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Glasgow Rangers make “Home” advantage pay to become “Weekend Winner” in Britain

02/08/2009 - British club Glasgow Rangers made “home” advantage pay to become the €100,000 “Weekend Winner” when John Martin (AUS) netted the concluding Super Final race honours in the Superleague Formula by Sonangol at Donington Park in Britain today (2 August). It was the Scottish Premier League club and Australian driver’s maiden SLF race victory.



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FC Basel (Max Wissel) and FC Porto (Tristan Gommendy) were victorious around the parkland 2.5-mile track in the British Midlands in the earlier races. Liverpool FC’s Adrián Vallés (SP) heads for the fourth round of the six-venue series in Portugal next month with a reduced 10-points lead now over Basel.

[Media Kit SF Round 3 UK - Donington Park](#)

Race 1 – FC Basel On A Swiss Roll

Swiss club FC Basel and Max Wissel scored their maiden SLF wins when the German, the youngest driver in the SLF field, comfortably led home Rangers’ Martin.

Martin got stuck behind the third-placed but yet to pit PSV Eindhoven car allowing Wissel, who set the race’s fastest lap, to sweep ahead. Vallés, who started from his worst “proper” qualifying position of the season in 10th place, finished sixth – one second behind the Tottenham Hotspur machine of Craig Dolby (GB).

Meanwhile the pole-starting Corinthians car of Antônio Pizzonia finished third having led until pitting on lap nine but a slow pit-stop lost the Brazilian valuable time.

FC Basel: Max Wissel (D)

“It’s a perfect result for FC Basel – I’m so happy for ‘my’ club. I pushed very hard but the car and pit-stop were all very good – I’m delighted.”

Glasgow Rangers: John Martin (AUS)

“I came out of the pits leading but was effectively robbed of a win due to a backmarker not getting out of the way at a critical moment with Basel right behind me.”

Corinthians: Antônio Pizzonia (BRA)

“Until my pit-stop everything was good but there was a delay at my stop which cost me any chance of a win.”

Race 2 – FC Porto Heads Home Double Delight For Portugal

FC Porto scored its first victory of the season when Tristan Gommendy (F) scored his and the club’s second ever SLF victory, coming through from 10th on the grid.

Sporting Clube de Portugal’s Pedro Petiz (POR) did well to fend off a hard-charging, back row starting FC Basel for second place in the latter stages of the race to earn Portugal a magnificent 1-2.

Flamengo (Enrique Bernoldi) had started from pole, after spinning out on the opening lap of race one, while the cars of Rangers and AC Milan collided causing a Safety Car period. Olympiacos (Davide Rigon) started from the pit-lane when he was unable to take up his front row slot when work on replacing the engine overran – but retired early – while RSC Anderlecht (Yelmer Buurman) non-started due to a gearbox issue with Flamengo retiring after a slow stop.

FC Porto: Tristan Gommendy (F)

“To get a victory again for Porto, and the first for this season, is fantastic. The car was very good. I gave it 100% and it all came together for me.”

Sporting Clube de Portugal: Pedro Petiz (POR)

“The previous races at Zolder had been a nightmare so to get a second place here is incredible. I had to handle the pressure from Basel.”

FC Basel: Max Wissel (D)

“To come from the back of the grid to third place is truly unbelievable. I am now second in the series – just 10pts behind Adrián Vallés so I think the next races in Portugal will be interesting.”

Super Final – Quick Repair Hands Maiden SLF Win To Glasgow Rangers and Martin

FC Basel lined-up in “pole” for the five-lap “dash for cash”, the Rangers car fully repaired after its race two collision while Spurs claimed a place in the six-car line-up due to Basel, third in race two, having already qualified for the Super Final courtesy of victory in race one.

Basel led initially before a gearbox problem on lap three allowed Rangers in to the lead, Tottenham also taking second from the Swiss club on the same lap. The two Portuguese cars collided on lap two while Corinthians briefly went off the track in a separate incident. Wissel salvaged third place, 6.210secs behind Rangers at the chequered flag.

