

KF1 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP – SUZUKA (JAPAN), 17th-20th MAY 2012

## CRG PROTAGONIST IN THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP IN JAPAN. FORE' WINS ONCE AND TIENE ACHIEVES TWO PODIUMS

THE DRIVERS OF THE CRG OFFICIAL TEAM PUT ON A GREAT SHOW THANKS TO THEIR GREAT PERFORMANCES IN THE FOUR RACES WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE JAPANESE TRACK OF SUZUKA. DAVID FORE', AS USUAL, SHOWED OFF: HE WON THE FOURTH FINAL, WHILE FELICE TIENE ACHIEVED THE PODIUM TWICE AND WAS ALWAYS IN THE TUSSLE FOR VICTORY.



In the Far East country, in the first round of the KF1 World Championship on the track of Suzuka, the CRG colours shone bright thanks to a magnificent Davide Forè, once again on the highest step of the podium in a CIK-FIA world championship race. Also Felice Tiene did very well, achieving twice the podium and then got involved in a crash while dominating the last, spectacular race of the long Japanese weekend.

**CRG AT THE TOP.** The travel to Japan was very positive for all the CRG official team, with the drivers of the Italian factory who walked out the first round of the KF1 World Championship

holding their heads up. They achieved an outstanding streak of good performances in all the four finals of the first appointment of the CIK-FIA World Series.

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*The drivers of the CRG Official Team in Japan: from left Lennox, Tiene, Eddy Tinini, Forè and Yamashita. First page, top Forè winner in race-4, bottom, celebrated for the victory by the Japanese importer CRG Japan (Photo KSP).*

That was the nth confirmation of **CRG's** chassis competitiveness: in Suzuka the team was always at the top thanks to the perfect match with the **BMB by KVS** engines. The "All Black" drivers were constantly the fastest and fought for the victory until the end of the event.

**FORE' AND TIENE ON TOP.** Eventually it was **Davide Forè** who managed to get onto the highest step of the podium. He won the fourth and last race of the Japanese weekend, at the end of a gripping and eventful race. The five time winner of the world championship got one of the most satisfactory results of these last years, fulfilling the expectations of Giancarlo Tinini, the boss of CRG. He came back on the highest step of the podium in a CIK-FIA event after the victory achieved with Maranello here in Suzuka in the 2008 KF1 World Cup.

However, also **Felice Tiene** did a great performance: he was always among the best drivers and always near the victory, like in the last final where he got a ten second penalty (despite being one of the most sportsmanlike drivers of the world karting!) after an accident with Verstappen. Despite all, and despite insult added to injury, in the four races **Tiene** achieved podium twice (third in race two and second in race three), confirming once again his position among the top drivers.

**Jordon Lennox-Lamb** was also very quick. He always managed to achieve points finish as well as his country fellowman **Tom Joyner** did on a LH chassis of the **LH Racing Team**. His teammate **Christian Sorensen** did well too, as well as **Eddy Tinini**, even though he was repeatedly slowed down by accidents. Good performances also for the other CRG official driver, the Japanese **Kenta Yamashita**, excellent sixth in race 2..

The long weekend of the world championship in Suzuka developed on four finals, just like last year's championship: two finals on Saturday and two on Sunday.

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*Felice Tiene performed well in all the four finals: podium in race 2, third, and in race-3 second (Photo KSP).*

**RACE-1: CRG STANDS OUT IMMEDIATELY.** In race-1, the CRG official team made itself immediately conspicuous. At the beginning of the race **Joyner** took the lead with **Forè** second. **Tiene** recovered and grabbed second place before **Forè**, **Joyner** and **Lennox**. Eventually, Camponeschi, the Japanese Sasaki and Basz got the upper hand and finished in the first three positions, while **Tiene** grabbed the fourth position before **Forè**, **Lennox** and **Joyner**. The Japanese running for CRG, **Yamashita**, finished 16th, **Tinini** 25th, **Sorensen** 28th.

**RACE-2: FIRST PODIUM FOR TIENE.** **Forè** got involved in a crash at the start of the second final on Saturday, while **Tiene** managed to grab the second position and **Lennox** the third. Camponeschi took the lead and, in the last laps, Sasaki got the second position while **Tiene** kept deservedly his third place and conquered the podium preceding Verstappen. **Lennox** finished fifth before **Yamashita**. **Joyner** slipped from the first positions and paid dear the tussle of the race placing eleventh. **Sorensen** placed 14th, **Forè** recovered as far as the 16th. position. **Tinini** retired.

