

# SPEED

INTERNATIONAL  
**FORMULA**  
MASTER



5



## HALF-TIME LEAD FOR LEIMER

**Half-term review**



**Bamber turns commentator**



# LEIMER LEADS AT HALF-TIME; KID KOUZKIN DOES IT AGAIN



Rossi, Kouzkin & Afanasiev



Leimer & Kral

## WHAT'S THE POINT

### Round 07

Jenzer Motorsport's Fabio Leimer claimed his fourth win of the season in round seven of the International Formula Master (IFM) Series at the Brands Hatch circuit in England. Starting from pole position, the young Swiss lead the field from start to finish, despite pressure from JD Motorsport's Josef Kral in the closing stages of the race.

Having qualified fourth yesterday, Kral produced a strong start to overtake team-mate Sergey Afanasiev and ISR's Erik Janis. Kral pushed hard to keep Leimer within his grasp, attempting to overtake him on lap 26 of the 28-lap round to no avail. Kral eventually finished second, ahead of team-mate Afanasiev who raced to the finish unchallenged in third.

"The important thing was to have pole position because then I could drive my own race," said Leimer. "I had a good start and got a four second gap to Josef [Kral] very quickly. After that Kral was getting closer and closer and seemed much faster so I was worried I might not win the race after all.

"I saved my tyres as much as possible during the middle stint of the race and managed to keep him behind me in the last laps, which allowed me to take the win."

### Round 08

Cram Competition's Alessandro Kouzkin scored his second win in IFM's round eight on Sunday.

Leading the Series' 40th race from start to finish, Kouzkin kept first place, withstanding pressure from ISR's Alexander Rossi in the later stages of the race.

"It was a good race, especially in the beginning," said Kouzkin. "After that I had a few problems with oversteer in

### ROUND 07

1. Fabio Leimer (SUI), Jenzer Motorsport (#6)
2. Josef Kral (CZH), JD Motorsport (#3)
3. Sergey Afanasiev (RUS), JD Motorsport (#2)
4. Pål Varhaug (NOR), Jenzer Motorsport (#7)
5. Erik Janis (CZH), ISR (#20)
6. Patrick Reiterer (ITA), Iris Project (#9)
7. Alexander Rossi (USA), ISR (#16)
8. Alessandro Kouzkin (RUS), Cram Competition (#47)

### ROUND 08

1. Alessandro Kouzkin (RUS), Cram Competition (#47)
2. Alexander Rossi (USA), ISR (#16)
3. Sergey Afanasiev (RUS), JD Motorsport (#2)
4. Erik Janis (CZH), ISR (#20)
5. Josef Kral (CZH), JD Motorsport (#3)
6. Pål Varhaug (NOR), Jenzer Motorsport (#7)

### DRIVERS CLASSIFICATION (TOP EIGHT)

1. Fabio Leimer (SUI), Jenzer Motorsport (#6), 51 points
2. Pål Varhaug (NOR), Jenzer Motorsport (#7), 35 points
3. Josef Kral (CZH), JD Motorsport (#3), 28 points
4. Vladimir Arabadzhiev (BUL), JD Motorsport (#1), 24 points
5. Sergey Afanasiev (RUS), JD Motorsport (#2), 23 points
6. Alexander Rossi (USA), Hitech Junior (#16), 21 points
7. Alessandro Kouzkin (RUS), Cram Competition (#47), 18 points
8. Erik Janis (CZH), ISR (#20), 14 points

the middle of corners but it was ok in the end. I won, and it was a special day today, because it was my second win of the season after Pau."

Rossi eventually finished second, despite losing out to team-mate Janis at the start of the race. Rossi claimed the position on lap four, as Janis ran wide, which also benefited third-place finisher Afanasiev.

A great start from Afanasiev saw the Russian move from sixth on the grid to his third-place finish, the second this weekend, ahead of Janis who claimed fourth. IFM's 2009 season resumes this weekend at the Hungaroring in Hungary for rounds nine and ten, where the Series will partner its first FIA Formula 1 World Championship. Both races will be broadcasted on the pan-European channel Eurosport.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Dominick Muermans**

17/07/84 – 25 years old

**Daniel Mancinelli**

23/07/88 – 21 years old



# IFM CELEBRATES 40 RACES

**2007**



**2008**



**2009**



British circuit Brands Hatch played host to IFM's fortieth race on Sunday as the Series' young drivers competed in round eight of the current season.

The 35-minute race marked the Series' fortieth round since it first took to the track in May 2007. In the 26 months that have followed, IFM has seen two champions emerge, Belgium's Jérôme D'Ambrosio, now racing in the GP2 Series for his second season, and New Zealander Chris van der Drift, currently competing in World Series by Renault.

