



## NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2017

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### XCAT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OFF TO A THRILLING START WITH SIX RACES IN 15 DAYS

The XCAT World Championship season has finally come to its 2017 debut, and it will immediately feature a breathtaking sequence of races. The teams and boats have just arrived in China, in order to participate in a triple event: starting by Zhengzhou this weekend, then moving to Weihai the week after, then again to Xiamen the week after that, for a spectacular back-to-back which will put at stake a big amount of Championship points. The season will then get to the grand finale in Dubai in the end of November.

With UIM (World Powerboating Federation) in the role of promoter, the 2017 Championship can count on the cooperation of the Chinese organizer Baia Blu d'Oriente for the first three stages: on October 13<sup>th</sup>, in Zhengzhou, in the Chinese province of Henan, with two races to be held on Saturday 14 and Sunday 15. On October 20 to 22 the circus will be in Weihai, Shangdong province, for race 3 and 4, then they will move to the far south, down to Xiamen in the Fujian region, for another two races during the weekend of October 27 to 29.

Now the drivers and the boats are in Zhengzhou ready to get into action for the first time in 2017. The circuit they will race on is quite narrow with tight turns, on the rather flat water of Long Hu ("Dragon Lake"): this will

require lightning-fast reactions from the drivers and will make the competition really close.

The 2017 lineup can count on many skilled and expert drivers, with some new entries from other powerboating disciplines. First big news comes from the reigning Champions, the Emirati duo of Arif al Zaffein and Nadir bin Hendi. While the latter is no longer in the cockpit, at least for the moment, the former is ready to defend the title along with Scott Williams from UK, with a completely new team and a new boat. The challenge will come from many competitors, first of all the UAE combo of Victory Team, who can count on the expertise of the most victorious staff. Then their "cousins" from Abu Dhabi, who demonstrated all their skills in 2016 and are now ready to fight for the final crown.

But much expectations are also on the Swede crew of Swecat Racing, and on the new 222 Offshore who will carry the name of the local organizers Baia Blu d'Oriente. Two Italian teams, Al&Al and Fujairah Racing, are also willing to have their share of glory, while Australia, Russia, Spain and Kuwait have taken big steps up and changed their boats so much that they will represent serious candidates for the top positions.

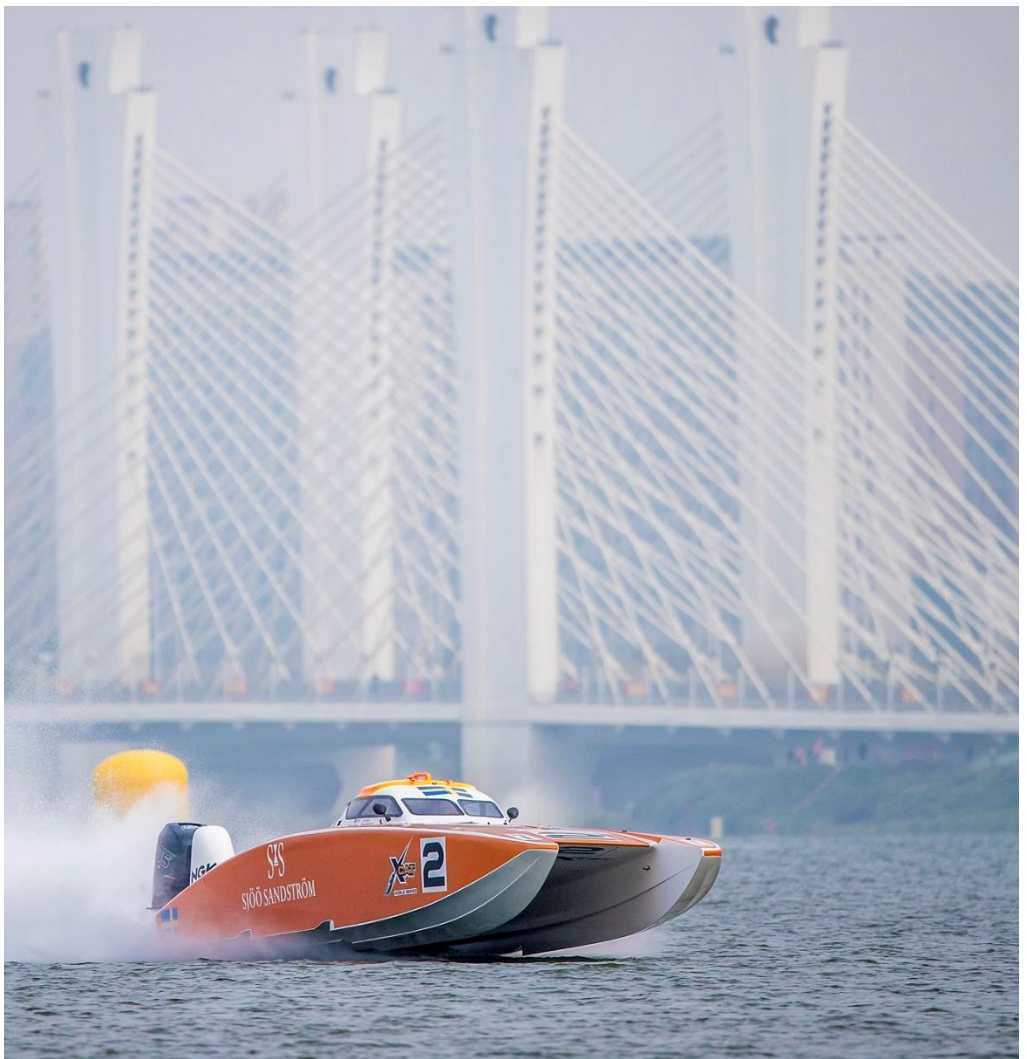
Brett Luhrmann, who represents the drivers' association, states: "For us there are many factors to be excited about, as this season we all have the new engines and some teams have new boats as well. In addition, the level of the drivers is higher and higher, so the competition will be very tough. We are eager to go in the water and start our engines".

Riccardo la Cognata for UIM, here to be joined in the next days by President Raffaele Chiulli, places emphasis on some other peculiarities of the 2017 XCAT World Championship: "This year the Championship features many news, on different aspects. The environmental impact is the lowest possible, thanks to the adoption of modern green engines, while the safety reaches new levels with the introduction of brand new safety cockpits designed by the best engineers in the field. And, last but not least, the competition: we have here this weekend 12 boats representing so many Countries around the world".

### Live from Zhengzhou, China

They say, "a good beginning bodes well", and the beginning of the 2017 XCAT couldn't be better. 10000 people reached the shores of Long Hu ("Dragon Lake"), in Zhengzhou, China, to come and see the boats and drivers get in the water for the first time this year. An unprecedented success, considering the single session of free practice scheduled for the day, and a good omen for the next two days which will see the boats fight for pole position first, then compete in two races.

As for the first shakedown in the water, it seems that the promotion of Salem al Adidi and Eisa al Ali to top drivers of the Victory Team was a good choice, as they score the provisional fastest time around the curved circuit of Zhengzhou. But the real performance will come out only tomorrow, with the Pole Position scheduled from 10:30 to 12:00 (4:30 – 6:00am CET) and Race 1 at 15:30 (9:30).





## ALEX CARELLA PUSHES TO THE LIMIT AND TAKES SENSATIONAL WIN IN LIUZHOU

Alex Carella pushed himself to the absolute limits of exhaustion to take a sensational victory in the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Liuzhou.

The Team Abu Dhabi driver was near to collapse at the end of the gruelling 48 lap race, the extreme heat and oppressive humidity clearly taking its toll. "I think I give 99 per cent and leave one to get out of the boat," he said. "It was a hard weekend, a bit of stress a bit of everything and important for the team that we got this result. This is the first time I drive this new boat in a race and it is fantastic. The engine the set-up the whole package was incredible."

Carella's win, marked the 14th victory of his career and his second of the season, and extends his lead in the championship standings to 16 points with Abu Dhabi moving further ahead in the Teams' Championship.

Second place went to Sweden's Erik Stark who described the race as 'one of the hardest of his life', with defending champion Philippe Chiappe coming home in third place for CTIC F1 Shenzhen China. Carella led from pole and for the opening laps absorbed the

early pressure from Stark before opening out a comfortable lead. But his hard work was undone on lap 14 when the yellow flag was raised to replace a drifting turn buoy allowing the chasing boats to close up.

He made no mistake on the restart and again held off Stark and was then able to dictate the pace for the remainder of the race and go on to take the win by 4.47seconds.

