

Saturday, March 23rd, 2024**Stenshorne holds off Lindblad to take maiden F3 victory**

Hitech Pulse-Eight rookie Martinius Stenshorne survived a late Safety Car and pressure from PREMA Racing's Arvid Lindblad to score his maiden victory in the Melbourne Sprint Race.

Lindblad came across the line in P2, giving him and ART Grand Prix Laurens van Hoepen, who finished third, their second Sprint Race podiums of their year after their Sakhir exploits.

AS IT HAPPENED

The top five remained the same at the start with pole-sitter van Hoepen covering off Stenshorne to retain the lead. His ART teammate and home favourite Christian Mansell stayed in third ahead of the Red Bull-liveried cars of Oliver Goethe and Lindblad.

However, van Hoepen and Stenshorne quickly became embroiled in a multi-lap battle for the lead on Lap 3. But this contest brought the rest of their rivals into play, with top 10 only covered by three seconds. Stenshorne eventually took a hold of the lead on Lap 5 on the run down to Turn 1.

On Lap 6, Mansell was now coming under attack from Lindblad with the PREMA driver taking P3 at Turn 9. Just behind the pair, Goethe lost P5 to his Campos Racing teammate Mari Boya at the same corner.

In the battle for points, Dino Beganovic was on the move in other PREMA car and quickly dispatched Fornaroli at Turn 12 for P9. The Trident driver then ran wide onto the gravel, dropping him to 15th.

There was more bad news for Mansell, as by the end of Lap 9 he was down in 13th and seemingly out of points contention.

Back at the front, Stenshorne had built a gap of over two and a half seconds to van Hoepen, but the ART driver was then overtaken by Lindblad.

As the race moved past the halfway stage, Beganovic, was now coming under attack from Sebastián Montoya. The Campos driver made the move past on the run down to Turn 1, with the Swede then losing another position to Jenzer Motorsport's Charlie Wurz two corners later.

In the battle for the lead, Lindblad was now well within DRS range of his Norwegian rival as they crossed the line to start Lap 13, but Safety Car intervention halted his attack.

CONTINUES

Van Amersfoort Racing's home hero Tommy Smith collided with the rear of the PHM AIX Racing #26 car of Tasanapol Inthraphuvasak at Turn 1. The Thai racer was out of the car and the race while the Australian continued on.

Back to green flag racing again on Lap 17 and Beganovic made the move past Wurz for P8 at the popular Turn 9. The Austrian ran wide at corner exit, losing further positions to drop him down to 13th.

Back at the front, Lindblad was pushing Stenshorne all the way, but the Hitech driver held him off to take his first ever Formula 3 victory. Van Hoepen made it three rookies on the podium as he finished P3.

Goethe followed his teammate Boya across the line in fifth, while Beganovic overtook his fellow PREMA driver Gabriele Minì at the last corner on the last lap to take sixth. Nikita Bedrin wound up eighth ahead MP Motorsport's Alex Dunne, with Montoya taking the final point in P10.

KEY QUOTE – Martinus Stenshorne, Hitech Pulse-Eight

"Just finished the Sprint Race here in Australia and we ended up with P1. It was a really good race, we struggled a bit halfway through and then the Safety Car came out and that really saved us. Happy with the race and good to be on the top step."

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

Despite a non-scoring result, Luke Browning holds onto his advantage at the top of the Drivers' Championship, remaining on 25 points. Arvid Lindblad's second F3 podium in as many rounds moves him up to second and 23 points, while Tim Tramnitz is third on 21. Laurens van Hoepen is now fourth, tied with ART Grand Prix teammate Christian Mansell with 18 points apiece.

Points for all three drivers puts PREMA Racing on top in the Teams' Standings on 46 points. ART Grand Prix are second now with 43 to their tally, while Trident are on 38 in third position.

UP NEXT

The Formula 3 Feature Race is set to get underway at 09:05 local time around the Albert Park Street Circuit on Sunday, with Trident's Leonardo Fornaroli set to start on pole.