The third is still undecided, although Swiss Fabio Leimer has led the title chase all season, with rookies Pål Varhaug, Alessandro Kouzkin and most recently Alexander Rossi giving chase.

## FROM FIRST TO 40TH; A FEW STATISTICS ALONG THE WAY:

Most wins	6 – Chris van der Drift 2008
Most poles:	7 – Chris van der Drift 2008
Winning drivers:	17
	(D'Ambrosio, van der Drift, Sanchez Lopez, Gatto, Puglisi, Siedler, Andersen, Llobell, Leimer, Schlegelmilch, Kral, Arabadzhev, Afanasiev, Ammermuller, Bamber, Kouzkin, Rossi)
Podium finishing drivers:	31
	Andersen is the only driver to have scored podiums in all three seasons
Drivers to date:	77
Youngest race winner:	Alessandro Kouzkin
	Pau 2009 with Cram Competition at 16 years, 8 months and 14 days

## 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 Brands Hatch, 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/FormuLaMaster](http://www.twitter.com/FormuLaMaster).



# TV STARDOM FOR LEIMER



**Swiss driver** Fabio Leimer took some time out of his racing schedule to guest-drive on Switzerland's Motorshow, shown on national channel SF2 last month. The show pitched a Nissan GT-R against Leimer's Formula Master single-seater in a series of test demonstrating the two cars' varying strengths. Speed, acceleration and braking were all in the IFM racer's favour although fuel consumption was more economical in the Nissan.

Broadcasted on 28 June and 04 July, the show was filmed just before IFM's Brno rounds and included Leimer test

driving the Nissan as well as his IFM race car.

"It was great fun to take part in the show," said Leimer. "I had done some test driving on television before and it was good to be given the chance to be there again. It's nice to see the IFM car away from a race track and compared to a road car; it shows how fast it really is against everyday things! It's an idea that had been mentioned for a while and it's great to see it happen and be involved in it."

To see the episode, please click on the link below:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2WjLzcl6-c>

## NO SNOW FOR SECOND SPA ATTEMPT



Formula Master teams attempted to test in Spa-Francorchamps for the second time this year; following the cancellation of the official test last March after heavy snow fall rendered the track unusable.

The unofficial day went ahead on 23 June under much better weather, ensuring IFM's young drivers are well prepared for their Formula 1 supporting event at the end of August.



# MEET TIAGO PETIZ

Portuguese driver Tiago Petiz joined International Formula Master for his first race weekend with the Series at Brands Hatch, competing with Cram Competition. The 21-year-old finished both races, showing strong overtaking skills as he got accustomed to the car and circuit. A Formula Renault 2.0 Eurocup graduate, Petiz had tested with IFM last April at Brno and the Hungaroring with team Trident Racing.

"I'm really pleased to be getting back to racing this weekend," said Petiz. "I like the IFM championship as a whole; there's a good level of competition and the car is good to drive. Brands Hatch is about getting accustomed to the whole environment again but next weekend I want to be as competitive as possible."



# EARL BAMBER ON EUROSPORT



Bamber racing in IFM



Earl Bamber & Martin Haven

**IFM's host** broadcaster Eurosport welcomed a new, temporary, addition at Brands Hatch. Formula Master race winner Earl Bamber joined British commentator Martin Haven in the booth for both races. The young New Zealander replaced microphone for steering wheel and acquitted himself well in his new-found role.

"The first time I ever commentated was with Johnathan Green in Asia on Formula BMW Asia and also V6 Renault," said Bamber. "It was a good opportunity and there wasn't too much pressure; it was just a good chance to learn how to commentate really."

"This weekend is really good, just coming to the track and being able to watch the racing and commentate on Formula Master. I know all the drivers so it's great to be able to speak of what they are doing. Also doing this for Eurosport is a big deal; a lot of people are watching so it put a bit more pressure on the whole thing and it's very exciting!"

Eurosport commentator Martin Haven welcomed

Bamber to the booth, guiding him throughout the broadcast, and was impressed by the New Zealander's contribution:

"Earl was a great asset over the Brands Hatch weekend," said Haven. "Having raced the Formula Master cars, he knew their behaviour intimately and could read the changing performance over the race distance, explaining to the audience how and why the balance of power between the drivers swung to and fro. "His immediate fluency on air spoke volumes for his understanding of the sport and he really conveyed the excitement of the racing as well as explaining what the competitors would be feeling and thinking as their races unfolded."

"Drivers see things that the rest of us can't and Earl was able to point out to the viewers what they were seeing and why, adding to the audience's understanding and knowledge throughout. All while dealing with the unique demands of commentating on Eurosport! "He's more than welcome in the booth at any stage..."

# 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

## HUNGARORING: HUNGARY

**Lap distance:** 4.381 km

**Race distance:**

Race 1: 17 laps

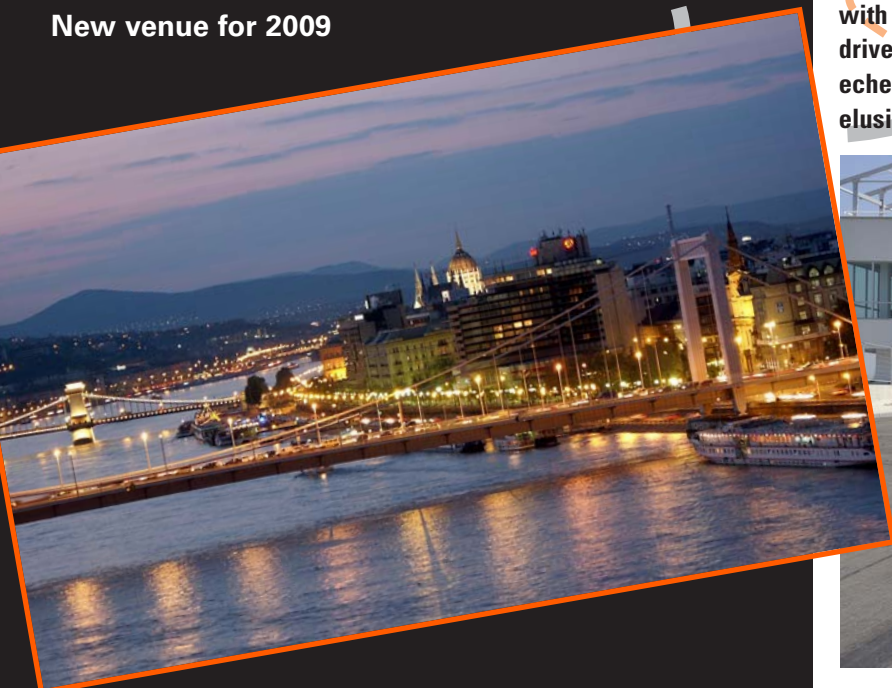
Race 2: 17 laps

**Location:** 20 km north of Budapest

**Official website:** [www.hungaroring.hu](http://www.hungaroring.hu)

**IFM LAP RECORDS:**

New venue for 2009



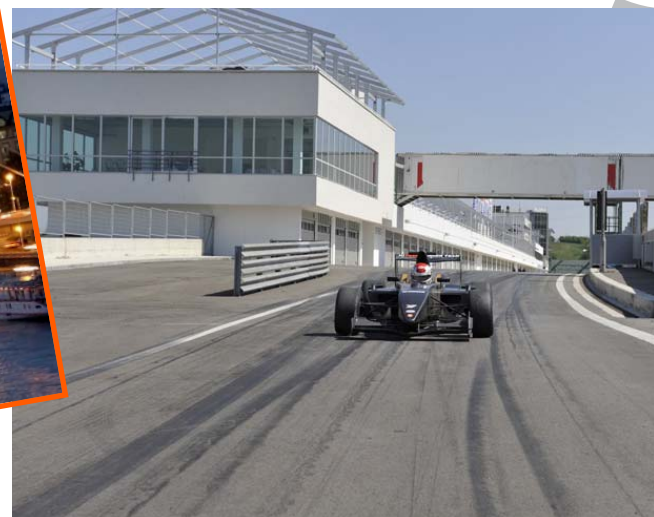
## CIRCUIT PREVIEW: HUNGARORING

The first of two race weekends with Formula 1, rounds nine and ten see IFM take on the might of the Hungaroring in front of thousands of F1 fans.

Current championship leader Fabio Leimer is hoping to keep his recent form in front of the world's best motorsport teams, whilst team-mate Pål Varhaug from Norway, America's newest sensation Alexander Rossi and Russian speed-kid Alessandro Kouzkin are all eagerly vying for the title.

Pre-season testing at the Hungaroring showed Switzerland's Leimer and Czech driver Josef Kral as fastest however, with Kral posting the quickest lap time in 1:37.119.

With inaugural champion Jérôme D'Ambrosio present throughout the weekend; he is racing in the GP2 Series with DAMS for the second year running; IFM's young drivers can see first-hand what awaits them on the higher echelons of motorsport... Competition will be fierce for the elusive perfect weekend score of 19 points.



