



31st January 2009

AERO GP ACE ZOLTAN VERES SNATCHES VICTORY IN THRILLING ABU DHABI FINALE

Hungarian flying sensation Zoltan Veres showed impressive speed and skill to win today's Aero GP finale in front of an incredible 60,000 aviation fans in the first race of the season at the Al Ain Aerobatic Show, Abu Dhabi.

The nail-biting action lived up to its headline billing as three Aero GP pilots; Veres (HUN), Gerald Cooper (GBR) and Mark Jefferies (GBR), held joint lead going into the final air race with everything to play for, after the other diverse disciplines of Air Racing, Air Combat and precision Target Dropping.

Forty-six year-old Veres claimed victory in both the Air Combat and Air Racing elements using the superior horsepower of his MXS plane to vanquish his rivals, even lapping the entire field during the race!

The Hungarian did not have it all his own way as British pilot Cooper took victory in the Target Dropping competition with a spectacular vertical dive, producing a strike just twelve metres from the bullseye while Veres finished third some 38 metres off target. Cooper's luck ran dry during the other events however, finishing overall third in Air Combat and fourth in the Air Race.

British contender Andy Bickmore had a disappointing finish to his race weekend after suffering undercarriage damage, sidelining him from the competition.

Zoltan Veres said after his historic win; *"I love this race and I have to thank my aircraft for giving me the power to win. We feel this has been a very successful event as Aero GP here for first time in the Middle East and look forward to returning soon."*

Jeff Zaltman, Managing Director of Aero GP, commented, *"This is an historic occasion for air racing, air sport and Aero GP. We're very proud of our pilots who have fought competitively and safely, the fans seemed to have loved it and that makes it all seem so worthwhile. Our thanks go out to the Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority and Al Ain Aerobatic show for being such perfect hosts."*



Aero GP Al Ain Final Results

Winner: Zoltan Veres 26 pts
2nd position: Mark Jefferies 24 pts
3rd position: Gerald Cooper 21 pts
4th position: Smokey Young 16 pts
5th position: Andy Bickmore (retired)

Individual discipline results:

Target Dropping

Winner: Gerald Cooper 10 pts
2nd position: Mark Jefferies 8 pts
3rd position: Zoltan Veres 6 pts
4th position: Smokey Young 5 pts
5th position: Andy Bickmore (retired)

Air Combat

Winner: Zoltan Veres 10 pts
2nd position: Mark Jefferies 8 pts
3rd position: Gerald Cooper 6 pts
4th position: Smokey Young 5 pts
5th position: Andy Bickmore (retired)

1st heat: Mark- beat Gerald
2nd heat: Zoltan beat Smokey
3rd place Fly-off: Gerald beat Smokey
Final: Zoltan beat Mark

Air Race

Winner: Zoltan Veres 10 pts
2nd position: Mark Jefferies 8 pts
3rd position: Smokey Young 6 pts
4th position: Gerald Cooper 5 pts
5th position: Andy Bickmore (retired)

More information about Aero GP:



Aero GP is the only international air racing series with multiple airplanes competing against one another at the same time (a sport called “pylon racing”). Air racing sees pilots flying close to the ground, only metres apart at speeds of up to 500 km/h, while experiencing up to 10Gs. The series has been growing in popularity for five years and is already televised in hundreds of millions of homes worldwide, thus prompting the partnership with the Al Ain Aerobatic Show, which has become one of the most well known and well attended air shows in the world.

This is the first time that an Aero GP race has been held in the UAE region and it is believed to be the first time in history that a pylon race has been held in the Middle East, proving that Al Ain is a pioneer in aviation and sport.

Aero GP is a new motorsport series unlike any other, combining three highly difficult sporting disciplines. Each Aero GP consists of the following three events:

1. Air Race – an air race featuring five to six aircraft in the air at the same time, racing against each other around a circuit, often just metres above the ground, in the fastest motorsport in the world.
2. Air Combat – a demanding discipline where two pilots compete head to head in a battle for air supremacy, trying to score enough hits on their opponent for the victory.
3. Stunts – various stunts are selected, ranging from aerobatics to limbo flying. In Al Ain, the event that has been selected will test the pilots in a real target bombing competition.

For more information visit www.aero-gp.com.

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Notes to Editors:

Full pilot biographies and images are available, for more information contact
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About Flying Aces

Flying Aces Ltd, based in London UK, owns and manages global media rights connected to top-level aviation sport. Most of the property rights are fully developed in-house while others are managed on behalf of other rights holders. Flying Aces is the organiser of the internationally-televised Aero GP air racing series and the next World Aerobatic Championships which will be held at Silverstone Racing Circuit. In addition, through a media partnership with the air sports governing body, the FAI, Flying Aces produces a television series covering the major global air sports events and Championships called 'Breitling Airsports World' which is broadcast internationally.

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About Al Ain Aerobatic Show

Abu Dhabi Tourism Authority (ADTA), the body behind the Al Ain spectacle, is held under the patronage of HH General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces