

# Daytona Manchester

## F1 Championship 2012

### Round 4 - Canada

Round 4 of the DF1 championship saw 12 drivers eagerly waited for the green light to signal the start of qualifying one for the Canada round. It was going to take good placement on the track for the drivers to be able to post good lap times and not be held up by anyone on the circuit.

#### Qualifying 1

As the drivers led out on to the track they quickly got in to the pace of the session and tried to find a groove that would see them through to Q2. The returning John Gwyneth set the pace in the session with a 26.493 second lap time. This was the benchmark for the drivers who were struggling to match the pace. The three drivers who had to return to the pits were more than one second slower which meant a 12<sup>th</sup> place grid start for Simon Cooke, 11<sup>th</sup> for Robert Pemberton and 10<sup>th</sup> place for Sam Pickford.

#### Qualifying 2

Five minutes of Q2 were started off by Craig Whitehead setting a 26.8second lap time. But his position at the top was short lived as again John Gwyneth set the session best time of 25.370 seconds. The track was heating up and the times were falling with everyone posting sub 27 second lap times. At the chequered flag three drivers were eliminated. Starting the grand prix in 9<sup>th</sup> place was Colin Samuel, 8<sup>th</sup> place went to Rowan Arnold and 7<sup>th</sup> place to Julian Philippe.

#### Qualifying 3

The remaining six drivers had 5 minutes to showcase their talents. Mark Hitchcock and John Gwyneth had the early battle for pole position. But again it was John Gwyneth that emerged quickest setting a 26.3 second lap time. As the chequered flag dropped on Q3, the final 6 places on the grid were as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> – John Gwyneth
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Mark Hitchcock
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Aaron McManus
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Dave Pattison
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Lee Maguire
- 6<sup>th</sup> – Craig Whitehead

## 70 laps – Canadian Grand Prix

The drivers lined up on the grid for the start of 70 laps on the Montréal circuit. The drivers got away cleanly on the opening lap and settled in to single file. Lee Maguire was the first to make a mistake by making contact on Mark Hitchcock which allowed him to make a pass. The manoeuvre earned Lee a black flag and a stop go penalty in the sin bin. On lap five a mistake by Dave Pattison saw him lose control at hairpin two which proved costly as he slipped down to tenth place. John Gwyneth and Aaron McManus were pulling away from the rest of field and had managed to open up the gap to fifteen seconds. Lee Maguire made a second mistake, again on Mark Hitchcock, this time contact leaving the bridge gave him an advantage and a second black flag meant more time spent in the sin bin. Lee's race strategy looked to have changed from seeking a podium finish to now looking for damage limitation and trying to take as many points as he could get. Dave Pattison was looking to make his way forwards in the race after his early mistake and started with an over take on Sam Pickford to move in to eighth place. The blue flags were now coming in to effect with the front runners catching the back markers. On lap 19 John got in to a muddle trying to pass a backmarker. Aaron used the space that John left him to sweep through and take first place position. John was clearly unhappy with the decision by the back marker which cost him first position on the track. The drama all happened early on in the race but settled down for 50 laps as blue flags were being issued, allowing the drivers to get comfortable in their track positions. Dave Pattison, one of the few drivers that managed to move up a position by getting past Craig Whitehead, then settled down in fifth place. The chequered flag waved for the end of the race and a much deserved victory went out to Aaron McManus who set the race pace since passing John Gwyneth and finished with the top spot and the quickest time of the race.

Finishing Positions	
1. Aaron McManus	25
2. John Gwyneth	23
3. Julian Philippe	21
4. Colin Samuel	20
5. Dave Pattison	19
6. Craig Whitehead	18
7. Simon Cooke	17
8. Sam Pickford	16
9. Robert Pemberton	15
10. Lee Maguire	14
11. Rowan Arnold	12
12. Mark Hitchcock	11

