



World Series

On the 29th and 30th October, 5 Sakers from the UK took part in the World Finals at Zandvoort, where a grid of 29 teams competed for the crown of "World Champion".

The format consisted of two, 12 lap sprint races, followed by a 70 minute endurance race with a mandatory pit stop.

A massive start line shunt for race one, after the pole car suffered drive shaft failure, saw every driver involved walk away unharmed, which is a testament to the strength of the cars. Once the track was cleared of debris, three great, close, exciting races followed.

The UK's Mark Burton, from Team O'BR/Spirit Fitness said: "Zandvoort is one hell of a roller-coaster ride. Having never driven at the circuit before and with only limited testing, I knew it was going to be a daunting race weekend. Due to a technical problem, I missed the first sprint race, but witnessing the massive start line crash from the pit lane was perhaps the best place to be."

He added: "Half way through race 2, the drizzle created an extremely slippery surface for slicks. In the tricky conditions, I was relieved to finish the race with the car in one piece and 3rd place Brit. In race 3, the highlight was battling in the wet with fellow UK racer, Steve Harris. As the race started late, it was almost dark when we finished and I was pleased to complete the race 14th overall. It was a great weekend, and I'm sure we'll be back in 2012".

Paul Rose led the way for the Brits, finishing 5th in the endurance race, but suffering some bad luck in the sprint races.

In the first sprint, a poor start meant that he managed to avoid the carnage of the start and squeezed through, only clipping his mirror!



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After the start of the first sprint was red flagged, he pitted to have the mirror adjusted, but was frustratingly held in the pits and only released after the cars had retaken the start and reached the first corner! He charged through the pack, but time was against him and 10th overall (p1 UK) was his final position.

An unscheduled pit stop in the second sprint race, due to a rear puncture, meant that he started the main race from the back of the grid. So, for the final race and now on a mission, he forced his way to the front of the pack, only to suffer a hard hit to the left rear from the Lucca Bertini Saker sprint car, on the final lap! With his left rear now severely bent, the Bertini Saker was able to pass and Rose finished a respectable 5th.

Paul Rose, said: "Having seen the start line incident and narrowly avoiding any damage to my own car, I am pleased we now use rolling starts in the UK. I don't think anyone was to blame, it was a genuine accident and everyone involved walked away unharmed. Three great races then followed! I am looking forward to going back next year!"



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Nigel Greensall, shared the racing with Steve Harris in the JPR 36 car and described Zandvoort as "now one of [his] favourites, brilliant to drive, with a great combination of high speed sweeps and banked corners."

He added: "It was wonderful to see the huge grid of Sakers. It was a great spectacle and brilliant racing with extremely high quality driving. The racing was excellent and I really enjoyed the wet race. The Saker is so much fun to drive in those conditions and really gives the driver plenty of confidence."

Harris and Greensall finished 13th overall in the main race and 3rd for the UK.



Tim Wheeldon, one of the UK's most successful Saker drivers, in Fluent Motorsport car 43, had a great time, finishing 2nd for the UK in all three races and 11th overall in the endurance race.

The final driver for the Brits was Bram de Groot. A special mention goes to Bram, who had never raced at Zandvoort before, but on top of this, had never even sat in the driver seat of a Saker! His first experience of the car and track, was during his qualifying session! He finished 18th and 22nd in the sprints, which was impressive, after racing the 2nd sprint on slicks, in what turned out to be an extremely wet race! He took the chequered flag in 21st in the main race. Well done Bram!

Derwin Belt, from the SPA005 car took the overall title, after winning the endurance race.



Photographs



To view some great pictures, please click on:

<http://www.oypo.nl/pixxer.asp?id=F8ADC5B1CFB3F133>

Video Clips

Take a look at Nigel Greensall in the wet:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqUw64RWDzM&feature=related>

Or view the start line incident here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUip7qhfeOAS&feature=related>

Finally...

I'm really looking forward to seeing our Saker and Fun Cup competitors at the end of season party on Saturday! I'm thrilled that there are nearly 150 of you attending! Our biggest bash to date! See you there!

Kindest regards

Roxie Marandi Rose
Fun Cup UK/Saker Sportscars UK
Race Co-ordinator



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