

VERMIN RACING TEAM 2018 SRO EURO FORMULA 3 CHAMPIONSHIP



SRO Round 2 Euro F3 = Mugello

Qualifying



The track just kept progressing, each driver seem to improve with each lap and no real incidents. Van T Land was provisional pole in the early stages with Tantt and Tippet in pursuit, only to be toppled by Nieminen who put his car into 2nd with around 2 minutes to go. The top 4 drivers were covered by less than a second with around 30 seconds of qualifying left, but it was mega lap from Nieminen to snatch pole away from Van T Land with his last qualify lap. Nieminem and Van T Land were split by 0.333 with Tantt 3rd and a surprised Tippet in 4th. Trefny who had been very close and ahead of Tippet in most of the practice sessions lined up 5th,

closely followed by Potapenko and Postma with Milliken rounded off the grid.

Race 1

As the revs increased, along with Heart rates, or at least Potapenkos, who was testing the new heart monitor device, the lights went out and everyone was clean off the line. Tippet managed to just edge in front of Tantt, before having to run out wide in turn one. Van T Land demonstrated a similar start, however he managed to take the lead from Nieminen. Behind Potapenko there was a collision between Trefny and Postma, when the later just accidentality tapped the rear of Trefny who was running on the kerb in turn 1. Towards the end of the first lap, Tantt made a mistake and Tippet tried to capitalise by driving around the outside, however struggling with the car under braking he almost lost the car and Tantt slipped up the inside, then Potapenko just clipped his rear wheel, sending him wide into the side pod of Tippet who had managed to save the car and was leaving room for any cars to come down the inside. Unfortunately for Potapenko the collision sent him sailing off track.

The accident allowed Millikento slip past Tippet around the outside of the final corner and down the straight. Tippet and Milliken would have a good on track battle for a couple of laps, until Milliken made a mistake and ran wide on to a kerb and off the track allowing everyone to move up a place. After about 10 minutes of racing with the positions remaining the same, until Van T Land had to pit for fuel to finish the race. which dropped him out of the race. With around a minute left on the clock, Potapenko ran off the track allowing Trefny past into 5h, Postma had been chasing down Tippet hard who had some serious damage to his car after the collision on lap 1 and was unable to catch 2nd place Tantt, but Tippet managed to stay ahead of Postma by around 3 seconds at the line. However it was Nieminen who took a fantastic race victory in Race 1.

Result:

Nieminen

Tantt

Tippet

Race 2

Race 2 was a reverse order grid determined by the results of race 1. this put Nieminen at the back and Van T Land on pole. A pre race glitch caused Rob Milliken's car to be facing the wrong direction. This was like a stalled car on the grid. Everyone managed to avoid him on the start, with Tippet having a sneaky look down the outside of Trefny, who closed that gap and Tippet backed out dropping down to 7th, with Milliken in after spinning his car around to face the right way. Postma ran a little deep and dropped to 7th behind Tippet. Potapenko made his way up to 3rd with Nieminen into 4th chasing hard by the end of Lap 1 and passing on Lap 2 promoting him to 3rd with an excellent move. As the top 3 strung out a gap at the front, the train of 3 cars would battle it out for 4th place for a number of laps. Potapenko, Trefny and Tippet would all be within a second of each other during this battle, with Tippet closing the gap to the 2 cars in front in sector 1 and 2, only for Potapenko and Trefny to pull away in sector 3.

Up at the front Nieminen was able to catch and overtake Tantt for 2nd place and began to pull away and close down out leader Van T Land. Trefny made a mistake running wide off a corner, Tippet seized the chance and slipped down the inside of him to take 5th after a brilliantly fought battle and tight defending. With Tippet in front, Trefny chased hard, missed his braking point and slammed into the rear of Tippet who flew off the track at the final corner. He was able to rejoin but very badly damaged and had dropped to 8th, after he let Milliken pass. Trefny apologised and took 2 drive through penalties, although it should have only been the one but an error caused him to take two and dropping him down to last. Tippet struggled and settled in to chase down Milliken towards the end of the race and crossed the line just behind him unable to find a way past. But it was Van T Land who took the honours in Race 2 with Nieminen an amazing 2nd and Tantt 3rd. All in all a great event with excellent level of skill shown by all the drivers.

Result:

Van T Land

Nieminen

Tantt

Vermin Report:

I think from a personal view that was one of the best races I have had online ever... A great way to return to racing, I was very pleased and surprised I was able to be as quick as I was and also grab a Podium and pull off a spectacular overtake.

