



PRESS RELEASE
28 NOVEMBER 2007

THE RACE AGAINST CANCER FOR CANCER RESEARCH UK ***Spanish GP2 star Javier Villa takes stunning victory***

Javier Villa showed composure and talent of the highest degree this weekend to win The Race Against Cancer in a breathtaking grand final race.

Starting on pole position thanks to strong performances in both of his heat races, Villa was locked in a frantic race-long dice with Sam Bird and Riki Christodoulou that saw each driver swap and change positions right up to the chequered flag.

The day started in treacherous conditions as each driver navigated around puddles, spray and spinning karts in order to learn the lines of the Rye House circuit. A drying superpole session saw those Club 100 karts that went out in the dying moments of the session benefit from more grip and lower lap times as a result. The top 10 grid for heat 1 consisted of eight ex-karting champions from 18 year old Jon Lancaster to 41 year old Tim Sugden, showing the pedigree and varying experience making up the entry list of this spectacular and unpredictable event.

Heat 1 saw Javier Villa and World Series by Renault Vice-Champion Ben Hanley lead proceedings to take a dominant lead over the chasing pack, with touring car and sports car legend Sugden showing many of the younger drivers the way home by finishing in the top 5. Euro F3 champion Romain Grosjean recovered from a poor grid slot after spinning in superpole to storm through from 24th position to finish in a stunning 4th place. The young Frenchman also collected the fastest race lap in the process of this impressive fightback.

With the grid order for heat 2 set by the reverse order of the heat 1 race, Australian bike racer Stacey McMahon lead the field into the flat out turn one as 27 other motorsport stars set after her in hot pursuit. This race saw experience count most of all as the circuit began to dry out and lap times fall – leaving Swiss touring car legend Alain Menu to take a popular slender victory over youngsters Bird and Christodoulou. Menu was joined in the top 10 by other touring car racers Sugden and BTCC winner Tom Onslow-Cole, demonstrating that tin-top drivers can compete respectably with their single-seater counterparts. Those used to plying their trade on two wheels continued to impress during the day, with MotoGP 250cc star Mika Kallio circulating impressively within half a second of Christodoulou, the fastest man in this heat.

Rally driver Matt Beebe warmed up the audience for the grand final with a superb sideways demonstration of his rally car around the 1000m kart circuit. His aggressive and enthusiastic driving style impressed the feature drivers and offered an alternate way to slither around the Rye House circuit.

The final grid for the feature race saw British F3 winner Sam Bird line up on pole alongside GP2 winner Javier Villa. The top 10 of this grid featured six different nationalities ready for a 15 minute frantic battle, including both of Chevrolet's WTCC drivers Alain Menu and Rob Huff. A slow start by the left side of the grid saw Villa slip back from the front row to 4th as three Brits in Christodoulou, Bird and Lancaster filled out the first three places on lap 1. Further back carnage ensued as karts came together, resulting in a monumental accident that would see Matt Hamilton land on top of Rob Huff, spinning out many other karts in the process. This resulted in the field splitting into two distinct groups as those at the sharp end escaped from the mêlée behind.

A collision between Sugden and the rapid but unlucky Sebastien Hohenthal saw the young Swede eliminated from the battle for top honours, leaving just Christodoulou, Bird and the now recovered Villa to battle for supremacy. The diminutive Spaniard showed all the skill and talent that has already made him a star in his homeland to race back into the lead and begin a dogged fight with his English rivals. Both Bird and Christodoulou managed to get alongside Villa as the laps wore down, but the man from Asturia, Spain hung on to take victory by just 0.09 of a second ahead of Bird, with the tiny figure of Christodoulou in close pursuit.

A euphoric Villa was immediately congratulated by a sporting Bird and Christodoulou, with the Spaniard immediately asking when the next race would be so he can return to defend his title. A mention must also go to Jonathan Kennard who put in a storming performance in his first ever kart race to set laptimes comparable to those with many karting championships under their belts. MotoGP rider Chaz Davies also put in a quiet but extremely strong performance to finish in the top 10 and finish as top bike rider for the day, an impressive feat for someone used to racing with half as many wheels as today!

After collecting his 3rd place trophy, Formula Renault star Christodoulou took time out to reflect on the day's events:

"I thought it was a really good and exciting day! It's not often you get all of these names in racing all together on a kart track and racing against each other for the win.

