

SPEED

INTERNATIONAL
FORMULA
MASTER

2



**KOUZKIN:
16 YEARS OLD'S
PAU VICTORY**

**All the action
from France**



FCM

comes to IFM

LEIMER AND KOUZKIN CLAIM PAU WINS



Arabadzhev, Leimer, Varhaug

Fabio Leimer

Round 01

International Formula Master's inaugural round of the season saw Jenzer Motorsport's Fabio Leimer clinch a commanding victory in Pau, France, after leading from start to finish.

The young Swiss secured pole position during qualifying, which he kept despite a difficult start, thanks to fellow front-runner JD Motorsport's Josef Kral hitting the barriers on lap one.

This promoted Vladimir Arabadzhev to second, also

driving for JD Motorsport, which he kept for the remainder of the race. Despite closing the gap towards the later stages of the race, third-place finisher Pål Varhaug was unable to catch Arabadzhev and took the final step on the podium for Jenzer Motorsport.

"I didn't have the best start," said Leimer. "Josef [Kral] got alongside me and could have passed me if he hadn't gone off. I had to be careful in the middle part of the race as I had some tyre wear but otherwise it was a straightforward win and I'm really pleased for myself and the team; things couldn't have gone better."

Round 02

Cram Competition's Alessandro Kouzkin scored his first IFM victory in the Series' second round this weekend. Starting fifth, the 16-year-old rookie climbed through the field before overtaking AR Motorsport's Dennis Retera for the lead in a daring late-braking move on lap nine.

Starting from the front row, Retera had to fend off Trident Racing's Frankie Provenzano and Cram Competition's Harald Schlegelmilch before losing his place to Kouzkin. Both Provenzano and Schlegelmilch failed to complete the race, whilst Retera claimed second place.

Jenzer Motorsport's Pål Varhaug scored his second podium-finish of the weekend with a third place thanks to a clean race, as well as Provenzano and Schlegelmilch's retirements.

"I had a good start and then I passed Dennis; that was important," said Kouzkin. "It was a difficult race but a special race for me because it's my first win and I'm very happy about this! I hope to do a fantastic race again in Valencia."

WHAT'S THE POINT

ROUND 01

1. Fabio Leimer, Jenzer Motorsport
2. Vladimir Arabadzhev, JD Motorsport
3. Pål Varhaug, Jenzer Motorsport
4. Alessandro Kouzkin, Cram Competition
5. Jonathan Kennard, Team JVA
6. Harald Schlegelmilch, Cram Competition
7. Frankie Provenzano, Trident Racing
8. Dennis Retera, AR Motorsport

ROUND 02

1. Alessandro Kouzkin, Cram Competition
2. Dennis Retera, AR Motorsport
3. Pål Varhaug, Jenzer Motorsport
4. Alexander Rossi, Hitech Junior
5. Earl Bamber, ADM Motorsport
6. Marcello Puglisi, ADM Motorsport

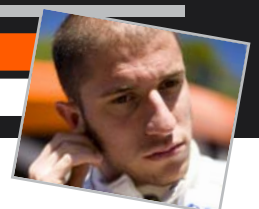
DRIVERS CLASSIFICATION (TOP EIGHT)

1. Fabio Leimer, 13 points
2. Alessandro Kouzkin, 11 points
3. Pål Varhaug, 10 points
4. Vladimir Arabadzhev, 8 points
5. Dennis Retera, 6 points
6. Jonathan Kennard, 4 points
7. Harald Schlegelmilch, 3 points
8. Alexander Rossi, 3 points

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Marcello Puglisi

17.05.86 – 23 years old



FROM FCM TO IFM

Hitech Junior driver Kasper Andersen has an unusual set of matching accessories this season. The 24-year-old is racing in both International Formula Master and the Superleague Series, running both cars in the same livery!

