



F1 Championship Round 5: Abu Dhabi

Qualifying 1 – 11 Drivers

On the green light for qualifying session 1 all drivers used their experience to spread themselves out on the circuit to ensure they had the room to post their best lap times possible. By the halfway stage Jonny Spencer was the quickest driver posting a 27.01s lap time which was only a tenth quicker than Wen Lang. The slowest drivers from this point found it hard to better their times and by the chequered flag they had to settle for 9th, 10th and 11th place.

Aaron Frost – P11, Jacob Brodmann – P10 and Yi Zhang – P9

Qualifying 2 – 8 Drivers

After the loss of three drivers there was a lot more space on the circuit and all drivers were posting quicker times than in Q1. Consistency was proving the key in the second outing as Shirley Hennessey finding a 26.9s lap time and was pushing every lap. Jonny Elliot had slowed himself down to find more space on the track and it proved to be a good tactic as the space allowed him to post a 26.958s lap time quick enough for 2nd place at the mid way point. After 5 minutes 2 more drivers were eliminated.

Kevin Rosental – P7, and Mitch Millett – P8

Qualifying 3 – 6 Drivers

The green light was given for the start of qualifying 3. Two battles had emerged on the track with Shirley racing against Wen Lang and their pace in the early stages saw them racing and battling it out for 3rd and 4th place. The other battle was between Jonny Elliot and Jonny Spencer who were nose to tail and posting quick enough lap times to see them sitting firm in 1st and 2nd. Wen Lang managed to find a clean line around the track and post a 26.68s lap which was good enough to move in to 2nd place. Jonny Elliot still held that important 1st place but Shirley was quick to respond and post a 26.56s lap which moved her in to pole position. With only seconds remaining on the timer all drivers had their last lap but no one could better their times and at the end of qualifying the grid was secured.



The Abu Dhabi Grand Prix
55 Laps

All drivers were back in their karts and taking their places on the grid. After a tense qualifying the drivers were eyeing a good start to make their way through the field as everyone had their eye on the quick drivers. Off the line and it was Jonny Elliot with the better start who stuck to the outside line around the first few corners and the change in direction let him have the inside line off the bridge and move past Shirley in to 1st place. Shirley was hot on his tail and wasn't letting him get away that easy.

Wen Lang made a mistake trying to overtake Jonny Spencer after a few laps and causes both of them to lose out Jonny Spencer did well to keep the damage down and managed to breakaway and keep 4th place but Wen Lang received a black flag for the manoeuvre which meant time in the sin bin.

One lap later and a black flag was being issued to Jonny Spencer for overtaking through a section under yellow light conditions right in front of a race marshal. Clearly not sneaking under the radar he was sent to the sin bin.

By lap seven blue flags were brought in to play with Aaron Frost becoming the back marker. Seeing the flags from the marshals he kept his line and slowed enough for the race leaders to pass safely.

Mitch Millett was up to his usual tricks after not doing so well in qualifying he was showing he overtaking skill managing to make up a few places and was sitting in fourth. Jonny Spencer after his early black flag was trying to get back in to contention moving through the field but he found a hard fight when he closed the gap on Julian Philippe. Jonny went for an overtake on the final corner but was too eager and made contact on Julian which was enough to spin him off and Jonny gained the position. A second black flag was issued to Jonny for the contact. Julian was left facing in the barrier system and lost out on a few places.

Mitch Millett was holding out well in fourth and was battling with Lee Maguire for a place in the podium positions. Mitch Trained Lee for a few laps getting a feel for Lee's racing line trying to spot any gap he could to make his move. On lap 21 Mitch saw his opening coming in to the final complex he looked up the inside as Lee chose to turn in late looking for a late apex and a quick exit on the corner Mitch dived in to the inside but the marshals adjudged Mitch to have opened up the gap by making contact on Lee. For the contact Mitch was issued with a black flag. After serving his penalty Mitch managed to be sent back on to the track in fourth place so he didn't lose out too much.

Jonny Spencer was back in the action in the later stages of the race again making his ground up from his early black flags he had managed to get himself up to fifth place and was quickly catching up Mitch Millett. Moving in to the top hairpin Jonny took an inside line from very early and eased past Mitch

a brilliant overtake which let Jonny move in to 4th. With only 10 laps remaining on the track Jonny was still in with a chance of a podium finish as Lee was only seconds away from him and was coming in to back markers in the very late stages of the race. Jonny did manage to close the gap on Lee as the blue flags were being issued Lee left a gap open for Jonny Spencer to move up the inside and take an easy place from Lee. A valuable place for Lee to lose as with the absence of the championship leader David Softly, any points Lee could get would see him close the gap and be in with a chance of taking the championship trophy.

Chequered flag went out for the end of the race and Jonny Elliot took the race win and the gold trophy from the top spot on the podium. Shirley Hennessey took a well deserved 2nd place and Jonny Spencer even though he collected two black flags took third.