SRO Round 3 Euro F3 = Nurburgring

Qualifying



With the track in perfect condition for qualifying, the drivers made a mad dash to get out of the pits and onto their fast laps. With only 10 minutes to qualify it was always going to be hectic as Drivers tried to make space for their laps. Drawing first blood and being out first was Sammy Salem with a 1:23.993, which was then immediately beaten by Martijn Van T Land with a 1:23.657. Arttu Nieminen took top spot by lowering the benchmark to a 1:23.153 only for Oscar Williams to grab the position with a 1:23.120 by just 0.033. Jack Smith put his car on the 2nd row in 3rd place just behind Nieminen with a 1:23.320 with just 6:40

remaining in the session.

With all the drivers going onward to do a second or third hot lap on their tyres, Richard Tippet was the only one on track to pit after his first flying lap. Tippet managed to put his car 6th 0.992 off of pole before pitting for a splash and dash, exiting the pits with enough fuel for 2 final hot laps in an effort to move up the grid. Vyacheslav Potapenko was 7th with Rob Milliken 8th, Patrik Trefny 9th and Dan Houk 10th after everyone had completed their first flying laps. Williams pushed the line further with his second and third laps hitting a 1:22.920 and then 1:22.746 with under 4 minutes left in qualifying.

The drivers out on track all rushed around to get their cars ready for a final run. Nieminen closed up the gap slightly to Williams by putting in a 1.22.998 with just 14 seconds left. However, Smith was setting slightly faster sectors on his final lap and stole 2nd away closing the margin to just 0.141 behind his team mate Williams with a 1:22.887. No one else improved their positions so the top 5 on the grid were cover by less than a second.

Top 3

Williams

Smith

Nieminen

Race 1

With the stage set, the lights on and the chorus of engines singing, the start to race 1 was excellent from everyone. Nieminen put Smith under some pressure into turn 1 but Smith was able to defend. Tippet found himself sandwiched by Van T Land and Potapenko but was also able to hold his position cleanly. Trefny swept past Potapenko but then ran out onto the curb, which spun him around directly in front of Potapenko who was able to avoid any contact by just mere millimetres! Houk had a little look at Milliken coming down towards the hairpin but settled back in behind. Meanwhile Williams continued to push, increasing it to 0.834 over Smith by the end of the first lap. Houk and Milliken continued to be close on track going into Lap 2 with Houk keeping good pace, the pair were being caught by the recovering Trefny, who would get past Houk at the end of Lap 2 and began chasing down Milliken for 8th.

A hard pushing Van T Land was edging out a nice gap from Tippet and applying pressure to the back of Salem before he made a mistake coming off the exit of the hairpin and a trip over the grass and gravel, allowing Tippet to overtake up into 5th. Salem then dropped the car allowing Tippet to

take another position and dropping Salem behind Van T Land, who was now trying to find a way past a defensive Tippet. Tippet and Van T Land were side by side from turn 2 through to 3 with Tippet holding the position going into the Hairpin, going slightly deep on his brakes but still side by side as the duo were now joined by Salem. As Tippet covered the inside line into Turn 6, an excellently beautiful move around the outside by Van T Land allowed him past Tippet and back into 4th. Tippet had to become defensive once more, with Salem almost climbing over the top of his car going down the straight toward the chicane. Tippet again held his inside line and managed to fend off Salem as they came down the start finish straight. Salem had to wait until the Hairpin to make the pass, picking up a brilliant exit off the corner to glide around the outside before Turn 6.

Up ahead Smith was being kept honest by Nieminen with both drivers within 3 seconds of Williams. Smith dropped the car coming off of Turn 4 which immediately allows Nieminen to pass for 2nd place. Luckily there is a bit gap between the top 3 and 4th place so Smith is able to re-join in 3rd just ahead of Van T Land. With less than 8 minutes left in Race 1, Trefny narrowed the gap to Milliken in 8th as they traded similar lap times.

With some of the drivers now looking like they were struggling for grip, the lap times eased off a little. Milliken had a huge slide through the chicane allowing Trefny onto the back of him with less than a second between them going into the final lap. Williams crosses the line for a brilliant victory for Vermin Racing Team, over 4 seconds ahead of Nieminen, and Jack Smith finished a distant third due to the mistake, completing a successful double podium for Vermin Racing Team. Milliken managed to stay ahead of Trefny on the final lap with Houk coming in 10th.

Results:

Williams

Nieminen

Smith

Race 2

With the grid now reversed, Houk found himself out front on Pole, with Trefny 2nd and Milliken 3rd. As the lights went out, the tension was broken by the squeal of the tyres.

