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JURADO INHERITS THE WIN AT SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS



From sixth on the grid, Anthony Jurado (Milan Compétition) won for the first time this year in Clio Cup Series. Second under the chequered flag behind Luca Franca (MC Motortecnica), the Frenchman benefited from a penalty inflicted to the Italian after the finish to inherit victory. Luca Franca was classified second and won in the Racers Cup whilst polesitter Gabriele Torelli (Rangoni Corse) completed the podium at the end of an intense race on the Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps. Pierre Bredeaux (Comte Racing Team) finished fourth overall and first in the Challengers Cup. Tenth today, David Pouget (GPA Racing) still leads the Clio Cup Series general classification ahead of the next round in Budapest.

After Saturday's spectacular opening race in Belgium, the competitors took to the track again on Sunday morning for qualifying. Alexandre Finkelstein (GPA Racing) thought he had done the hard work by setting the session's best time but the Frenchman, like several other drivers, saw his times cancelled for failing to respect track limits. Gabriele Torelli inherited the pole position ahead of Pierre Bredeaux, Luca Franca and the Progetto E20 Motorsport duo of Francesco Savoia and Alessandro Brigatti.

As on the previous day, given the huge number of entrants to the grid positions, the race started behind the safety car as a precautionary measure. Florian Coruble (GM Sport) retired due to a technical problem before the race went green. Gabriele Torelli held onto the lead ahead of Pierre Bredeaux and Luca Franca. Meanwhile, Alessandro Brigatti and Anthony Jurado got the better of Francesco Savoia as Tomas Pekar (Carpek Racing) looked on.



After a brief safety car period to evacuate the car of Mariano Alonso (GPA Racing) stuck in the gravel, Gabriele Torelli once again controlled the attacks of his pursuers, cut short by a neutralisation after several offs at the entrance to the Campus bend. Pierre Bredeaux tucked into Gabriele Torelli's slipstream at the restart and launched another attack at Les Combes. The Italian tried to regain the lead, but Luca Franca and Anthony Jurado got between the two men. Taking advantage of contact between Pierre Bredeaux and Anthony Jurado, Luca Franca then took control at the Chicane shortly before a final safety car period after Guillaume Maio (GM Sport) fell victim to an accident caused by Nikola Miljkovic (Tempo Racing Team), who was disqualified after the race for his responsibility in the incident.

The race ended behind the safety car. Although Luca Franca crossed the chequered flag first, the Italian received a one-place penalty for taking the lead by cutting the Chicane and failing to hand back the position. Anthony Jurado inherited the win ahead of the Italian Racer and Gabriele Torelli. Fourth-placed Pierre Bredeaux won in the Challengers category ahead of Alessandro Brigatti, Nicolas Milan and Florian Venturi, as the latter two found their way past Francesco Savoia in the final sprint. Tomas Pekar and David Pouget completed the top ten, with the Frenchman still at the helm of the Clio Cup Series at the end of this eventful meeting at Spa.

CLIO CUP EUROPE

Anthony Jurado broke Gabriele Torelli's stranglehold by winning ahead of Luca Franca and Gabriele Torelli, who increased his lead in Clio Cup Europe. Luca Franca also consolidated his lead in the Racers Cup with victory over Lionel Viguier (T2CM) and Alex Lancellotti (Faro Racing). In the Challengers Cup, Pierre Bredeaux (Comte Racing Team) scored his maiden success ahead of Damiano Puccetti (Rangoni Corse) and Leonardo Arduini (MC Motortecnica) to close the gap on Mattia Lancellotti (Faro Racing), who remains at the top of the category despite a long run through the grass late in the race.

CLIO CUP FRANCE

Nicolas Milan took advantage of Florian Coruble's retirement on lap one to take first place, then win and retake control of Clio Cup France from David Pouget (GPA Racing), who finished third on Sunday. Florian Venturi, who scored his best result with second place in the French group, ended Alexandre Finkelstein's invincibility with the victory over the Racers Cup leader. Fourth-placed Lionel Viguier (T2CM) claimed his first Racers Cup win of the season, dominating proceedings ahead of teammate Samuel Chaligne (T2CM) and Fabien Julia (LR Performance).

CLIO CUP ITALIA

Luca Franca won the Clio Cup Italia ahead of Challengers Alessandro Brigatti, Francesco Savoia and Giacomo Trebbi. Thanks to his second place, Alessandro Brigatti takes command of a tighter-than-ever general classification in Clio Cup Italia, with the top five now separated by just six points. Fifth in the Challengers Cup, category leader Mattia Lancellotti saw Alessandro Brigatti close to within five points, whilst Luca Franca consolidated his advantage in the Racers Cup with his third win in the category ahead of Alex Lancellotti (Faro Racing) and Due (Oregon Team).

CLIO CUP MID-EUROPE

Anthony Jurado's attack in the final sprint gave him his first Clio Cup Mid-Europe victory over Gabriele Torelli, whose lead in the general classification was shrinking. Tomas Pekar completed the podium after Guillaume Maio and Nikola Miljkovic collided. Henrik Seibel (Carpek Racing) inherited first place in the Challengers Cup, ahead of Daniel Nyffeler (Stucki Motorsport) and Guillaume Maio in a category still led by Julien Baziret (Baziret Sport). Lastly, Sébastien Gehin (T2CM) widened the gap at the top of the Racers Cup with his triumph ahead of his pursuers from Chefo Sport: Rene Steenmetz and Stephan Polderman.

The Clio Cup Series now turns its attention to the Hungaroring for round five of the calendar from June 16-18. The Hungarian track will host the third meeting of Clio Cup Europe and Clio Cup Mid-Europe.



ABOUT CLIO CUP

Since the introduction of the R8 Gordini Cup in 1966, Renault has maintained a constant presence on tracks worldwide. Since 1991, several thousand Clio Cups have been sold, with all five generations recognised for their performance, reliability and affordability. With its experience in promotional formulas and one-make series, Renault offers its savoir-faire and expertise to experienced and amateur drivers by providing them with a product adapted to their needs. For 2023, Clio Cup will race through the Clio Cup Series, bringing together Clio Cup Europe, Clio Cup France, Clio Cup España, Clio Cup Italia and Clio Cup Mid-Europe with a calendar offering numerous opportunities to competitors from all backgrounds.

ABOUT RENAULT

Renault, a historic mobility brand and pioneer of electric vehicles in Europe, has always developed innovative vehicles. With the 'Renaulution' strategic plan, Renault has embarked on an ambitious, value-generating transformation moving towards a more competitive, balanced and electrified range. Its ambition is to embody modernity and innovation in technology, energy and mobility services in the automotive industry and beyond.