

13/10/2013 - FRENCH F4 CHAMPIONSHIP - GT TOUR LEDENON - RACE 3

Jules Gounon makes it a double



Jules Gounon scored his second victory of the weekend after a dominant performance. Tristan Viidas and Anthoine Hubert completed the Top 3.

The tricky Lédénon circuit was still a bit damp at the start of the third race of the weekend. In qualifying, Estonian Tristan Viidas set the fastest time, which put him on pole: he made the best start, but Jules Gounon shot past him as the cars tackled the first corner. Anthoine Hubert managed to hold on to third - with difficulty.

Felix Hirsiger, in sparkling form all weekend, was fourth under attack from Marco De Peretti who got past him second time round. Tom Le Coq, winner of race 2 was comfortably installed in sixth position. Lap 3 dashed the hopes of Dennis Anoschin and Rémy Deguffroy who both went off, victims of other drivers' over-enthusiasm! The German, who started in sixth place, had to try and fight his way back to the front.

Meanwhile Gounon was still in the lead and he began to open up a gap over Viidas. The latter was struggling to keep Hubert behind as the Frenchman was glued to his gearbox. Hirsiger and De Peretti kept swapping positions in front of Belgian Neal Van Vaerenbergh who had snatched sixth place from Le Coq.

At half distance Russian Ivan Kostyukov went off. **Newcomer to the F4 championship, Paul Hökfelt Jr from Sweden was making a big impression, and had fought his way up into eighth in front of Kirill Karpov and Matevos Isaakyan rounding out the Top 10. With a few laps to go to the finish the battle between Le Coq, Hökfelt Jr and Karpov for seventh place went up several notches in intensity.**

Simo Muhonen from Finland had a very difficult weekend in the Gard. In race 3 he was victim of a mistake by Florent Pottier, which punted him off the track. Pottier was eleventh among the mid-field runners in front of Amaury Rossero and Severin Amweg. Lucile Cypriano collided with Amaury Richard and had to retire. De Peretti in fifth went off and rejoined in 15th place.

After an impeccable race, Gounon clinched his double on the circuit near Nîmes helping him to consolidate his runner-up position behind the 2013 champion, Anthoine Hubert, who had to make do with third behind a brilliant Viidas who never lost second place.

In the Regional Committee Challenge the Ile-de-France is in the lead, thanks to the performances of Anthoine Hubert

and Rémy Deguffroy, followed by the Rhône-Alpes Committee with Jules Gounon. Next up is the Bretagne-Pays de la Loire Committee with Tom Le Coq.

The closing round of the French F4 Championship will take place in the final GT Tour meeting at Le Castellet on the Paul Ricard circuit on 25, 26, 27 October.

Thanks to the partnership with Renault Sport, the first 5 in the provisional classification after Lédénon will be given a test in a Formula Renault 2.0 in Barcelona in the final round of the World Series by Renault next week.

Quotes

Jules Gounon: *"I'd like to thank Tristan for his fair play at the start. He left me enough room so things went off a bit better than yesterday. Five victories in six races is a pretty positive achievement. I hope to continue in the same vein at Le Castellet and my aim is to show that I can be counted on to fight at the front. I'm really happy with my weekend and with the Auto Sport Academy, which gave me a car that worked perfectly."*

Tristan Viidas: *"I think it's been a pretty good weekend for me and I bagged a big haul of points."*

Anthoine Hubert: *"My motivation's still intact and my aim is to win."*

Communiqué de presse Auto Sport Academy

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12/10/2013 - FRENCH F4 CHAMPIONSHIP - GT TOUR LEDENON - RACE 1

Stewards' decision hands Jules Gounon victory!



Anthoine Hubert drove an impeccable race and looked as if he had scored his tenth victory of the year and was on the way to wrapping up the 2013 French F4 Championship title. But after the finish the Stewards handed him a penalty for what they judged was an anti-sporting manoeuvre on Jules Gounon.

Hubert took up pole under blue skies on the atypical Lédénon circuit followed by the other 20 Auto Sport Academy drivers all determined to fight their corner. When the lights went out Hubert and Jules Gounon both made good starts, and the championship leader came under attack from his fellow-countryman in the opening metres of the race, whom he fended off to retain his lead.

Anglo-Swiss Felix Hirsiger, who was also very quick in the opening laps, overtook Tristan Viidas from Estonia to go into third place at the end of lap 1, while Neal Van Vaerenbergh and German Dennis Anoschin played a waiting game. Second time round the leading positions remained unchanged except that Russian Matevos Isaakyan got past Anoschin. Marco De Peretti snatched third at the start of lap 3. Anoschin seemed to be in trouble and had to fight off Tom Le Coq in ninth position. Amaury Rossero rounded out the top 10 in the early stages of the race. Severin Amweg went off, but was able to rejoin losing a lot of time.

Up front Hubert pulled away from Gounon who was coming under attack from Hirsiger. Further back Simo Muhonen and Rémy Deguffroy were locked in battle with the Frenchman getting the better of the scrap to take 12th place. At half distance Gounon began to really push to pull away from Hirsiger who, in turn, was being hassled by Viidas. Lucile Cypriano retired, and a lap later Amaury Richard went off but was able to rejoin. The first four had pulled away from the rest of the field which was now over 11 seconds behind the leader.

In the closing laps Viidas and Hirsiger went at it hammer and tongs for the last place in the top 3, while Anoschin got past Van Vaerenbergh to take seventh spot. Championship newcomer Paul Hökfelt Jr overtook Le Coq who fell back to tenth. Gounon put in a stunning final lap to try and close the gap to Hubert who took the flag in first place. But not for long, as he was given a drive-through penalty dropping him back to eleventh. Thus, victory went to Gounon followed by Hirsiger and Viidas who finished second and third. Rémy Deguffroy will start race 2 on pole.

Rendezvous for the start of race 2 today Saturday 12th October at 16h15.

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