Tippet got a fantastic start but had to avoid a very slow Houk, who found himself at the back of the field after letting everyone go past. Tippet took a wider line and was briefly up to 4th. Smith and Salem almost touched as they go into turn 2 – Salem then ran wider off line and just brushed against Van T Land. Potapenko had a look towards 2nd place as Tippet was having a look at Potapenko in 3rd. Caught off guard, Tippet tags the rear end of his teammate into turn 3 and ran out wide just in front of Smith who judged it perfectly to navigate into 3rd. Potapenko and Tippet continued onward still pointing in the right direction, although Nieminen and Salem were caught up in the chaos at turn 3 with a recovering Potapenko. Nieminen found himself at the rear end of the pack. Tippet, who now had some light damage, let Williams through for 6th place, but in the process he fell behind Salem. Smith dived down the inside of Milliken to take 2nd at the chicane and set about catching Trefny. Tippet attempted a similar move to retake 7th from Salem but overbraked himself and clattered over the curbs at the chicane, opening the door for Houk and Nieminen. In one great manoeuvre Nieminen overtook both Tippet and Houk as they came out of the last corner, moving him into 8th. Van T Land got an excellent drive off of Turn 1 and went around the outside of Potapenko into Turn 2, giving him the outside line for turn 3. Potapenko found his car in the middle of a three way fight for 4th as Williams made a move on the inside of Potapenko. The two touched as Potapenko closed the door on Williams trying to avoid contact with Van T Land, which then pitched Potapenko's car into the side of Van T Land who was on the outside. Potapenko managed to maintain the position with Van T Land and Williams switching places behind him.

At the front of the field, Smith was now on the tail of Trefny as they came into the Hairpin. There was little Trefny could do to defend as Smith glided down the inside and into the lead. Van T Land managed to re-pass Williams for 5th place with both drivers back on the rear end of Potapenko pressuring all the way down the back straight towards the chicane. That battle allowed the chasing pack of Nieminen, Salem and Tippet to close right into the battle for 4th. Van T Land cleanly manages a pass on Potapenko into Turn 1 as a train formed behind the now 5th placed man. Williams took the opportunity to get past down the inside at the chicane and Nieminen also made a clean lunge, leaving Potapenko to defend 7th from Salem and Tippet. Williams lost out to Nieminen into Turn 1 for 5th, and just behind Salem pulled a similar move on Potapenko for 7th.

Milliken and Van T Land then almost touch wheels as the former successfully defended his 3rd place going into the chicane but then hit the curb hard which put him off line, dropping him down to 7th place. Tippet then got a slipstream down the straight on Potapenko and made the move into turn 1 for 8th place. Tippet found the pace to pull out a gap and led Potapenko into the hairpin, but Potapenko missed his braking point and the teammates had a huge collision, damaging both cars heavily. Although he was able to recover back onto the track, Tippet now found himself in last place. The battle for 3rd was heating up with Van T Land, Nieminen and Williams all very close on track. Williams managed a pass on Van T Land for 4th, whilst just ahead of them Nieminen capitalised on a mistake by Trefny to snatch 2nd away from him. Trefny, now under pressure from Williams and Van T Land, managed to hold his place in 3rd as Van T Land span his rear wheels off the exit of the hairpin, dropping himself behind Salem and down to 6th.

Williams made his move on Trefny for 3rd place down at the chicane, setting up a three way fight for 4th as Trefny subsequently fell into the clutches of the battling Salem and Van T Land. Side by side down the straight, the slipstream allowed Van T Land to also pick 4th away from Trefny with a double overtake. Salem then made his own pass on Trefny taking 5th position. At the back of the field Tippet was hammering his car in an attempt to catch Potapenko, who was around 6 seconds ahead with just under 9 minutes remaining. Smith was now cruising towards a victory at this point with 8.5 seconds over Nieminen. Williams, in an attempt to reduce the gap to Nieminen, has a small lock up in Turn 1 and loses a bit of time.

With the cars looking a lot less stable at this point in the race, it was clear to see which drivers were starting to struggle with their tyres. Milliken and Potapenko were both sliding equal amounts off of the exits of corners, but it was Potapenko who slid off the track, allowing Tippet - who has been gradually catching up - to close the gap to under 3 seconds. Williams and Nieminen headed into the final lap battling corner to corner. Williams went for the inside line at the hairpin; Nieminen held his line, but as the pair accelerated out of the corner, Nieminen closed the door on Williams. The two made contact and Nieminen span around and Van T Land overtook the both of them for 2nd place. Potapenko, with no grip left, made it easy for Tippet to pass and take 8th. Williams backed off from 3rd place to let Nieminen back into the position he held before the pair collided. But it is Smith who takes the chequered flag and a brilliant display in Race 2, meaning a double victory for the Vermin Racing Team. Van T Land and Nieminen finished 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Results:

Smith

Van T Land

Nieminen

SRO Round 4 Euro F3 = Paul Ricard

Qualifying



Arttu Nieminen continued his fine form on this track, showing at the top of the tables in all the practice sessions and was able to place his car on a strong looking pole position, just ahead of Martijn Van T Land and Jack Smith. The top 5 drivers all managed to sneak times into the 1:21's with Oscar Williams lining up 4th and Sammy Salem 5th.

