



F1 Championship Round 6: Canada

The last round of the F1 championship saw a mixed grid of new comers and regular drivers. The returning drivers consisted of 4 of the top 5 drivers in the championship standings. The most noticeable absentee was the championship leader himself David Softley which left the door wide open for 2nd, 3rd and 4th place to try and take the overall victory.

Qualifying 1 – 13 Drivers

13 entrants waited in the pit lane for the green light to be given for qualifying 1 to get underway. The early stages were tough for the new comers to the championship trying to find the pace to match up with the regulars. But it was a new comer that emerged as the early leader in qualifying 1 posting the best time in the session of 26.734. Although new to the race format Martin Michalko was no stranger to the track as he set the pace throughout and was looking in good form come the chequered flag.

P13 – Oliver Ellis, **P12** – Stephen Brindle, **P11** – Stephen Lewis

Qualifying 2 – 10 Drivers

So three drivers lighter the field was released for the start of qualifying 2 and Lee Maguire, Shirley Hennessey and Mitch Millett were still out there looking to out qualify each other but first they had to make it through in to the final qualifier. The drivers had learnt quickly to spread out on the track no one being held up the chance was there for everyone to post the best lap time they could. Again the pace was being set by Martin lapping in the 26 seconds but towards the back of the field they could not find the extra speed they needed and were eliminated with lap times more than a second off the leader.

P10 – Rowan Arnold, **P9** – Paul Bale, **P8** – Adam Ledger **P7** – Ben Wood

Qualifying 3 – 6 Drivers

The shootout for pole position had all our championship rivals out on the track looking for the advantage for the start of the race but the spanner in the works for a third time was Martin who was only getting faster and right at the start posted a 26.4 second lap which would prove to be too much for anyone to beat. But that didn't stop an entertaining battle for the front row on the grid. Lee Maguire found himself nose to tail behind Shirley and was using her as a marker on the track to find his best line. It seemed to work as he posted a

26.8 second lap time which was good enough for second at the early stage. Julian Philippe found an open track in front of him and posted a 26.7s lap time but straight away Lee responded knocking a tenth off the lap time and moved back in to second. Shirley was finding it hard in the late stages to knock any more time off and was only able to finish in 5th place. Mitch Millett out of nowhere on the last lap though managed to post a 26.7s lap time which saw him qualify in 3rd place pushing Julian down to 4th.

P1 – Martin Michalko, P2 – Lee Maguire, P3 – Mitch Millett
P4 – Julian Philippe, P5 – Shirley Hennessey, P6 – Dave Pattison



The Canadian Grand Prix 70 Laps

After a tense qualifying session the drivers were out on the grid for the grand prix. Lee Maguire must have been in a good mood as he knew that a podium finish was good enough for him to seal the championship victory. All that stood in his way was a gruelling 70 laps.

Lights out and a cautious first few corners from everyone made it a clean lap not much drama anywhere throughout the pack and it would have stayed the same had it not been for Adam Ledger making a daring move on the inside at the final corner pulling it off perfectly for him to take up a few positions. The drivers had filled in to their positions by now and starting lap two Shirley made an error as she ran wide on the exit of the bridge hitting the outside barrier system caused her to lose momentum on the track and Julian Philippe was on hand to take back his track position.

Julian was now looking forward towards Mitch Millett in 3rd place and gaining on him lap by lap. By Lap 7 Julian was bumper to bumper with Mitch who by this time was well aware of the pressure and had resorted to a defensive line. Julian tried a move up the inside braking late in to the hairpin the gap was there but Mitch limited the space on the exit for Julian and carried better speed out the corner and kept track position.

Blue flags were in action on lap 10 as Martin continued with his quick pace and was quickly on to the back of the slower drivers. Just behind and the battle was still going on between Mitch, Julian and Shirley. Shirley managed to find the space to get past Julian on lap 11 but Mitch continued with his defensive line on the track and Julian and Shirley could not find any way past.

Mitch was showing his race craft on the track managing to stay in 3rd place through to lap 31 where he came in to a back marker who had slowed down on line to let the faster drivers overtake. Mitch then slowed down alongside causing Shirley to react quickly to avoid any contact. Shirley's loss of pace opened up the gap for Julian round the outside but could not complete the move and wisely backed out and gave the position back to Shirley Mitch looked like he was enjoying setting the pace.

With 20 laps remaining Martin was more than half a lap ahead holding firm in 1st place. Lee Maguire was having a trouble free race sitting in 2nd. While the battle was still going on behind with Mitch defending 3rd place and Shirley in 4th and Julian in 5th. Julian managed to capitalise on a Shirley mistake as she misjudged an overtake on Mitch at the 1st hair pin and had to brake hard to avoid contact.

Julian was back on the tail of Mitch and looking again to find the space to get past. Julian again looking for the same manoeuvre as he did early on in the race looked up the inside of the 1st hairpin on Mitch and this time there was

more room as he moved through leaving the space in behind for Shirley to follow through meaning Julian was in 3rd and Shirley in 4th Mitch now finding himself having to chase them down from 5th place.

The chequered flag went out for the end of lap 70 and a well deserved victory for Martin Michalko. But the honours were for Lee Maguire having finished in second place collected enough points to move ahead of David Softley and take the championship win. Shirley's 4th place finish also meant that she finished second in the championship.



1st Martin Michalko

2nd Lee Maguire

3rd Julian Philippe

Congratulations



Championship Winner

LEE MAGUIRE

2nd Shirley Hennessey

3rd David Softley