

TEAM LEBANON ON TRACK IN FIRST DAY OF PAUL RICARD TESTING

Paul Ricard, 24 August 2005..A1 Team Lebanon, one of the twenty five race teams set to compete in the new A1 Grand Prix, was out on track for the first day of the second official pre-season test session in preparation for the debut of the series. Basil Shaaban was behind the wheel of the Lebanese car liveried in the colours of the national flag, running for most of the morning within the top ten and finishing the session just outside, in eleventh place. In the afternoon, the team was testing different car set-ups and Shaaban dropped a few places, but the team continued to learn about the car.

Shaaban commented on his day saying, “We started off the day well, putting in the seventh quickest time on our first run with new tyres. Our time wasn’t so bad, with seven cars all within a few tenths of each other. We’re in the pack, but looking to move forward as we gain more experience with the car.”

Trevor Carlin, racing director, Team Lebanon, adds, “I’m very impressed with Basil’s performance. We’re making progress all the time. This is the first time at this circuit and he did a good job this morning, considering he’s had a couple of very busy days at Valencia (F3000 testing). Overall, a very good start and the pressure’s on. We’re probably within half a second of a very respectable grid position which is exceeding our expectations.”

Team principal, Anthony Snook, summed up the team’s performance saying, “The main aim of the day was for our team to build on our experience at Silverstone, our technical understanding of the car and for the drivers and team to work together. I thought Basil drove consistently here. He did particularly well this morning. The other teams may have been running to different strategies, including fresh drivers in the car in the afternoon and different fuel levels, so it’s difficult to compare ourselves with them. I am very happy with our performance and Carlin Motorsport’s handling of the team; we’re all working well together as a happy, professional unit.”

Ends.

Fastest lap times - Wednesday 24 August 2005

- 1 USA 1.24.559 - SCOTT SPEED
- 2 BRAZIL 1.24.973 - NELSON PIQUET JR
- 3 FRANCE 1.25.095 - NICOLAS LAPIERE
- 4 GREAT BRITAIN 1.25.281 - ROBBIE KERR
- 5 MEXICO 1.25.296 - SALVADOR DURAN
- 6 PORTUGAL 1.25.377 - ALVARO PARENTE
- 7 NEW ZEALAND 1.25.536 - JONNY REID
- 8 IRELAND 1.25.687 - RALPH FIRMAN
- 9 AUSTRALIA 1.25.692 - WILL DAVISON
- 10 MALAYSIA 1.25.717 - ALEX YOONG
- 11 NETHERLANDS 1.25.751 - JOS VERSTAPPEN
- 12 PAKISTAN 1.26.139 - ADAM KHAN
- 13 SWITZERLAND 1.26.147 - ROMAIN GROSJEAN
- 14 SOUTH AFRICA 1.26.177 - THOMAS SCHECKTER
- 15 GERMANY 1.26.440 - TIMO SCHEIDER
- 16 LEBANON 1.26.477 - BASIL SHAABAN
- 17 INDIA 1.27.978 - KARUN CHANDOK
- 18 INDONESIA 1.28.430 - ANANDA MIKOLA
- 19 CHINA 1.29.377 - TENG JIANG
- 20 RUSSIA 1.32.760 - NIKOLAY FOMENKO

Notes to editors:

1. A1 Grand Prix is the first opportunity in any area of motorsport for nations to compete with other nations on an equal basis. Up to 25 national teams will race identical cars with no electronic driver aids. Performance is determined by human bravery, skill and excellence.
2. A1 Grand Prix will deliver 12 weekends of exciting race action outside of the traditional motorsport season, kicking off at Brand Hatch in the UK on 25 September 2005, before travelling to Germany on 9 October, Portugal on 23 October, Australia on 6 November, Malaysia on 20 November and United Arab Emirates on 11 December, Indonesia or Singapore, South Africa, Mexico, both east and west coast USA and China will follow after the winter break. Full details of the provisional race calendar can be found at www.a1gp.com

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