A tough battle for 6th between Tommi Tantt and Richard Tippet trading close times. Tippet looked set to break into the 1:21's but had to abort that lap due to traffic. Roel Postma and Patrik Trefny were roughly a second behind Tantt and Tippet for 8th and 9th on the grid. An excellent last minute debut by Christopher Holman managed a solid performance and qualified 10th ahead of Rob Milliken.

Race 1

The squeal of 11 cars lighting up their tyres as the cars thundered toward turn 1. Nieminen held his lead, despite running wide on the exit of the corner. As the field streamed through, Van T Land and Williams were tail to nose trying for that 2nd place. Smith was tagged into turn 1 by Tantt, which allowed Tippet to go around the outside of Smith who dropped to 8th, and Postma up the inside of Tantt into 5th. Tippet eased off the throttle slightly to let Smith repass and set about catching the cars ahead. The rest of the pack were all clean away from the grid. Going into the final corner of Lap 1, Smith took a wide line to brilliantly sweep up the inside of Tantt. Tippet had to avoid the rear end of Smith but managed to by the slimmest of margins, tucking up behind his team mate and using the slipstream to pass Tantt down into the first corner.

Smith now directly on the gearbox of Postma, he used the hole punched in the air by Postma to place his car around the outside and made his way into 5th. Postma would lose another place less than a lap later when Tippet breezed past his car down the straight, the pair were wheel to wheel for the next 2 corners with Tippet winning the inside line. A mistake from Tantt made him tag the rear of Postma which sent his car off the track

Holman who had been recovering from an earlier incident off track tried a move down the inside of Milliken, however he oversteered himself, locked up and went into the side pod of Milliken, both continued onwards with Holman accepting full responsibility for the accident.

The ever fast trio at the front remained the same for a number of laps, with Williams slowly gaining on Van T Land until he filled his mirrors. The pressure must have gotten to Van T Land who took a little too much kerb at one corner which sent him off wide allowing Williams and Salem, who had been running a good 4th place, into 2nd and 3rd respectively. With a few minor mistakes from some of the drivers the positions mainly remained the same. Tantt had been closing to gap to Tippet for 6th place and on the final lap of the race, Tippet was pressured into running a bit wide off the exit, Tantt moved up to 6th as Tippet tucked in tight behind him, challenging him around the outside then switching back to the inside, he took a bit too much kerb and bounced off the track but still within striking distance of Tantt, who had defended the inside line, then nearly dropped the car on the corners exit with a huge wobble. However Tantt would remain in front as they crossed the line to finish the race. Nieminen took a good victory with a solid drive. Williams 2nd after a great performance and Salem a very good 3rd.

Race 2

A reverse grid is a great opportunity not only for drivers who have had a poor result in race 1, but also an opportunity to mix up the action. Race 2 certainly mixed it up. With Milliken on pole, he led the way into the first corner, Tippet put a challenge on the inside for 3rd place. Trefny was put into a spin from a nudge by Smith. Tippet and Tantt almost brushing paintwork for 3rd going into the chicane with Tantt getting the advantage. Mieminen took a lunge down the inside of Van T Land who was sandwiched between the two Speed Fox cars, with Salem being on the outside. Nieminen had a spin, but continued onward, now in second to last place. Williams who had been absent at the start due to a connection issue, joined the race immediately from the pit lane and would have to work hard to catch up. Tantt had Tippet all over his rear wing in the final sector of the lap as they came into the last corner, Tippet clipped the rear wheel of Tantt as the top 4 bunched up. Tippet lost speed down the straight and lost out to Trefny and Van T Land, with Salem slipping down the inside in turn 1.

Postma had now taken the lead from Milliken, who then had an unfortunate spin out of the second corner after Tantt hit his right rear wheel. Salem tried a move on Trefny, but was coming into the corner way too fast and slammed into his car, taking Trefny off the track. Salem then took a strange line out of the chicane with Tippet going around the outside of him on the exit of the corner, Trefny turned into the rear of Tippet clipping both of them not a spin in front of Smith. all of which promoted Nieminen up another 4 places as he continued to recover from his earlier spin.

