Browning makes fast start around Silverstone

Hitech Pulse-Eight's Luke Browning started his and his team's home event in fine form, setting a 1:45.794 to lead the way in Free Practice. Championship leader Gabriel Bortoleto followed closely in second position for Trident, with Dino Beganovic the highest-placed PREMA Racing driver in third.

Sebastián Montoya got the weekend rolling with a 1:48.957 and the initial time to beat. Leonardo Fornaroli and then Franco Colapinto quickly beat that, with the MP Motorsport driver's 1:47.099 putting him top with half an hour left to run.

The times continued to fall as Browning put in a 1:46.493 to take over the lead.

There was contact between Kaylen Frederick and Zak O'Sullivan at Turn 16 as traffic began to build up and drivers searched for clean air. The Briton was able to continue in the session, but the ART Grand Prix driver was out after sustaining suspension damage and recovering to the pitlane.

Browning continued to lap quickly, lowering his best to a 1:45.946 before a Virtual Safety Car was deployed to recover debris left by Frederick and O'Sullivan's contact.

Back to green flag conditions, there were very few improvements until the final 12 minutes as Bortoleto moved himself up to second on a 1:46.075.

Once again though, Hitech's Browning lowered his best time, setting a 1:45.794 to keep Bortoleto almost two-tenths behind him. Beganovic was another late improver, rising to third in his PREMA Racing #2 car as the top three remained the same for the remainder of the session.

Fornaroli ended up fourth for Trident ahead of Josep María Martí. Grégoire Saucy finished sixth ahead of Paul Aron, Gabriele Minì , Zak O'Sullivan and new Rodin Carlin arrival, Max Esterson. Qualifying is set to get underway at 14:10 local time at Silverstone.

CONTINUES

2023 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 7 FREE PRACTICE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM	LAPTIME
1	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:45.794
2	Gabriel Bortoleto	BRA	Trident	1:45.976
3	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing	1:46.090
4	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident	1:46.108
5	Josep María Martí	ESP	Campos Racing	1:46.125
6	Grégoire Saucy	CHE	ART Grand Prix	1:46.190
7	Paul Aron	EST	PREMA Racing	1:46.208
8	Gabriele Minì	ITA	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:46.223
9	Zak O'Sullivan	GBR	PREMA Racing	1:46.240
10	Maxwell Esterson	USA	Rodin Carlin	1:46.254
11	Christian Mansell	GBR	Campos Racing	1:46.370
12	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix	1:46.454
13	McKenzy Cresswell	GBR	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:46.455
14	Franco Colapinto	ARG	MP Motorsport	1:46.457
15	Taylor Barnard	GBR	Jenzer Motorsport	1:46.473
16	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Trident	1:46.571
17	Caio Collet	BRA	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:46.590
18	Hugh Barter	AUS	Campos Racing	1:46.653
19	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Hitech Pulse-Eight	1:46.688
20	Mari Boya	ESP	MP Motorsport	1:46.749
21	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:46.808
22	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	Jenzer Motorsport	1:46.810
23	Sophia Floersch	DEU	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:46.945
24	Oliver Gray	GBR	Rodin Carlin	1:47.058
25	Jonny Edgar	GBR	MP Motorsport	1:47.126
26	Ido Cohen	ISR	Rodin Carlin	1:47.163
27	Rafael Villagómez	MEX	Van Amersfoort Racing	1:47.223
28	Kaylen Frederick	USA	ART Grand Prix	1:47.279
29	Roberto Faria	BRA	PHM Racing by Charouz	1:47.907
30	Alejandro García	MEX	Jenzer Motorsport	1:47.937

ENDS

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