

WORLD SIDECAR-CROSS CHAMPIONSHIP

Brown and Peters still sit in second overall...



At the beginning of race two Martin/Kaelin (14) lead Scherbinin/Sosnovskikh (11) and World Champions Willemsen/Stupelis (1) out from the start.

Willemsen/ Stupelis extended their run of consecutive race wins to nine...

ROUND eight of the World Sidecar-cross series, and the first of two rounds in the Baltic states, was staged in Jaanikese, Estonia, over the weekend.

Daniel Willemsen and Kaspars Stupelis extend their run of consecutive race wins to nine with another maximum 50-point card. In so doing they extended their lead in the championship to 116 points over Britain's Stuart Brown and Luke Peters who in turn increased their lead

Report and Pictures: REIN WILLEMS Translation: LEEN VAN DER SLUIS

over the third placed crew to 17-points

A total of 38 teams made the journey, including Brown, Peters, and John Lyne and passenger Ian Beavis.

Both British crews came through the Saturday qualifiers without any problems. Pole position went to world

champs Willemsen/ Stupelis with an incredibly fast time, a full five seconds faster than Dutch crew Schrijver/Verhaegen, both riding in Group A, and Wittmann/Novotny in Group B.

Martin/ Kaelin headed the charge in the opening race, followed by Wittmann, Russia's Scherbinin, Jan Hendrickx and Willemsen. John Lyne was back in ninth spot.

Stuart Brown had a less than brilliant start and was mid-pack together with his closest challenger rival in the overall standings, Estonia's Kaurit/ Jakk.

Lyne held on to his position until he made a mistake on lap seven and dropped back to 12th place.

In the final stage of the race the Swiss driver Burgler, who had started well in sixth but also suffered problems and needed to restart, was able to overtake Lyne.

Brown, Kaurit and Germany's Happich were grouped together in an attempt to improve their positions. At first the Estonians seemed to be the strongest as they moved ahead of Brown on lap two.

However, the British champ wasn't willing to give in easily and followed Kaurit closely. Happich waited for the right moment to pass both Brown and Kaurit and charged in the final laps to overhaul Martin, Schrijver and Jan Hendrickx.

On lap 13, Brown got the opportunity to make the pass on Kaurit and managed to reel in and overtake quick starter Martin to finish eighth.

Martin drifted back to finish in tenth behind Kaurit.

After two laps Wittmann was the leader but just one lap later Scherbinin was in front. Willemsen moved up to third and closed to the front men.

On lap seven, the world champ made his bid to take the lead. He ousted Wittmann, and Scherbinin followed him through into second spot. They finished in that order. Soderqvist and Sylwan moved through from an early seventh place to claim fourth at the finish.

Martin was again the initial leader in race two, with Scherbinin and Willemsen tailing him. It was a short-lived lead though as Martin crashed hard on the opening lap.

After that the front three were Willemsen, Scherbinin and Soderqvist.

Happich started in seventh and closed up to the leading three outfits lap by lap.

At mid-distance Soderqvist made the pass on Scherbinin and secured second place in the race and an overall podium finish.

Brown missed the start again and came through 13th after the first lap. He was giving everything to establish the connection to the top guys in front of him. The hard work finally paid off as he fought through to finish fifth.

Lyne had some nasty experiences on the first lap and was last. On lap three he collided with Fagerberg and after a lot of struggling at the back he could not better 22nd.

Stuart Brown: "This is definitely not one of my favourite tracks. But we worked very hard to make the best of it. Our results were not as good as the last few weeks. The starts were lousy and it was not easy to make up ground. Lucky for us Kaurit had a DNF in heat two so we managed to extend our advantage over him. In race one I battled with Kaurit throughout and it felt good to be able to win that duel."