Holman who had some issues with his car had an off in front of Trefny who had just rejoined the track. Holman decided to retire his car. Tippet who was nursing a large amount of damage was unable to fend off Salem, He then had two spins and dropped towards the back behind Milliken and with Williams behind, who was setting the timing sheets on fire.

A poor exit off of the chicane meant that Trefny was able to take 6th position from Postma, who had dropped off in pace a little. Up front and now challenging for 3rd, Neiminen was now breathing hard down the neck of Van T Land and Tantt. It was Van T Land who managed to pass for the Lead before the trio begin to trade places lap after lap. The top 3's battle allows Smith and Salem to catch up. As Van T Land made a move on the inside of Tantt at the high speed turn 7, the pair collect each other and slide off the track in tandem. Smith is unfortunately an innocent victim and is hit by Tantt and put into a spin as well. Amongst the carnage Salem picks his way through and into 2nd place behind his team mate.

Smith keeps his head down and is able to recover into 4th behind Tantt and starts to close the gap. Williams has been working hard at the back to catch the rest and manages to overtake Milliken for position with Postma being the next car in front in 8th. Tippet still struggling with his car was now up in P7 and homing in on Trefny.

Smith eventually breezes past Tantt for 3rd place around the outside of turn 7, but it is Nieminen who takes the chequered flag after a hard fought race,. Salem in 2nd earns the Speed Fox team a 1-2 finish.

A track I don't think anyone is really going to be that sorry to leave. Paul Ricard has thrown up some surprising racing action and now we move on to Round 5.

SRO Round 5 Euro F3 = Vallelunga

Qualifying



he ever so familiar frantic panic of qualifying opened with Sammy Salem hitting the track first as the scramble for track position behind was a fairly clean scuffle. Salem made a mistake on his out lap running off the track and rejoining just ahead of Vyacheslav Potapenko. With Salem the first to complete a lap with a 1:08.049, he was quickly

beaten by Oscar Williams, Arttu Nieminen but was a very respectable 3rd ahead of Richard Tippet. Roel Postma came sliding off the track as he attempted his first flying lap, then applied too much throttle and spun the car around when rejoining and then had another spin at the hairpin. As predicted most drivers opted to do at least 2 hot laps continuously as tyre and fuel consumption on the track was very low. Patrik Trefny made a small mistake and ran wide into turn 1 but recovered the car nicely.

Martijn Van T Land improved his time to nip ahead of Salem who had improved his own time but dropped to 4th just ahead of Jack Smith. With Jack pushing hard he came across a slowing Rob Milliken mid corner and the pair made contact, sending Milliken sliding backwards into the gravel trap and Smith losing out on his lap having to abort to the pits. Tippet was in 6th and the first driver not in the 1:07's made a very fast stop for refuelling and new rubber and set back out with just under 5 minutes left in Qualifying. Postma having recovered from his earlier spins put his car in a respectable 7th position before Potapenko toppled him with a 1:08.657, but Postma would clinch it back from Potapenko with his lap of 1:08.622. Tippet had improved his lap to a 1:07.944 which wasn't good enough to improve his position.

Williams lined up on pole with a blistering 1:07.339, very closely followed by Nieminen with a 1:07.392. Van T Land slotted in front of Smith the pair with 1:07.757 and 1:07.781 respectively. Salem rounded off the top 5 with his time of a 1:07.815. The Top 6 drivers all managing to get into the 1:07's. Trefny lined up 9th behind Potapenko but ahead of Rob Milliken.

Top 3:

Oscar Williams

Arttu Nieminen

Martijn Van T Land

Race 1

With barely enough time to take a sharp intake of breath Race 1 was underway. Everyone was clean off the grid and the drag race down the long straight to Turn 1 saw some very close wheel to wheel action. As the top 5 swept through the first real corner of the track, Postma out braked himself and ran off the track. Tippet avoiding the car down his inside took a more inside line to try and avoid Postma who had planted his throttle and was now sliding towards the inside line on the circuit. Tippet nearly avoided contact but was tagged on this rear as Postma powered back onto the racing line. This sent Tippet crashing off the track towards the tyres but was able to recover. Postma had now ended up right on the racing line, directly in front of Potapenko who could nothing to avoid and hit Postma hard and pitching Potapenko into the paths of Trefny and Milliken who both managed to avoid any contact. Williams tried for an overtake at the hairpin on Nieminen, going down the inside, Smith, caught out by the speed difference nudged Williams into a spin.

