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AERO GP SPECTACULAR THRILLS BRITISH CROWDS

Crowds lining Blackpool's famous beach were wowed this weekend as Britain staged its first ever Aero GP, the thrilling and spectacular air racing series which features the world's top pilots battling it out in a variety of daring disciplines.

Britain's Mark Jefferies took the overall title after impressing the judges in both the timed and freestyle aerobatics events with 38 points out of 40 in what turned out to be a partially limited grand prix due to poor weather. Gerald Cooper had to settle for the runners-up spot after his victory in Romania earlier this month with 27 points, while Tom Cassells took third place with 24 points.

Inclement weather during the week meant that the eight participating pilot's were unable to complete sufficient practice on Thursday and Friday, which resulted in Sunday's planned air race being replaced with an additional aerobatics competition.

Aero GP is a rapidly growing sport and Britain's first grand prix followed on from the hugely popular leg in Constanta, Romania earlier this month which saw seven high-performance sport airplanes racing together as well as competing in air-to-air combat.

Jeff Zaltman, President of Aero GP, said: "Air racing is amongst the most spectacular sports in the world and it was fantastic to bring the grand prix to Britain this week. Although the weather wasn't as good as we had hoped, we still had two great days of stunning action over the North Shore with the world's best pilots pushing themselves to the limits.

"The popularity of the sport is growing massively and we are continuously extending the series to new destinations around the world. We've had a great time in Blackpool and would like to thank the authorities who have made this weekend possible and hopefully look forward to coming back here in the future."

- ENDS-



The pilots taking part were:

Mark Jefferies (Extra 300S) - Winner

Gerald Cooper (CAP-232) - Second

Tom Cassells (CAP – 232) - Third

Gary Ferriman (Extra 230)

Clive Butler (Pitts S-1T)

Stever Carver (Extra 260)

Alan Cassidy (Pitts 12)

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Notes to Editors:

All aspects of the Blackpool Aero GP were carefully designed and planned by experts in air sports and approved and observed closely by the Civil Aviation Authority. The Blackpool Aero GP was organised in association with the British Formula Air Racing Association (FARA), which is the historic governing body for air racing in the UK and an official body of the Royal Aero Club.

About Flying Aces

Flying Aces Ltd, based in London UK, owns, manages and exploits global media rights connected to top-level sporting aviation. 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. 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 and on Sky Sports in the UK.