WORLD SIDECAR-CROSS CHAMPS Rd 8 - Jaanikese, ESTONIA

- 1 Willemsen/ Stupelis (NL - Zabel VMC) ... 25 + 25 = 50
- 2 Scherbinin/ Sosnovskikh (RUS - MTH APZ) 22 + 20 = 42
- 3 Soderqvist/ Sylwan (S - KTM VMC) ... 18 + 22 = 40
- 4 Happich/ Weinmann (D - Zabel VMC) ... 16 + 18 = 34
- 5 Wittmann/ Novotny (D - Yamaha AYR) ... 20 + 13 = 33
- 6 Hendrickx/ Smeuninx (B - MTH BSU) ... 15 + 15 = 30
- 7 BROWN/ PETERS (GB - Cradley Zabel VMC) 13 + 16 = 29
- 8 Schrijver/ Verhaegen (NL - MTH VMC) ... 14 + 14 = 28
- 9 Hofmann/ Verbrugge (D - Zabel VMC) ... 10 + 12 = 22
- 10 Burgler/ Schelbert (CH - KTM VMC) ... 9 + 10 = 19

- 11 van Duynhoven/ Van de Wiel (NL - MTH AYR) 6+11=17, 12 Hendrickx/ Van de Lagemaat (B - MTH BSU) 7+7=14, 13 Metz/ Saam (D - MTH EML) 4+8=12, 14 Kaurit/ Jakk (EST - KTM AYR) 12+0=12, 15 Martin/ Kaelin (A - Zabel VMC) 11+0=11, 16 Pullinx/ Sabbe (B - KTM VMC) 5+5=10, 17 v/d Boomen/ Meulenbroek (NL - MTH BSU) 0+9=9, 18 Gommeren/ Geerdink (B - MTH AYR) 2+6=8, 19 LYNE/ BEAVIS (GB - KTM VMC) 8+0=8, 20 Daiders/ Daiders (Lat - BSU MTH) 3+4=7, 21 Witte/ Nikolaus (D - Zabel VMC) 0+3=3, 22 Tamuliunas/ Karaliunas (Lit - Zabel EML) 0+2=2, 23 Muller/ Grutter (CH - Kawasaki JHR) 0+1=1, 24 Cermak/ Cermak (CZ - EML MTH) 1+0=1.

RACE ONE: Daniel 1 Willemsen, 2 Scherbinin, 3 Wittmann, 4 Soderqvist, 5 Happich, 6 Hendrickx, 7 Schrijver, 8 BROWN, 9 Kaurit, 10 Martin, 11 Hofmann, 12 Burgler, 13 LYNE, 14 Hendrickx, 15 van Duynhoven, 16 Pullinx, 17 Metz, 18 Daiders, 19 Gommeren, 20 Cermak.

RACE TWO 1 Willemsen, 2 Soderqvist, 3 Scherbinin, 4 Happich, 5 BROWN, 6 Hendrickx, 7 Schrijver, 8 Wittmann, 9 Hofmann, 10 van Duynhoven, 11 Burgler, 12 v/d Boomen, 13 Metz, 14 Hendrickx, 15 Gommeren, 16 Pullinx, 17 Daiders, 18 Witte, 19 Tamuliunas, 20 Muller.

SERIES STANDINGS after 8 rounds: 1 Willemsen 361 points, 2 BROWN 245, 3 Happich 228, 4 Scherbinin 226, 5 Kaurit 223, 6 Hendrickx 188, 7 Wittmann 176, 8 Sergis 167, 9 Schrijver 158, 10 Willemsen 144, 11 Beaumont 142, 12 Hendrickx 122, 13 Martin 121, 14 Burgler 114, 15 Hofmann 110, 16 Metz 82, 17 Goovaerts 71, 18 Soderqvist 67, 19 Brustmann 59, 20 WATSON 51, 21 van Duynhoven 49, 22 Rupeiks 39, 23 LYNE 39, 24 Van Verwen 33, 25 Rozehnal 32...

NEXT ROUND: June 20 - Cesis, LATVIA.

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