Tippet rejoining the track behind Potapenko tucked up under his rear wing and in an almost carbon copy move of the Williams/Smith collision, was caught out by the speed difference into the hairpin, collecting the rear end of Potapenko and sending both drivers off the track. Milliken snuck past ahead of Tippet. Going into Lap 3 Trefny had picked through a lot of the carnage and was now running a strong 4th. Tippet tried to make a move on Milliken using the slipstream down the straight, he took the outside line only for Milliken to slam the door hard on him and the pair made contact, luckily both remained pointing in the same direction with not a lot of time lost. Tippet would have to wait another Lap before crawling all over the rear of Milliken and then sliding down the inside of him at the hairpin, the two battled side by side for several corners as Milliken refused to yield but with great respect for each other. Tippet got past and set off down the road. Trefny was now being caught quickly by Williams and Smith for 4th place. Williams managed to slip down the inside at the hairpin, clipping the inside curb slightly, brushing wheels with Trefny but getting by.

Potapenko ran onto the curb coming out of Turn 2, hitting a bump his car became airborne, but he continued on unaffected by his air time as he chased after Postma. Trefny under increasing pressure was unable to defend from Smith as they throttled down the straight, with Smith streaming past and into 5th. Trefny had a major spin coming off the exit of the hairpin allowing Tippet to grab 6th. As the battle for 8th heated up between Milliken and Postma, Potapenko was able to close the gap to them as the race entered the final 5 minutes. Postma found his way past Milliken eventually. Up front Nieminen was having a very relaxed race, controlling the pack with Van T Land and Salem comfortably in 2nd and 3rd. Potapenko made a daring move on Milliken, forcing the latter into a huge mistake and off the track and into the scenery and last place. The final 3 laps the positions remained the same which saw Nieminen picking up another win, Van T Land second and Salem in a solid 3rd.

Top3:

Arttu Nieminen

Martijn Van T Land

Sammy Salem

Race 2

Reverse grid mayhem time again for race 2, Milliken started on pole and had a poor getaway compared to the cars around him, with Potapenko and Postma getting less wheel spin and all three were side by side down the straight. Postma moved to avoid hitting Milliken but drove into the side pod of Potapenko, sending him spinning in front of the entire field. Smith managed to avoid any contact by threading the needle of narrowest gaps, promoting him into 3rd, Tippet similarly took action and just managed to get through on the outside. Unfortunately for Williams, he was collected by Potapenko's sliding car, as both were just passengers going towards the scene of the accident, with, Van T Land, Salem and Trefny having to avoid and all three taking to the gravel and grass. Milliken led Tippet and Smith into Turn 1 and 2, Tippet backed off slightly to let Smith pass and Nieminen took advantage and snuck in front of Tippet.

As they all entered the hairpin, Tippet was caught out by the slow exit of Nieminen and tapped him into a spin, which sadly ruined Nieminen's race as he became beached on the inside curb and had to return to pit. Tippet immediately backed off, hoping that Nieminen would retake the place not knowing that he had become stuck, Van T Land overtook Tippet who picked up his speed again to carry on. Smith managed to slip one down the inside of the hard but very well and fairly defending Milliken for the lead on lap 2. Milliken tucked in close to Smith's wing and did his best to keep pace with the lead car. Salem and Williams had caught up to the back of Tippet who was running 4th and closing in on Milliken. Van T Land had taken 2nd but had been unable to get past Milliken for

almost 4 laps which had let Smith build a good lead.

Salem and Williams managed to pass Tippet. Going into Lap 6 Smith had a strange connection issue which catapulted his car into the barrier and with so much damage he was forced to retire, promoting Van T Land into the lead and Milliken still running an impressive 2nd. Milliken defended from a charge from Salem which also allowed Williams to have a look around the outside of Salem into Turn 1. with both drivers locking a wheel it was Williams who got better traction out of turn 2 and went to go around the outside of Salem in turn 5. Making minor contact Williams slotted into 3rd and Tippet drove around the outside cleanly to take 4th as Postma dropped down to 5th. Williams then took 2nd from Milliken and began to stretch the cars legs.

Tippet tried to make a move on Milliken but would have to wait until the next lap, again going side by side all the way down the straight and eventually past into turn 1 and 2. Milliken couldn't hold the car and spun around and ended up down in 8th. Salem harassing Tippet all the way around the track was unable to get past as Tippet defended well against the much quicker car. Salem missed his braking point into turn 1 on lap 10 and had to avoid going into the rear of Tippet. clipping the barrier he dropped down to 6th. Milliken's issues continued as he had a minor spin into some gravel but was able to continue on but with only Nieminen behind him. Trefny ran very wide on the exit of the last corner on lap 11 which dropped him down behind Potapenko who was running 6th.