2024 FIA FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP – ROUND 2 SPRINT RACE PROVISIONAL CLASSIFICATION

	DRIVER	LICENCE	TEAM
1	Martinius Stenshorne	NOR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
2	Arvid Lindblad	GBR	PREMA Racing
3	Laurens van Hoepen	NLD	ART Grand Prix
4	Mari Boya	ESP	Campos Racing
5	Oliver Goethe	DEU	Campos Racing
6	Dino Beganovic	SWE	PREMA Racing
7	Gabriele Mini	ITA	PREMA Racing
8	Nikita Bedrin	ITA	PHM AIX Racing
9	Alexander Dunne	IRL	MP Motorsport
10	Sebastian Montoya	COL	Campos Racing
11	Leonardo Fornaroli	ITA	Trident
12	Christian Mansell	AUS	ART Grand Prix
13	Charlie Wurz	AUT	Jenzer Motorsport
14	Tim Tramnitz	DEU	MP Motorsport
15	Joseph Loake	GBR	Rodin Motorsport
16	Matias Zagazeta	PER	Jenzer Motorsport
17	Sami Meguetounif	FRA	Trident
18	Callum Voisin	GBR	Rodin Motorsport
19	Max Esterson	USA	Jenzer Motorsport
20	Sophia Floersch	DEU	Van Amersfoort Racing
21	Nikola Tsolov	BGR	ART Grand Prix
22	Joshua Dufek	AUT	PHM AIX Racing
23	Piotr Wisnicki	POL	Rodin Motorsport
24	Kacper Sztuka	POL	MP Motorsport
25	Tommy Smith	AUS	Van Amersfoort Racing
26	Santiago Ramos	MEX	Trident
27	Cian Shields	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
28	Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight

NOT CLASSIFIED - 107%

DNF	Tasanapol Inthraphuvasak	THA	PHM AIX Racing
DNF	Mari Boya	ESP	Campos Racing

OVERALL FASTEST LAP

Luke Browning	GBR	Hitech Pulse-Eight
		1:36.186 (Lap 2)

FASTEST LAP ELIGIBLE FOR POINTS

Mari Boya	ESP	Campos Racing
		1:36.209 (Lap 2)

ENDS

MULTIPLE DRIVERS PENALISED AFTER MELBOURNE SPRINT RACE

23 March 2024



Following the Melbourne Sprint Race, four drivers have been assigned penalties, while the in-race penalty of Kacper Sztuka has been overturned.

Firstly, Sztuka was handed a five-second time penalty during the Sprint for exceeding track limits four times.

However, after examining video evidence after the race, the Stewards determined that the Polish driver had exceeded track limits three times, not four, making the penalty assigned to the MP Motorsport driver invalid.

With the five-seconds subtracted from his race time, Sztuka climbs from 24th to 16th.

Meanwhile, Dino Beganovic has been handed a five-second time penalty for forcing another car off the circuit.

The PREMA Racing driver was judged to have gained a lasting advantage against the #11 Campos Racing car of Sebastián Montoya.

After the Stewards heard from both drivers and examined all available evidence, they concluded that Beganovic had gained a lasting advantage with the move. As a result, the Swede falls from sixth in the classification to 13th.

Gabriele Minì, Alexander Dunne, Montoya, Leonardo Fornaroli and Christian Mansell are each promoted up one place, with the ART Grand Prix driver the final point-scorer in 10th.

Moreover, Nikita Bedrin has also been given a 10-second time penalty following the conclusion of the Sprint Race.

The PHM AIX Racing driver was found to have gained a lasting advantage against Montoya by not ceding position to the Campos driver after shortcutting Turn 10, having gone side-by-side with the Colombian through Turn 9. The Stewards determined that by doing so, Bedrin had gained an advantage.

As a result, the Italian drops from eighth to 21st in the classification.

Additionally, Jenzer Motorsport's Max Esterson has been handed a five-second time penalty following the race. The American driver was found to have exceeded track limits four times during the Sprint. With his penalty applied, Esterson drops from 19th to 26th.

Finally, Tommy Smith has also been handed a 10-second time penalty following the Sprint Race.

The Van Amersfoort Racing driver was found to have caused a collision with PHM AIX Racing's Tسانapol Inthraphuvasak, contact that left the Thai driver out of the race.

The Stewards determined that Smith had been wholly responsible for the incident and elected to assign a 10-second time penalty as a result.

With the penalty applied, Smith falls from 25th to 27th in the classification.