With his Superleague livery matching

that of Danish football team FC Midtjylland, Andersen's IFM team Hitech Junior agreed to run the same design on the Formula Master car, even extending the theme to that of team-mate Alexander Rossi.

"We made the deal with Hitech as a Superleague team and they were

running in IFM too so we decided to race in both series and the livery just worked nicely for both. We're running the football team's name and logo on my car as well as the design, which is on both cars. It's quite unusual but it works well and looks nice so why not!"



Kasper Andersen



FOLLOW IFM ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER

For a backstage peek into the world of International Formula Master, follow the Series on Facebook via <http://tiny.cc/FacebookIFM>. With the latest photos and videos from our two rounds in Pau, catch up on what the drivers got up to away from the track, post your own shots from the weekend and let us know what you thought of the races! You can also follow the Series on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FormuIaMaster.



STRAIGHT INTO THE HOT SEAT

Jonathan Kennard and Duncan Tappy

In general, drivers taking part in a series unknown to them like to complete at least one day of testing to familiarise themselves with a car they will be racing. This wasn't the case for Team JVA's Jonathan Kennard and Duncan Tappy however. Confirmed as competitors only days before this weekend's races, the British pair only had two free practice sessions to learn both car and track before tackling qualifying:

Duncan Tappy: "It's always a tall order, approaching a race weekend with no prior knowledge of a car. I've had to do that quite a lot of over the past year and a half and nothing

helps more than a few hours' testing beforehand. "Things were going well for both of us in the first free practice but as you learn the car more, you push further to find the limits of the car and mistakes happen easily then. Doing that on a street circuit is harder to recover from, mistakes tend to involve walls and kerbs!"

Jonathan Kennard: "I was pleasantly surprised in qualifying. We made



Jonathan Kennard

some good calls on the tyres and managed to get a good lap time. But that doesn't replace simple experience with things like how much mechanical or aero grip the car has. And that's harder to learn on a street track too since you have external factors like dust on the track from road cars, etc."

DT: "The cars are very forgiving to be honest; they're very nibble but it's always going to be a challenge. And we had to learn the track too! The car's fairly similar to some of the other cars I've race before so I had some reference points but then it's just experience of how new brake pads or tyres come in; and that comes from driving the car as much as possible."

JK: "In the end, we just get our heads down, do the best job possible and aim for some good results!"



Duncan Tappy

MELTING POT

International Formula Master is fast becoming a global melting pot when it comes to driver nationalities. No less than 12 different countries were featured on the grid this weekend with young racers coming as far as the United States (Alexander Rossi) and New Zealand (Earl Bamber), via Russia (Sergey Afanasiev), and Latvia (Harald Schlegelmilch) through the Czech Republic (Josef Kral) to Norway (Pål Varhaug) and Switzerland (Fabio Leimer).

Add teams based throughout Europe, eight international race weekends and Eurosport's worldwide broadcasting platform and your global melting pot is ready to be served!



AR MOTORSPORT TO RUN THIRD IFM CAR



Kelvin Snoeks

With Dutch team AR Motorsport's first IFM race weekend ending successfully in a second-place finish thanks to Dennis Retera, the outfit is already looking to increase their

running force. Currently running two cars with Kelvin Snoeks as Retera's team-mate, the team is busy evaluating drivers for a third entry into the Formula Master Series this season.

"We had a great weekend in Pau," said Retera. "We are a new team, learning the Series so this is a good results and we are aiming for more to come as the season goes on."