Glasgow Rangers: John Martin (AUS)

“This victory is very sweet. The team did an awesome job after my accident in race two – taking just half the time to repair it would normally. The car wasn’t perfect but it was still good enough to win!”

Tottenham Hotspur: Craig Dolby (GB)

“I’d only previously ever done a race standing start in a much less powerful car so that in itself was an interesting feature of the Super Final for me. I’ll remain third in the championship standings, but now only 21pts off the lead, so to finish second in this race completes a great weekend for me.”

FC Basel: Max Wissel (D)

"I had the speed to win but the gearbox pressure died and I was left in fourth gear for a short while. This result is disappointing but in general it's been a great weekend."

Race 2 - SF Round 3 UK - Classification

POS No	RACING TEAM	DRIVER	TIME	GAP
1	16 Porto FC SF Racing Team	T. Gommendy	45:36.002	30 laps
2	2 Sporting Clube de Portugal SF Racing Team	P. Petiz	45:40.693	4.691
3	10 FC Basel SF Racing Team	M. Wissel	45:42.625	6.623
4	19 Tottenham Hotspur SF Racing Team	C. Dolby	45:43.778	7.776
5	24 FC Midtjylland SF Racing Team	K. Andersen	45:46.189	10.187
6	21 Liverpool FC SF Racing Team	A. Vallés	45:47.542	11.540
7	15 Atlético de Madrid SF Racing Team	H. P. Tung	45:53.470	17.468
8	14 Corinthians SF Racing Team	A. Pizzonia	45:53.470	17.907
9	69 Olympique Lyonnais SF Racing Team	N. Panciatici	45:53.909	40.632
10	22 AS Roma SF Racing Team	J. Kennard	46:16.364	41.002
11	5 PSV Eindhoven SF Racing Team	D. Muermans	46:17.004	54.946
12	4 Galatasaray SF Racing Team	S. Mansell	46:30.948	56.634
13	18 Sevilla FC SF Racing Team	E. Guerrieri	46:32.636	20 laps
14	7 Flamengo SF Racing Team	E. Bernoldi	18:23.142	21 laps
15	9 Olympiacos SF Racing Team	D. Rigon	17:02.665	27 laps
16	17 Rangers FC SF Racing Team	J. Martin	5:22.601	29 laps
17	3 AC Milan SF Racing Team	G. Pantano	1:41.393	-
18	8 RSC Anderlecht SF Racing Team	Y. Buurman	-	-

Race 3 Super Final - SF Round 3 UK - Classification

POS No	RACING TEAM	DRIVER	TIME	GAP
1	17 Rangers FC SF Racing Team	J. Martin	6:43.077	5 laps
2	19 Tottenham Hotspur SF Racing Team	C. Dolby	6:46.827	3.750
3	10 FC Basel SF Racing Team	M. Wissel	6:49.287	6.210
4	14 Corinthians SF Racing Team	A. Pizzonia	6:50.920	7.843
5	16 FC Porto SF Racing Team	T. Gommendy	7:14.710	31.633
6	2 Sporting Clube de Portugal SF Racing Team	P. Petiz	7:18.086	35.009

General Standings

Pos.	No	RACING TEAM	TOTAL	Race 1	Race 2	Weekend Total
1	21	Liverpool FC	217	29	29	58
2	10	FC Basel	207	50	40	90
3	19	Tottenham Hotspur	196	32	36	68
4	3	AC Milan	154	36	6	42
5	16	FC Porto	146	23	50	73
6	14	Corinthians	139	40	23	63
7	8	RSC Anderlecht	122	7	5	12
8	24	FC Midtjylland	122	18	32	50
9	15	Atlético de Madrid	120	20	26	46
10	17	Rangers FC	118	45	7	52
11	9	Olympiacos	118	6	8	14
12	22	AS Roma	110	26	18	44
13	2	Sporting Clube de Portugal	110	14	45	59
14	4	Galatasaray	101	12	14	26
15	7	Flamengo	98	5	10	15
16	69	Olympique Lyonnais	82	10	20	30
17	5	PSV Eindhoven	59	8	16	24
18	18	Sevilla FC	28	16	12	28

FURTHER INFORMATION :

Additional briefing information, video and images are available at:

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