# RISING STAR



**Kelvin Snoeks**

**Dutch racer** Kelvin Snoeks has been building a steady challenge in his first Formula Master season. The 21-year-old is fresh out of two inaugural single-seater racing years with Formula Renault 2.0 NEC and enjoying his first international races with IFM. He took time out at Brands Hatch to speak to SPEED:

### **On starting...**

"I started karting when I was 13 and it was just for fun; there was nothing professional to it. I genuinely enjoyed driving them and the racing developed from that after.

"A year later I started racing in club events before moving up to national championships and international races. I did that for two years and a chance to test a Formula Renault 2.0 came up."

### **On single-seaters...**

"My first time in a single-seater was with AR Motorsport and I stayed with them ever since! The learning curve was great; in a kart you are very low to the ground and get a very direct response from it, whereas formula racing is a lot more technical. You

need a lot of experience to drive well and that's been difficult for me sometimes. I have only ever driven the Renault before coming to Formula Master, compared to most drivers who test as many different cars as possible to get experience."

### **On learning...**

"Everytime I go out on track, I learn more and partnering the WTCC has also been helpful actually! Tom Coronel is a strong Dutch driver and he is very aware of young drivers coming through the ranks. He's been really helping me with things like driver coaching so I'm very thankful to him.

"There are a lot of new tracks to deal with for me this year, but I'm focusing on learning, on finishing as many races as possible and improving each time I go out there."


### **On Hungary...**

"Hungary next weekend should be great fun. It's exciting to race in front of Formula 1, it's everyone's goal after all!"



**Kelvin Snoeks**

## **FF Fact!**



Alessandro Kouzkin is IFM's youngest ever race winner, at 16 years 8 months and 14 days, usurping previous title holder Pablo Sanchez Lopez who was 17 years, 3 months and 25 days when he won his first Formula Master round in Pau (2007). Oddly, Kouzkin took the honour in Pau too, earlier on this season.

# HALF-TERM REPORT



**1. Fabio Leimer**

**Points: 51**

**Wins/Podiums: 4 wins**

**Status: 2008 IFM runner-up**

The young Swiss has won every Saturday race this season, only missing out on pole position once so far. He leads the Drivers' Classification by 16 points and has produced incredibly fast laps on many occasions. Some bad luck means his Sunday pace is yet to show but expect fireworks when it finally all comes together.



**2. Pål Varhaug**

**Points: 35**

**Wins/Podiums: 4 podiums**

**Status: Rookie**

Norwegian Varhaug has been progressing quickly to become a strong title contender in his first year of international racing. With four podiums and a pole position so far, only a win remains elusive. The 18-year-old currently leads the Rookies' Classification.



**3. Josef Kral**

**Points: 28**

**Wins/Podiums: 3 podiums**

**Status: Returning driver**

Driving with Team JVA in 2008 where he won a race in Oschersleben, Kral moved to JD Motorsport this season and has shown strong pace ever since. Improving at each round, the Czech has climbed up in the classification and is more than capable of winning a race in the coming rounds.



**4. Vladimir Arabadzhiev**

**Points: 24**

**Wins/Podiums: 3 podiums**

**Status: Returning driver**

A steady podium scorer, the Bulgarian has produced solid results in most races with second-place finishes in Pau and Brno as the highlight.



**5. Sergey Afanasiev**

**Points: 23**

**Wins/Podiums: 4 podiums**

**Status: Returning driver**

Currently focusing on scoring as many points as possible after a difficult start to the season, the young Russian is moving up in the Drivers' Classification after each round. Expect a win in the later part of the year.



**6. Alexander Rossi**

**Points: 21**

**Wins/Podiums: 1 win & 1 podium**

**Status: Rookie**

A move to ISR, after starting the season with Hitech Junior, has seen the 17-year-old blossom. Scoring a win on his first weekend with the Czech team, the gifted American has shown serious speed ever since.



**7. Alessandro Kouzkin**

**Points: 18**

**Wins/Podiums: 2 wins**

**Status: Rookie**

The only other driver aside from Leimer to claim more than one win this season, IFM's youngest race winner is showing marks of brilliance. A hard weekend in Valencia affected the Russian's title bid slightly but a win in Brands Hatch showed there is plenty more to come.



**8. Erik Janis**

**Points: 14**

**Wins/Podiums: 0 podiums**

**Status: Returning driver**

Competed briefly with IFM in 2007, Czech Republic's Janis returned to the Series with ISR in Brno. The young Czech has scored points in every race since, making a strong impact on the field straight away.

# PHOTO GALLERY



**Simon Trummer**



**Pål Varhaug**



**Kelvin Snoeks**



**Fabio Leimer**



**Petiz, Rosei and Kouzkin**



**Josef Kral**

Sergey Afanasiev



Rossi and Kouzkin



Erik Janis



Patrick Reiterer



PHOTO GALLERY