2009 CALENDAR

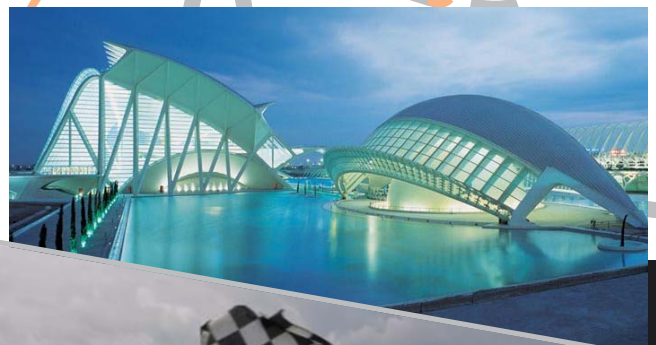
Rounds	Date	Venue	Partnering
01&02	16-17 May	Pau, France	WTCC
03&04	30-31 May	Valencia, Spain	WTCC
05&06	20-21 June	Brno, Czech Republic	WTCC
07&08	18-19 July	Brands Hatch, United Kingdom	WTCC
09&10	25-26 July	Hungaroring, Hungary	F1
11&12	29-30 August	Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium	F1
13&14	05-06 September	Oschersleben, Germany	WTCC
15&16	19-20 September	Imola, Italy	WTCC



CIRCUIT PREVIEW

2008 saw reigning IFM champion Chris van der Drift score a double win at the Spanish track. Title contenders will no doubt try to emulate the New Zealander, however risk-takers beware; the circuit's amphitheatre's set-up means no mistake will go unnoticed by the attending public. The whole track is viewable from the surrounding banking, making it almost impossible to miss an ounce of International Formula Master racing.

Current classification leader Fabio Leimer finished on the podium last year, as did Harald Schlegelmilch and Kasper Andersen. No doubt all three will be aiming for the all important win; although with plenty of overtaking opportunities, rounds three and four could be anyone's moment of glory.



CIRCUIT RICARDO TORMO (VALENCIA): Spain

Lap distance: 4.051 km

Race distance:

Race 1: 25 laps

Race 2: 19 laps

Location: 20 km north of Valencia

Official website: www.circuitvalencia.com

IFM LAP RECORDS:

Race:

2007: Race 2 – 1:29.764/160.62 kph, Maximillian Goetz, 20 May 2007

2008: Race 2 – 1:28.791/162.38 kph, Chris van der Drift, 18 May 2008

Qualifying:

2007: 1:29.133/161.75 kph, Maximillian Goetz, 20 May 2007

2008: 1:28.036/163.77 kph, Chris van der Drift, 16 May 2008

PREVIOUS IFM WINNERS:

2007 Race 1: Salvatore Gatto, Alan Racing

2007 Race 2: Kasper Andersen, JD Motorport

2008: Race 1: Chris van der Drift, JD

Motorsport

2008: Race 2: Chris van der Drift, JD Motorsport



Chris van der Drift

WARMING UP

Each driver has his own way of warming up before each session throughout a race weekend, whether it is for a race or qualifying but a new trend is currently developing throughout the IFM paddock. An increasing number of racers are taking to throwing or kicking footballs around a few minutes before each session. Jenzer Motorsport duo Fabio Leimer and Pål Varhaug seem to be leading in the throwing



Kelvin Snoeks

stakes, whilst AR Motorsport showed his impressive 'keepy-uppy' skills off moments before getting into his car.



Fabio Leimer



Pål Varhaug

IF Fact!

Italian drivers Marcello Puglisi and Frankie Provenzano have taken part in every IFM rounds since the Series racing debut in May 2007.



Patrick Reiterer

RISING STAR

After a strong pre-season campaign with his team Iris Project, 2009 rookie Patrick Reiterer completed his first International Formula Master rounds on the demanding streets of Pau. The young Italian showed plenty of pace, qualifying an impressive seventh despite his first time on a city-based circuit.

Although both races reached unlucky ends, Reiterer is already showing solid pace.

"Working closely with the team throughout the winter season helped a lot," said Reiterer. "It means going from testing to racing isn't a very big deal. We all know what needs to be done and are very focused towards our goals. "I think this Series is great, it's a very important step



Patrick Reiterer

towards Formula 1 and the platform is perfect for me. Unlike Formula 3, here you have a chance of winning with several teams; you don't have to be in one or two top teams to be able to compete at the top.

