





BRANDON MAÏSANO THE FIRST DRIVER TO SET A FASTEST TIME THIS YEAR

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10.04.2015. **Brandon Maï sano (Prema Powerteam, 1:51.677 minutes) set the first fastest time of the new FIA Formula 3 European Championship season. At the 5.901 kilometres long Silverstone Grand Prix circuit, the Frenchman was 0,066 seconds faster than his team-mate Felix Rosenqvist (Prema Powerteam, 1:51.743 minutes). George Russell (Carlin, 1:51.957 minutes) ended up third fastest in free practice, making him the best placed local driver in the only round of the FIA Formula 3 European Championship to take place in Britain this year. Antonio Giovinazzi (Jagonya Ayam with Carlin, 1:51.958 minutes) was classified fourth, only 0.001 seconds behind Russell.**

Especially the final minutes of the free practice session turned out to be thrilling. First of all, 17-year-old George Russell lost his first place to Brandon Maï sano, by four years his senior, but then, Felix Rosenqvist outpaced his team-mate and took over first place. The Frenchman subsequently mounted a successful counter-challenge and was back up in first place with four minutes remaining. He held on to this position until the end of the session. Formula 3 stalwart Rosenqvist had to make do with second place, but also made it a 1-2 for the Prema Powerteam.

The best-placed rookie in the field of 35 young drivers, George Russell ended up third, followed by Antonio Giovinazzi and two further rookie drivers, Charles Leclerc (Van Amersfoort Racing, 1:51.997 minutes) and Lance Stroll (Prema Powerteam, 1:52.065 minutes). Earlier in the week, Monegasque Leclerc had dominated proceedings in the pre-season test held at the same venue on Tuesday. Jake Dennis (Prema Powerteam, 1:52.078 minutes), Callum Iott (Carlin, 1:52.338 minutes), Mikkel Jensen (kfzteile24 Mücke Motorsport, 1:52.342 minutes) and Markus Pommer (Motopark, 1:52.362 minutes) completed the top ten. In total, 16 drivers set lap times within one second from pace-setter Maï sano.

Free practice was interrupted by red flags for a few minutes after Zhi Cong Li (Fortec Motorsports, 1:53.810 minutes) had spun on track. The Chinese, who is competing in the FIA Formula 3 European Championship for the first time, ended up in 30th place.