**RACE-3: TIENE EXCELLENT RUNNER-UP.** In the third final on Sunday, once again several **CRG** drivers made themselves conspicuous in the top positions, especially thanks to **Tiene** who had always the pace of the top drivers. Once again it was Camponeschi who won the race after the three second penalty got by Sasaki for a misalignment on the starting grid. **Tiene**, after a hard fight in the leading group, achieved an excellent second place preceding Verstappen. Fifth placed **Forè**, absolutely unstoppable, who preceded his teammate **Lennox** and **Joyner**. **Sorensen** finished 12th. **Yamashita** is 17th with **Tinini** retired once again.

**RACE-4: SUCCESS FOR FORE'.** In the fourth and last race of the weekend, **Tiene** and Verstappen fought hard for the victory until the last lap. **Tiene** took the lead, when there were only two laps to go, thanks to a awesome overtaking after leading for most of the final. Upon entering the fast right bend after the finishing line, Verstappen swerved towards the inner part of the bend, drew up alongside **Tiene** and they came in contact. Sasaki and **Forè** took advantage of the situation and slipstreamed them. Two more bends and **Forè**, with an awesome overtaking, left Sasaki riveted to the spot and grabbed the victory. The consequences of the accident were Verstappen's withdrawal and a ten second penalty for **Tiene**, found guilty of too tough a resistance to his rival's attack. The Italian driver, from sixth on the finishing line, ended up 18th. **Joyner** 10th, **Lennox** 15th, **Sorensen** 20th **Yamashita** 28th. **Tinini**, unfortunately, got involved in a crash.

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**THE CHAMPIONSHIP AFTER FOUR RACES.** 1. Camponeschi points 75; 2. Sasaki 60; **3. Tiene 49**; **4. Forè 47**; 5. Basz 35; 6. Verstappen 32; **7. Joyner 28**; **8. Lennox-Lamb 26**; 9. Paz 19; 10. Graham 18; 11. Petjoi e Hubert 15; 13. Gromanova 14; Kasai, Gil e Kozlinski 12; 17. Yamashita 11; 18. Umegaki, Nakamori e Sorensen 9; 21. Hiltbrand 7; 22. Blom 4; 23. De Brabander 2; 24. Inoue 1; 25. Shiraishi 1.

**ASIAN-PACIFIC KF2.** Suzuka was also the venue of the KF2 Asian Pacific Championship. The title went to the Danish Nicklas Nielsen (Kosmic). Among the CRG private drivers who took part in the race - all Japanese drivers - **Asahara** placed 15th, **Kobayashi** (LH) 22nd, 24th **Osada**, 26th **Suto**.

**IN MACAO THE FINAL ROUND.** The second and last round of the KF1 world championship is scheduled in Macao from 17th to 20th October. For the final ranking of the championship only the three best results out of the four races of

each round are valid

KSP photos show: above Felice Tiene on the podium in race-2, below Davide Forè winner in race-4.

## THE INTERVIEWS

**Euan Jeffery, CRG team manager:** *"We are all very happy for Forè's victory in the fourth and last final, but we are also disappointed for the penalty they gave to Tiene, who did not cause the accident with Verstappen at the last lap. Generally speaking, we achieved a very good performance with all the drivers: we were always in the top positions, ready to fight for the victory in every situation. Our competitiveness was excellent for the whole weekend, since the practice. Lennox too did well, but in at least two occasions he was penalized by accidents, otherwise he would have achieved better results. The same can be said for Joyner. Anyway, we are really satisfied with the results we got in this first race of the world championship."*



**Davide Forè (KF1):** *"I'm really happy for my success in this round of the world championship, but I performed well throughout the whole weekend, apart from an accident in race-2. Today, eventually, I got a beautiful result. I knew that with a good start I would have been able to do something good, and that's it! I was with Tiene and Verstappen until the last lap, then the two came in contact. I was right behind Sasaki and, with only two bends before the finishing line, I overtook and grabbed the victory. Now, I'm in for the championship: everything is at stake in Macao. One year has passed since my last race in KF, but all the team is with me and I was in the best possible condition to face the race, both from the point of view of the chassis and of the engine. This victory means a lot to me, because fighting with such young drivers and winning is a great satisfaction. I want to thank Giancarlo Tinini for giving me this chance. Thanks a lot to all the CRG team for the excellent equipment and, finally, a very special thank you to Euan and to my mechanic Mansel, absolutely efficient."*

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