

27th February 2013

Round 1

D-F1 Championship 2013



Qualifying 1

A new season of the Formula one championship gets underway with 14 entrants for the opening qualifying session. The 2012 champion did not make an appearance to defend his title. Could this mean it is up for grabs to one of the new comers?

As the drivers took to the circuit there was little space on track for a clean flying lap so it was down to the drivers to hope they would not get held up. The packed out circuit didn't bother the leading drivers as a session best came from Brandon Bethel with a 29.195 second lap time.

The four eliminated drivers were P11 Nigel Walne (+1.331), P12 Steve Gray (+1.756), P13 Steve Iddon (+2.073), P14 Florent Emmanuel (+2.207).

Qualifying 2

Ten drivers made it through to the second session. More space was now available to the drivers so it would need more skill to get through to the final qualifying session.

falling within a second of each other. The timing screens were flickering as each time the drivers crossed the line there was a position change.

P7 Julian Philippe (+0.662), P8 Wesley Platel (+0.707), P9 Mark Yates (+0.785), P10 John Teasdale (+0.787).

Qualifying two was a close encounter with all drivers

As the checkered flag illuminated on the gantry the drivers lap times were sealed and another four drivers were eliminated.

Qualifying 3

Brandon Bethel had already set the pace in the opening two sessions. He wasted no time in setting the session best lap time to seal pole position with a 28.954.

second row sitting in fourth position Tomek Zaustowicz (+0.439)

Colin Samuel took second place on the grid (+2.09).

Fifth place Mark Hitchcock (+0.457)

Third place went to Josh Morris (+0.323)

And the sixth place position went to Ryan Welch (+0.679).

Joining Josh on the

Grand Prix

After a clean sweep through qualifying Brandon leapt off the line from pole position and set the early pace. Josh Morris utilized his start on the inside of the grid to jump up in to second place. Meaning Colin Samuel lost one place but caught straight on to the back of Josh and kept pace behind in third. Brandon looked calm in the lead setting pace equal to his qualifying lap times in the low 29 seconds. The fast pace set meant it did not take long until blue flags were called in to action as Florent was being lapped by most of the field as he was slowing to nearly a crawl at places around the circuit to allow the front runners through.

Steve Gray had one of the best races on the track as he managed to make up a total of 8 places from his

12th place grid start. The amount of positions gained maybe left Steve wondering what might have been if he had of managed to get through in to qualifying session two. Steve eventually finished in 4th place.

For the majority of the race Brandon Bethel was in complete control and setting the fastest laps on the circuit and managing to ease past the back markers with the aid of the blue flags. Josh Morris had done well to stick behind Brandon through the first 50 laps. As the final 10 laps started Josh really piled on the pressure and was sizing up Brandon for an overtake. Brandon had the better line and pace around the top half of the track through the hairpin sections. But down in the first sector Josh had a tighter and neater line.

With two laps remaining Josh thought he had the space to sneak through on the inside line of Brandon as they entered the tunnel but it all went wrong as he bumped the back quarter of Brandon's kart and put him in to a spin. Josh realized that it was his mistake and sat stationary while Brandon turned himself around to get going again. Colin Samuel had been sitting patiently behind Josh and managed the gap to stay within a few seconds of Josh and Brandon and as Josh caused Brandon to spin Colin passed the incident under yellow light conditions. With only two laps remaining Brandon could not recover and Colin Samuel took the race win.

"Brandon Bethel was in complete control and setting the fastest laps".



Position	Driver Name	Gap	Points
1	Colin Samuel	- - -	25
2	Brandon Bethel	+3.590	23
3	Josh Morris	+4.188	21
4	Steve Gray	+6.886	20
5	Mark Hitchcock	+24.345	19
6	Julian Philippe	+25.520	18
7	Tomek Zaustowicz	+1L	17
8	Ryan Welch	+1L	16
9	Nigel Walne	+2L	15
10	John Teasdale	+3L	14
11	Mark Yates	+3L	13
12	Steve Iddon	+4L	12
13	Wesley Platel	+6L	11
14	Florent Emmanuel Okalla	+24L	10