"Racing on a street circuit was a big challenge for me, it's my first time here and you really cannot make a mistake. Everything is so close to you, you have to be careful. Things go back to normal pretty quickly though, you find the limit and then it's simple; push, push, push!

"I've known about IFM since it was launched and always wanted to drive this car. It's good to be able to say I am finally racing in the Series."

“ In the current economic climate, a series that can offer aspiring single-seater racers

performance in excess of that in Formula 3, for around half the budget, is going to be taken seriously. Throw in that it takes place at

FIA world championship events, including Formula 1, and provides its most successful drivers with a

foot in the door of GP2, and you have the makings of a significant player in the marketplace. From a British perspective, the more drivers of championship-winning pedigree such as Duncan Tappy try their hand at IFM, the further word will spread.

Steven English,
Autosport.com News
Editor

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RETURNING TO IFM



This season's ADM Motorsport team-mates are both familiar with International Formula Master races; Earl Bamber claimed a win on his only 2008 event in Imola, whilst Marcello Puglisi is one of only two drivers to have taken part in every single IFM rounds. With significant experience of the 2008 Formula Master car, both drivers spoke candidly of the 2009 upgrades:

Earl Bamber: "There are quite a few upgrades on the car for this year, which is great to see. It's good to know that the Series organizers are keen to keep the cars as modern as possible."

Marcello Puglisi: "The first thing I noticed was the sound of the engine; it sounds like it as more grunt and when you get in the car you can feel the difference in horsepower."

EB: "I noticed the torque is different from last year too."



Earl Bamber



Marcello Puglisi

MP: "It's quite hard to feel how big the differences are here in Pau because the track conditions are always different and we're limited in the fact that this is a street circuit but the times are faster so that's a definite indication that the car has gone forward again in development. And the fast corners are easier for me this year so there must be more downforce."

EB: "You can follow cars really closely now. With some cars, there's no way to really follow someone ahead of you closely and get a

chance to overtake. In IFM you can really do that; it makes the races a lot more exciting for us and I'm sure the public appreciates it too."

MP: "You don't lose so much downforce when you're following a car in this Series; in other cars it's really significant but here it's no problem. In that sense it's a little bit like a go-kart. The best example is the fact that we are at a street circuit this weekend, where passing is supposed to be very difficult, but there's still plenty of overtaking happening."

YOUNG GUNS

Alessandro Kouzkin



In the battle of experience versus new approach; returning drivers against rookies, Pau proved to be a good start for IFM's newcomers. Jenzer Motorsport's Pål Varhaug took the lead in the rookies' classification with two third-place finishes whilst it was 16-year-old Alessandro Kouzkin that claimed the first rookie win of

the season last Sunday.

Kouzkin took the lead in race two after a daring pass on his opponent Dennis Retera, before racing to the chequered flag in a flawless drive. Varhaug showed outstanding consistency, keeping a cool head in two very different races, to finish on the podium each time.

American 17-year-old Alexander Rossi also



Alexander Rossi

showed a mature approach to his first race weekend in Formula Master, outpacing several more experienced drivers throughout the event. The young Hitech Junior driver qualified eighth before completing both races on the daunting French street circuit of Pau.

ROOKIES CLASSIFICATION

1. Pål Varhaug, 16 points
2. Alessandro Kouzkin, 14 points
3. Dennis Retera, 10 points
4. Alexander Rossi, 7 points
5. Jonathan Kennard, 6 points
6. Duncan Tappy, 6 points
7. Kelvin Snoeks, 1 point
8. Patrick Reiterer, no points

Pål Varhaug



PHOTO GALLERY





← PHOTO GALLERY



helmets



Afanasyev



Andersen



Arabadzhev



Bamber



Kennard



Kouzkin



Kral



Leimer



Provenzano



HELMETS



Puglisi



Reiterer



Retera



Rossi



Schlegelmilch



Snoeks



Tappy



Trummer



Varhaug

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