promatecme F3 - +1lap
 - 17 - 61 - I - Max CHILTON - Arena International Motorsport - +1lap
 - 18 - 24 - C - John MARTIN - AUS - Alan Docking Racing - +1lap
 - 19 - 35 - N - Alastair JACKSON - GBR - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +1lap
 - 20 - 37 - N - Viktor JENSEN - ISL - Alan Docking Racing - +1lap
 - 21 - 36 - N - Albert COSTA - ESP - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +1lap
 - 22 - 14 - C - Esteban GUERRIERI - ARG - Ultimate Motorsport - +1lap
 - 23 - 5 - C - Sebastian HOHENTHAL - SWE - Fortec Motorsport - +1lap
 - 24 - 38 - N - Hamad AL FARDAN - BHR - Performance Racing Europe - +1lap
 - 25 - 1 - C - Stephen JELLEY - GBR - Raikkonen Robertson Racing - +2laps
-
- NC - 4 - C - Mario MORAES - BRA - Carlin Motorsport - 10laps
 - NC - 33 - N - Juan Pablo GARCIA SAMANO - MEX - Fluid Motorsport Development - 21laps
 - NC - 44 - C - Leo MANSELL - GBR - Fortec Motorsport - 21laps
 - NC - 8 - C - Francesco CASTELLACCI - ITA - Alan Docking Racing - 23 laps
 - NC - 6 - C - Walter GRUBMULLER - AUT - Hitech Racing - 24 laps
 - NC - 34 - N - Alex WATERS - GBR - Promatecme F3

Fastest Laps

5 - C - Sebastian HOHENTHAL - 1:02.283 - 113.1mph

55 - N - Michael MEADOWS - 1:04.264 - 109.6mph

61 - I - Max CHILTON - 1:04.421 - 109.3mph

CHAMPIONSHIP POSITIONS AFTER ROUND 4

1 – Marko ASMER – 76

2= – Maro ENGEL – 42

2= - Stephen JELLEY – 42

4 – Jonathan KENNARD – 37

5 – Sebastian HOHENTHAL – 32

6 – Sam BIRD – 19

7= Greg MANSELL – 18

7= Niall BREEN – 18

9 – Rodolfo GONZALEZ – 12

10= Atte MUSTONEN – 8

10= Alberto VALERIO – 8

NATIONAL CLASS

1 – CHENG Cong Fu – 64

2 – Michael MEADOWS – 47

3 – Sergio PEREZ – 35

4 – Viktor JENSEN – 33

5 – Alistair JACKSON – 28

FULL CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES AT www.britishf3international.com

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