Williams continued to eat into Van T Land's lead up ahead and with one lap to go, the lap was under a second. Van T Land made a mistake coming out of Turn 2, running onto the curb and sliding across the track and losing 1st to Williams. Tippet managed to salvage 3rd but was very much under pressure all the way from Salem.

Top3:

Oscar Williams

Martijn Van T Land

Richard Tippet



SRO Round 6 Euro F3 = NJMP

Qualifying



Qualifying for NJMP would see the fastest Euro F3 lap times to date with all drivers posting times under 1 minute.

It was Championship leader Martijn Van T Land who was the first to hit the track and set a benchmark time with a 56.702. Richard Tippet Managed to beat that with a 56.597, but was then quickly toppled by the extraordinary times of Oscar Williams and Arttu Nieminen. Both of had dipped the lap times into the 1:55.9's. Nieminen taking the initial pole with a 55.948 and Williams just 0.024 off of that.

Tippet dropped to 5th on the timing chart, as Van T Land and Jack Smith both went quicker on their fast laps. Roel Postma., Patrik Trefny and Vyachaslav Potapenko were all very close on the time sheets. An off the pace Rob Milliken rounded off the grid.

Tippet put in a new personal best to go 56.484, this was still not enough to change his position he would start P5. The top 5 would be covered by less than 0.460. Nieminen and Williams continued to improve their times with both the only two drivers to break into the 55's. It was Nieminen's time of a 55.850 vs. Williams' 55.932 that would seal his pole position. With Van T Land lining up 3rd with Smith 4th. Postma out qualified Trefny for 6th, with Potapenko and Milliken completing the grid in 8th and 9th.

Top 3:

Nieminen

Williams

Van T Land

Race 1

With Van T Land, only needing two 11th place finishes across both races to clinch the drivers title, the odds were always stacked heavily against Nieminen, the only hope for Nieminen to take the battle into the final round would be for Van T Land to not finish the race.

As the red glow of the lights dimmed to nothing, all the cars roared off their grid spots. The fear had been for the first corner to cause a huge accident, but every driver got away clean and no accidents. At the start of lap 2, Potapenko would re take his position from Milliken who had managed to get past during lap 1.

A lap 5 mistake from Nieminen in turn 3 allows Williams to attempt a move on him around the outside into turn 5. Being off line and towards the dusty non grip side of the track, Williams' car lost grip and began to spin into the path of Nieminen. The pair collided, which sent Williams off to do some lawn mowing in his car, Nieminen was able to continue and maintained his lead. With Williams dropping down to 5th, he is quickly let back past by Tippet, who had a little deep into turn 7. His mistake would be costly allowing Postma to mount an attack up the hill and into turn 1. Tippet backed out of the braking zone early, taking a tighter line to re-pass Postma on the exit of turn. Better traction by Postma meant that Tippet had to back out of it for turn 2 to prevent the pair going side by side through the twisty, tight sector.

Trefny seized the change by taking advantage of the wheel to wheel battle ahead and closed the gap to the pair, quickly joining the battle for 5th place. Tippet tried a move around the outside of Postma in Turn 7, both entering into the final turn almost brushing wheel rims, battling cleanly with precision and respect. Trefny managed to out drag Tippet up the hill and passed into turn 1. Again Tippet tried for a switch back and passed Trefny on the inside of exit of turn 1 into turn 2, holding the inside line and retaking the position back.

Up front, Nieminen had pulled out a comfortable lead over Van T Land, who was being slowly reeled in by Smith. A recovering Williams sitting in 5th was now starting to extend the distance from the Postma, Tippet, Trefny battle. Potapenko running 8th and Rob Milliken in the final spot.

An eventful start to Lap 10 saw Van T Land make a small mistake out of Turn 1, and Smith taking advantage of the mistake streaming past into 2nd place. Whilst back in the mid pack, Trefny was tucked in tightly to Tippet's tail, still was unable to make a pass into Turn 1. Just ahead Postma had some snap oversteer out of turn 1, sending him sliding into a half spin and dropping him down to just in front of Potapenko, Potapenko had a look down the inside at turn 3 but the door is closed on him and he then also suffers some similar snap oversteer coming out of turn 5, running him up onto the dirt and Postma to escape his clutches.

With the field starting to spread out a bit there is an almost tranquil pace and calmness on the track. Tippet finding a lot more grip than he had in the first couple of laps, easily extends his lead over Trefny by nearly a second per lap for around 8 laps but is unable to match Williams pace ahead.

Some mistakes from Rob Milliken at the back of the pack sees him getting Blue Flags on lap 17. Smith, Van T Land and the fast car of Williams, who had managed to recover nicely and onto the back end of Van T Land, catching the slower Milliken are lining up for a good on track battle. Milliken wisely runs well off the track and out of the way of this battle as the trio enter the final corner. Williams just runs the outside edge of his tyres onto the grass, which sends him sliding off towards the inside of the track and back down behind Milliken.

