



AYUB KHAN & SAROSH HATARIA - DOMINATE THE OPENING ROUND OF THE 6TH XXX NATIONAL RACING CHAMPIONSHIP

New Delhi: The opening round of Xxx National Racing Championship 2003 at the Sriperumbedur Race Track near Chennai witnessed some dramatic pulsating action right from the start. Ayub Khan showed his talent to the fullest, winning both the races of the Saloon Class while Sivaramkrishnan finished second in both the races after a close fight with Ayub. Radha Sevarajan finished third in the first race and J.D. Madan took the last podium spot in the second. **The Championship is being organized under the aegis of The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India and organized by Madras Motor Sport Club (MMSM) and is being presented by MARUTI SUZUKI.**

The Formula Maruti Class witnessed some very inspiring driving and lots of jockeying for positions. Riding on the back of some excellent driving and good luck, Formula Asia driver Sarosh Hataria took the top podium position in both the races. Gaurav Gill racing for the first time impressed many and went on to emerge the win the NOVICE DRIVER PRIZE in Race I. With a total of as many as 20 entries, the Formula Maruti Category vindicated the organizers and sponsors commitment that this category is the breeding ground for racing talent in the country.

RACE REPORT - SALOON CLASS

Race 1 (10 Laps)

The 1st leg of the Xxx National Racing Championship 2003 got off to a flying start with some scintillating racing by Ayub Khan, J.D. Madan and the crafty Siva. Ayub and J.D. traded blows like prizefighters and exchanged the lead for the race four times in the very first race for the afternoon. The action had a twist to it, in a debatable incident Radha came from behind to spoil the party. Radha locked his brakes and shunted J.D. who had already turned into the 'Tricky Bridge Left' corner. That move certainly put an end to J.D.'s challenge. A visibly relieved Ayub coasted to a comfortable win followed by his teammate Sivaramakrishnan. The fastest lap of this race went to Ayub who put in a time of 1:18.559 seconds.

Saloon Class - Race 1 (10 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	Ayub Khan	13:20.580
2	Sivaramakrishnan	13:24.094
3.	Radha Selvarajan	13:25.917
BEST TUNER AWARD		Satish

Race 2(15 Laps)

The second race witnessed Ayub lead from the start to finish. There was a fierce battle being fought for the second place with Siva doing a good job keeping J.D. Madan at bay. Another battle taking place on the track was for 4th and 5th places. However, this was for a short while as Vikram Moorthy had a scary moment on C1 where he had a rear left tyre blowout and had to retire. Radha not to be outdone had a front tyre blowout to shun himself any chances of repeating his first round performance. With the retirements it had Ayub Khan whistling all the way to the chequered flag. With a lap time of 1:18.586, Ayub put in a consistent performance to take the coveted fastest lap time of the second race.

Saloon Class - Race 2 (15 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	Ayub Khan	19:50.482
2	Sivaramakrishnan	19:54.440
3.	J.D. Madan	19:54.707
BEST TUNER AWARD		Satish

RACE REPORT – FORMULA MARUTI

Race I

With 20 cars taking the starting grid in the Formula Maruti Category, it was all set for a very exiting afternoon of racing. Though the top five on the starting grid were in a class of their own, it was heartening to see many young faces jumping into the fray. Just what the doctored ordered for motor sports in the country. Sarosh Hataria the pole position sitter had his rear view full of Gaurav Dalal, who in turn had ex-rally driver Gaurav Gill hunting him down. Both drove brilliantly for the second and third position, with Gill briefly going past Dalal they eventually finished up with the top three qualifiers finishing in their respective positions. However the fastest lap of the race and the Novice Driver Award went to Gaurav Dalal who put in a fastest lap time of 1:14.047 seconds.

Formula Maruti Race 1 (10 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	Sarosh Hataria	12:30.706
2	Gaurav Dalal	12:32.436
3.	Gaurav Gill	12:33.270
NOVICE AWARD		
Gaurav Gill		12:33.270
BEST TUNER AWARD		Parasuram

Race II

The 15 lap second race in the Formula Maruti category proved to be an exiting one for the spectators. Pole position man Sarosh Hatatria had a great start once again. He was followed by Gaurav Dalal for the first three laps of the race where after he was overtaken by a hard charging Gaurav Gill, who went on to lead the race for three laps between lap 11 to lap 13. Eventually Sarosh got the better of him finishing a mere 0.186 seconds ahead to take the chequered flag in an exciting finish. On lap 1 there was an incident in C2 where Gautam Maini, Naren Shankar and Satish got stranded at the corner. Yellow flags came out and held for the duration of the race. Since the race was run under a yellow flag no fastest lap was announced. **Final results would be announced after the C.O.C submits his report on the same issue as mentioned above.**

Formula Maruti Race 2 (15 Laps)

Pos.	Name	Total Timings (Min:Sec)
1	Sarosh Hataria	18:56.427
2	Gaurav Gill	18:56.613
3.	Gaurav Dalal	19:00.478
NOVICE AWARD		
Jigar Muni		19:12.884
BEST TUNER AWARD		Parasuram

We wait with baited breaths to witness the next round of the Xxx National Racing Championship 2003 scheduled for Sunday, 2nd November.

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