After a slow start in the final race I managed to catch leaders Javier Villa and Sam Bird. I went for a move into the hairpin on Bird and at the same time I thought I might aswell try and get Villa, but it didn't pay off, we hit and I was very slow out of the corner! I ended up 3rd, but that's racing and it was really good to be there for such a good cause.

I'd like to say well done to everyone who made this event happen and to Cancer Research UK - I hope to win the race next year! "

BTCC Team RAC driver Tom Onslow-Cole was similarly enthusiastic about the event, commenting "I was honoured to be invited to the event and tremendously excited to be taking part on Sunday for Team RAC. The International Charity Karting Event is for a fantastic cause in Cancer Research, with some friendly rivalry when everyone stepped into the karts."

Despite a topsy-turvy day on circuit, Swedish star Sebastien Hohenthal enjoyed his trip to England, stating that "I was asked if I could join the race and there was no hesitation from my side. This seems to become a great event and it would be great if we together could create a great show that raises funding for such a good purpose as cancer research."

The day's other events saw over 20 supercars on show to give a superb backdrop to the event. A team-event motorsport icons race took place later in the day featuring names from top level motorsport such as Sam Michael (Williams F1), Mike Gascoyne (Force India), David Lapworth (Prodrive) and more who showed their support for the event.

The Race Against Cancer event was in aid of Cancer Research UK as a fundraising and awareness raising exercise. After our motorsport items auction is complete we will reach our target of raising thousands of pounds for the charity. To raise Cancer Research UK's profile further, the event was filmed for TV and is scheduled to appear on European satellite television at the beginning of 2008.

In a closing statement speaking of the event, organisers Rick Osborn and Matt Roberts said "we just want to thank everyone involved who has made all of this possible, the drivers, the circuit, the partners and everyone who donated their time and expertise to get this project off the ground. We hope that what was a fantastically fun event will help raise the profile of Cancer Research UK and the work that it does in search of finding a cure for this disease. Many people have asked us 'will we do it again?' Well, never say never!"

The event website is <http://www.theraceagainstcancer.co.uk>

Superpole Qualifying / Heat 1 Grid

Position	Driver	Lap Time
1	J Villa	53.75
2	R. Christodoulou	54.85
3	M. Hamilton	55.02
4	T. Ebbesvik	55.36
5	B. Hanley	55.42
6	S. Hohenthal	55.47
7	T. Sugden	55.51
8	J. Lancaster	55.63
9	S. Bird	55.82
10	R. Huff	55.93
11	P. Rees	56.18
12	J. Jakes	56.39
13	C. Holmes	56.92
14	A. Ricardo-Batty	57.49
15	R. Parkes	57.52
16	M. Kallio	57.67
17	A. Menu	57.99
18	C. Davies	58.55
19	J. Kennard	1.00.85
20	C. Harris	1.01.87
21	S. McMahon	1.04.32
22	J. Brodie	1.07.26
23	S. Jelley	1.13.16
24	R. Grosjean	1.14.51
25	H. Surtees	1.16.43
26	T. Onslow Cole	1.23.78
27	B. Smith	1.25.26
28	L. Tillett	1.32.74
	Fastest Lap:	Javier Villa (53.75)

Heat 1 Result

Position	Driver	Gap	Fastest Lap Time
1	J. Villa	0.00	45.39
2	B. Hanley	0.52	45.36
3	S. Bird	8.02	45.58
4	R. Grosjean	9.03	45.06
5	S. Hohenthal	11.44	45.28
6	R. Christodoulou	13.27	45.30
7	T. Ebbesvik	14.20	45.87
8	H. Surtees	15.03	46.08
9	J. Lancaster	16.86	45.68
10	R. Huff	17.00	45.79
11	T. Sugden	17.69	46.02
12	L. Tillett	19.01	45.67
13	A. Ricardo-Batty	19.13	45.91
14	T. Onslow-Cole	19.91	46.27
15	J. Kennard	21.20	45.81
16	P. Rees	24.19	45.89
17	R. Parkes	37.16	46.47
18	S. Jelley	41.59	48.12
19	C. Holmes	43.24	46.48
20	M. Kallio	+1L	45.83
21	B. Smith	+1L	47.82
22	C. Davies	+1L	47.55
23	J. Brodie	+1L	48.35
24	A. Menu	+1L	45.88
25	C. Harris	+2L	47.49
26	J. Jakes	+2L	46.29
27	M. Hamilton	+4L	46.95
28	S. McMahon	+5L	56.14
		Fastest Lap:	Romain Grosjean (45.06)

Heat 2 Result

Position	Driver	Gap	Fastest Lap Time
1	A. Menu	0.00	44.91
2	S. Bird	0.03	44.30
3	R. Christodoulou	0.56	44.10
4	T. Sugden	1.76	44.73
5	M. Hamilton	3.07	45.03
6	J. Villa	5.58	44.51
7	J. Lancaster	5.65	45.07
8	T. Onslow-Cole	6.38	44.98
9	C. Holmes	7.34	44.95
10	T. Ebbesvik	7.63	44.54
11	A. Ricardo-Batty	7.99	44.71
12	R. Huff	5.61	44.78
13	R. Grosjean	13.58	44.56
14	L. Tillett	15.01	44.44
15	J. Jakes	15.30	45.19
16	B. Smith	23.16	45.00
17	S. Hohenthal	23.83	44.51
18	R. Parkes	25.40	44.95
19	C. Davies	28.05	45.28
20	M. Kallio	37.02	44.64
21	J. Kennard	41.82	45.11
22	S. Jelley	42.39	45.24
23	P. Rees	44.21	44.50
24	J. Brodie	+1L	46.62
25	C. Harris	+1L	45.33
26	H. Surtees	+1L	44.41
27	S. McMahan	+5L	54.43
28	B. Hanley	+13L	-
		Fastest Lap:	Riki Christodoulou (44.10)

Grand Final - Grid

Position	Driver
1	S. Bird
2	J. Villa
3	R. Christodoulou
4	T. Sugden
5	J. Lancaster
6	R. Grosjean
7	T. Ebbesvik
8	A. Menu
9	S. Hohenthal
10	R. Huff
11	T. Onslow-Cole
12	B. Hanley
13	A. Ricardo-Batty
14	M. Hamilton
15	L. Tillett
16	C. Holmes
17	H. Surtees
18	J. Kennard
19	R. Parkes
20	J. Jakes
21	B. Smith
22	P. Rees
23	S. Jelley
24	M. Kallio
25	C. Davies
26	J. Brodie
27	C. Harris
28	S. McMahon

Grand Final - Result

Position	Driver	Gap	Fastest Lap Time
1	J. Villa	0.00	43.64
2	S. Bird	0.09	43.57
3	R. Christodoulou	1.32	43.35
4	T. Ebbesvik	10.16	43.87
5	T. Sugden	11.88	44.01
6	J. Lancaster	12.61	44.06
7	J. Kennard	13.35	43.80
8	P. Rees	21.08	43.94
9	C. Davies	23.47	43.83
10	R. Huff	31.95	44.28
11	A. Menu	34.49	43.87
12	R. Grosjean	36.45	43.53
13	A. Ricardo-Batty	41.97	43.97
14	L. Tillett	+1L	43.72
15	S. Jelley	+1L	44.91
16	S. Hohenthal	+1L	43.65
17	C. Holmes	+1L	44.65
18	C. Harris	+1L	44.88
19	M. Hamilton	+1L	44.38
20	B. Smith	+1L	44.50
21	H. Surtees	+2L	43.82
22	J. Brodie	+2L	46.20
23	S. McMahon	+3L	51.27
24	J. Jakes	+6L	45.02
25	M. Kallio	+12L	44.78
26	R. Parkes	+14L	46.22
27	T. Onslow-Cole	+15L	45.46
28	B. Hanley	+20L	-
		Fastest Lap:	Riki Christodoulou (43.35)

For media enquiries, please contact:

The Race Against Cancer Organisers - Rick Osborn & Matt Roberts
Tel: 07825 371302 / 07968 557893 Email: organisers@theraceagainstcancer.co.uk

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Notes to editor:

Cancer Research UK supports research into all aspects of cancer through the work of more than 3,500 doctors, scientists and nurses. With a scientific spend of £315 million in 2006/07, Cancer Research UK fund over 4,250 world-class scientists, doctors and nurses in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Their combined expertise puts Cancer Research UK at the forefront of cancer research.

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