Lap 21, Smith is being pressured hard by Van T Land, who knows he only has to take minimal risks

to win this championship. running a very close 3rd place behind Smith, begins to ease off his pace and allows Smith some breathing room.

Tippet's lap times begin to slow down as he is now short shifting with lift and coasts through the corners due to fuel warning lights showing him that he is on the very limit for fuel with around 4 laps remaining and under 4 minutes. For some strange reason Williams slows right down on the penultimate lap, which promoted Tippet up into 4th. Nieminen takes a comfortable victory with Smith Second and the new SRO Euro F3 champion, Martijn 3rd. Tippet manages to limp home 4th, saving as much petrol as he can, with Williams 5th, Trefny 6th, Postma 7th, Potapenko 8th and a lapped Milliken 9th.

Top 3:

Nieminen

Van T Land

Smith

Race 2:

With the reverse grid in effect, a nervous Milliken lined up on pole, with Potapenko 2nd and Postma 3rd. As the lights vanished for the last time this season signalling the final race of the Euro F3 was underway, Milliken immediately pulled off to the inside line and let the entire pack through.

Another clean get away by everyone with Potapenko leading into turn 1.

Contact between Williams and Trefny, as the pair race side by side in turn 1, Trefny has no choice but to take to the grass, rejoining in 8th. Tippet loses out to Smith and Van T Land before turn 2 having to back off the throttle to avoid Trefny. Postma taking too much corner on the exit of turn 5 found himself careening into the tyres with a heavy impact, getting back on track he joins behind Trefny. Williams with excellent pace on Lap 1 makes an overtake on Potapenko for the lead into Turn 7. Potapenko slips down the field as lap 1 comes to an end, with him crossing the line in 6th. Tippet runs wide into turn 1, which allows Nieminen to glide past him with ease and Potapenko to retake the position from Tippet. Tippet then ran a bit too wide off of Turn 5 allowing Postma to overtake and dropping further, As he defends the line, Tippet takes to the inside for a look on Postma, but had the door closed on him, which causes Trefny to gently nudge the rear wing of Tippet.

All this action allows Milliken, who is showing a lot more pace in race 2 to overtake Trefny into turn 1 with an impressive and clean move. Smith tries a challenge on Van T Land around the outside of Turn 1, a brave move but he ends up aborting as he runs wide, losing a bit of time.

Tippet now running down in 6th takes advantage of a mistake by Postma to move up and quickly catches Potapenko for 5th. Smith makes another small error running wide in turn 7 which results in a minor brush against the barriers, but remains ahead of Tippet, but losing a lot more time to Van T Land. Potapenko ran into a minor mistake kicking up dust on the exit of Turn 5, this small error is enough for him to lose two places to Postma and Trefny. The pair battle into Turn 1, with Trefny staying on the outside, Postma moved slightly into his line under braking as they touch wheels, Trefny is again forced to take to the grass and drops back in behind Potapenko.

The pressure on Potapenko causes him to run wide a couple of laps later, releasing Trefny into 7th place. With Williams leading by a large margin, Nieminen is cruising in 2nd place with Van T Land making small gains each lap, until a big mistake into turn 3 results in him hitting the wall hard and dropping him down back past Tippet.

With around 7 minutes left in the race, Postma has a huge accident and ends up off track and into

the barrier, he continues on, Maintaining the place ahead of Trefny. Tippet who had been keeping the damaged Van T Land behind until lap 14, makes a costly mistake into turn 3, his rear end snaps out from under him and sent him into the barriers heavily. Tippet recovered but fell back 7th when Trefny powered past him on the uphill climb into Turn 1. With Postma and Trefny battling wheel to wheel, Tippet had a sneaky glance down the inside into turn 2. easing off he throttle to avoid any accidents. Trefny then made a mistake and had a slide which put Tippet back into 6th.

A Solid performance from Potapenko meant he had managed to catch up with the Trio of Postma, Tippet and Trefny and capitalized on the error from Trefny who had now slipped down to 8th. Williams meanwhile was cruising to an unchallenged victory, with Nieminen a well driven 2nd and Smith an excellent 3rd. The final lap saw Tippet chase down Postma and hound him to the finish line but unable to make it past. A similar story for Potapenko and Trefny, with the latter unable to find a way past on the final lap.

With the racing now over Vermin Racing Team take the team championship after an excellent campaign upon returning to Sim racing. Congratulations to Martijn on being the overall drivers champion.

Top 3:
Williams
Nieminen
Smith