

07/02/2022



ROMAIN DI-FANTE WINS THE CLOSE-FOUGHT CLIO ICE TROPHY

CLIO ICE TROPHY – ROUND 4: REPORT



While his rivals shared the spoils in the season-finale, Romain Di-Fante did what it took to keep the lead in the general classification and become the first-ever Clio Ice Trophy title-winner. Having won the Clio Trophy France Asphalte and French two-wheel-drive Rally Championship with Clio Rally5 in 2021, Romain Di-Fante and Naudon Rallye Services win their third crown with Renault in the space of just a few months.

Among the contenders for the last round of the Clio Ice Trophy and the Crédit Andorra GSeries, all eyes were on the title protagonists: Romain Di-Fante (Naudon Rallye Services), Pierre Paul Baltolu (Andorra Location) and Mathieu Lannepoudenx (Brunet Competition). With two victories from the first three rounds of the season, Romain Di-Fante came to the decisive meeting eight points ahead of Pierre Paul Baltolu and eleven ahead of Mathieu Lannepoudenx.

DI-FANTE FIRST TO STRIKE

After setting the pace in free practice, Romain Di-Fante confirmed his speed on the 689-meters long technical track with the fastest time in qualifying, both for one-lap and the cumulated best five times used to establish the intermediate classification. This performance relegated his rivals Pierre Paul Baltolu to ten points behind and Mathieu



Lannepoudenx to fifteen, but everything was still to be played for with twenty-five points up for grabs in each of the two finals held at an altitude of 2,400 meters above sea level.

BALTOLU PRESSURES THE LEADER

Second in qualifying, Pierre Paul Baltolu started from pole position in the B Final. The driver from Corsica made a perfect start and immediately pulled away from Benoît Verlinde (Q-Grafix Racing) to claim the win with a near ten-second margin of victory. They were joined on the podium by Markel De Zabaleta (Driveland), who along with Arthur Bourion (Brunet Compétition) got past Eric Sauter (Andorra Location) at the start. Sauter regained fourth place ahead of Koen Verlinde (Q-Grafix Racing) when Arthur Bourion made a mistake on lap four.

THE FINAL RACE FOR LANNEPOUDENX, THE TITLE FOR DI-FANTE

With Pierre Paul Baltolu's success, Romain Di-Fante had to finish in the top two of his final to win the crown. Despite his pole position, the driver from Nice was surprised by Mathieu Lannepoudenx at the start of the race. However, the new leader's mirrors were full of his rival as the Clio Trophy France Asphalte reigning champion cut the lead to less than a second before opting to secure second place and the title. Clio Ice Trophy newcomer Jérémy Prat (Andorra Location) completed the podium, two seconds adrift of the leading duo. The Frenchman was followed by Alisson Viano (Q-Grafix Racing) and Bernard Bathedou (Andorra Location), both of whom finished in the same position they started after Guillermo Millan (Driveland) spun late in the race.

Second at the finish, Romain Di-Fante became the first-ever Clio Ice Trophy title winning. Pierre Paul Baltolu ended up runner up three points behind while Mathieu Lannepoudenx was third, five points further back. Romain Di-Fante also secured the two-wheel-drive GSeries Crédit Andorra title before tackling his official programme with Clio Rally4 in the French Rally Championship. Pauline Dalmasso finished fifth in the general classification and first among the women to win one entry in one of the trophies dedicated to Clio Rally5 in 2022.

After this first season full of suspense and competitiveness with twenty-five competitors from all walks of motorsport, the Clio Ice Trophy is already looking forward to more spectacular races on ice in 2023!



// It's great to start 2022 the way we finished 2021! I hope that this title in a new category will lead to many others with this Clio performing well on all surfaces. We even set faster times than four-wheel-drive buggies on the track this weekend. This fourth configuration of the Pas de la Casa circuit was much different from the others with more high-speed sliding, but I felt comfortable right away. I was able to set the pace in practice and managed to confirm it in qualifying. We knew that the standing start with our front-wheel-drive cars on the ice would be crucial, but Mathieu had a better start. However, we did our maths and I knew that I only had to stay behind him to secure the title. We had to be smart, and we managed to do it despite his ploys to catch the field up to us. Congratulations also to Pierre Paul for his well-deserved victory in this round. We can now focus back on our rally programme and prepare for the upcoming season with Clio Rally4!

//
Romain Di-Fante

ROUND 4 – GENERAL CLASSIFICATION

1. PIERRE PAUL BALTOLU	38 POINTS
2. MATHIEU LANNEPOUDENX	36 POINTS
3. ROMAIN DI-FANTE	33 POINTS
4. BENOIT VERLINDE	27 POINTS
5. JEREMY PRAT	22 POINTS
6. ÉRIC SAUTEUR	17 POINTS
7. MARKEL DE ZABALETA	16 POINTS
8. ALLISON VIANO	14 POINTS
9. BERNARD BATHEDOU	14 POINTS
10. GUILLERMO MILLAN	11 POINTS
11. KOEN VERLINDE	10 POINTS
12. ARTHUR BOURION	0 POINT

FINAL GENERAL CLASSIFICATION

1. ROMAIN DI-FANTE	136 POINTS
2. PIERRE PAUL BALTOLU	133 POINTS
3. MATHIEU LANNEPOUDENX	128 POINTS

RENAULT PRESS

media.renault@renault.fr
media.renault.com



4. BENOIT VERLINDE	83 POINTS
5. PAULINE DALMASSO	44 POINTS
6. BRYAN DUFAS	41 POINTS
7. KOEN VERLINDE	40 POINTS
8. BERNARD BATHEDOU	37 POINTS
9. DYLAN DUFAS	34 POINTS
10. ARTHUR BOURION	34 POINTS
11. NATHAEL NAUDON	32 POINTS
12. MARKEL DE ZABALETA	29 POINTS
13. GUILLERMO MILLAN	28 POINTS
14. ÉRIC SAUTEUR	25 POINTS
15. FERNANDO NAVARRETE	23 POINTS
16. JEREMY PRAT	22 POINTS
17. ALLISON VIANO	22 POINTS
18. JORDI PALOMERAS	15 POINTS
19. TOMAS MARTINEZ	15 POINTS
20. PATRICK CHIAPPE	13 POINTS
21. ENRIQUE HERNANDO	12 POINTS
22. ALVARO LOBERA	12 POINTS
23. JONATHAN ARNOULD	8 POINTS
24. THIBAUD RIES	6 POINTS
25. JOCHEN CLAERHOUT	0 POINT

ABOUT THE CLIO ICE TROPHY

Introduced in 2022, the Clio Ice Trophy offers spectacular races on ice on the Pas de la Casa circuit in Andorra. As part of the Crèdit Andorrà GSeries, the Clio Ice Trophy draws on synergies within Renault Group, including the experience of Alpine Racing customer racing department based in Viry-Châtillon and the competition department at the Alpine factory in Dieppe. For its inaugural edition, the Clio Ice Trophy will take place over four rounds and as many different track configurations at the same location, where abundant snow and fantastic sliding conditions promise to be the order of the day.

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.

RENAULT PRESS

media.renault@renault.fr
media.renault.com