

13th of April, 2009

Excellent opening weekend for NEC in Zandvoort

The first weekend of Formula Renault Northern European Cup (NEC) had everything its drivers could wish for. The Dutch track offered optimal conditions for the 2-liter Formula drivers, who qualified with much faster times (1.36.216) than ever before.

With such a good start of the weekend, the same level of results continued for one of the rookies in the Northern European Cup, Adrian Quaife-Hobbs, being able to drive from pole to flag in first position. The podium for the first race was filled with Motopark team members of Adrian, having Antonio Felix Da Costa in second place and Kevin Magnussen on third. The young Portuguese Da Costa and Danish Magnussen, fought hard for the second cup, almost eliminating each other by spinning together in the last lap of Race number 1.

The result of Race 1 provided an interesting grid for Race 2, scheduled on Monday early afternoon. Since the first eight of Race 1 were set up in reversed order for Race 2. Rookie Toomas Heikkinen started on pole position for his Finnish team Koiranen Bros. The first line was completed with Daniel de Jong for the team of MP Motorsport.

The regulatory decision for a reversed grid turned out to have an exciting effect on Race 2. The NEC drivers overtook much more than usual, with Magnussen and Sorensen in position 2 and 3 fighting for position in almost every corner. Race Control had to interfere a number of times in the second race of the season, firstly distributing drive-through penalties for Nigel Melker and Juan Jacobo, who both made a jump start before the green light switched on.

Above accomplishments result in a first place for Felix Da Costa in the overall standings (54 points). A surprising good weekend for Toomas Heikkinen, currently in 5th position overall with 30 points.

The next round of Formula Renault 2.0 liters will be at the Hockenheimring in Germany. During the 25th and 26th of April, the Northern European Cup will participate in the programme of Hockenheim Historic.

Further information about the Northern European Cup Formula Renault 2.0 can be found on the official websites www.renault-sport.de and www.necup.com.

For any questions, please contact Claire Dubbelman (claire@mdh.nl tel: +31 654 782 300) and Ralph Weishaupt (ralph.weishaupt@renault.de, tel: +49 22 32 / 73 92 21).