Despite all his efforts and the race long pressure he applied, Stark was unable to get close enough to force an error out of race leader Carella and following him home to take his second podium of the season to move up into second place in the title race. "I have never raced in such conditions. The heat inside the boat was incredible," said Stark. "I pushed as hard as I could but could not close the gap." Philippe Chiappe trailed Ahmed Al Hameli up until lap 14 but took full advantage of the yellow flag, making the telling pass two laps after the restart to secure the final podium slot to keep in touch in the title race in third spot. "I was a little cautious at the start but then I started to push a little and after the restart I had very good pace," he said.

"It was my first race in this boat and to finish on the podium is very good." Shaun Torrente produced one of the drives of the afternoon after starting from tenth and was another to take advantage of the yellow flag situation. He was up into seventh when the flag was raised and from the restart immediately passed Jonas Andersson, whose race came to a premature end on lap 37, and then set about chasing down Marit Stromoy, passing her on lap 36, Stromoy's race ending on lap 40 when her engine let go, Torrente running out the race in fifth behind his teammate.

Thani Al Qemzi completed the top six, with Mike Szymura producing his best performance and result since moving up into the top-flight from the F4-S Championship to finish in seventh after passing his former F4 rival Rashed Al Qemzi, who again missed out on his first championship points finishing in eleventh.

Bartek Marszalek made up places from starting in 14th to finish in eighth ahead of Filip Roms, with Francesco Cantando overcoming a difficult weekend to take a point in tenth.



## RASHED AL QEMZI FIRST EVER EMIRATI TO WIN THE UIM F2 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

On the day that Duarte Benavente once again became the 'talk of the town' in Ribadouro, Portugal after taking the chequered flag at the final round of the 2017 UIM F2 World Championship, all eyes though were on Rashed Al Qemzi, who became the first ever Emirati to win the World title.

"I couldn't imagine that in such a short time the team would win the UIM F2 World Championship title" said their delighted Team Principal Guido Cappellini. "The project we started was to win the title in four years and today we have done it in two."

Due to adverse weather conditions that have plagued nearly every round of this year's championship it came then as no surprise that the qualifying sessions would be interrupted and finally cancelled, along with any hope of staging the repechage. So the grid was formed up with the results from both Q1 sessions. That meant that Benavente would start from pole position. Finally the wind dropped and in calm conditions Benavente led the way at the start from Sweden's Pierre Lundin, Ferdinand Zandbergen and Nelson Morin, with Al Qemzi down in ninth and needing to push his way through the field to prevent Lundin snatching a third F2 title in the forty-five lap race.

Al-Qemzi made a good start and was able to move up to sixth on the opening lap, as Benavente and Lundin held on to first and second places. But after just three laps out came the yellow flag after Tobias Munthe-Kaas stopped on the course.

With racing soon back under way Benavente continued to hold the lead from Lundin and Zandbergen, meanwhile Al-Qemzi had climbed to fifth after briefly slipping to seventh. The Emirati remained on course for the world title and held his position through the next few laps behind Benavente, Lundin, Zandbergen and Comparato.

As the race reached half distance Team Abu Dhabi began the agonizing countdown of the laps to the chequered flag. If the positions remained like this, Lundin would earn fifteen points Al Qemzi's seven handing him the title by just five points. By two-thirds distance his job was made slightly easier when Zandbergen developed an engine problem, the team later discovered a damaged reed block was the cause, which robbed the young Dutch driver of a podium debut.

With no further stoppages Benavente led Lundin by just 2.16 seconds and despite constant pressure from the Swede, the veteran Portuguese racer held on to seal an historic win on home waters by just 1.75 seconds.

Comparato rounded off the podium and Al Qemzi reached the finish in fourth to claim the world title.



"This is a special day for me and everyone within Team Abu Dhabi and the Abu Dhabi International Marine Sports Club" said Al Qemzi.

"This title is for everyone who has supported me and to the whole team for all their efforts this season. I knew what I had to do. Losing Q3 because of the wind did not help at all, but I managed my race well and we have been rewarded with the World Championship."

Taking second place in both Ribadouro's Grand Prix and the World Championship overall was Pierre Lundin.

"That was a real fun race to finish off with" he said after the podium celebrations had died down.

"Benavente did a really good job today, plus he's way too experienced to lose a race from that position."

Equally complimentary was the race victor. "It was a real pleasure to race hard against all of these guys, there are no slow ones out there but they all race fair and as soon as they saw me in the mirrors they made it really easy for me to stay ahead of Lundin. If anyone asks how you do well in powerboat racing, then the secret to success is to enjoy yourself."

Third overall in the 2017 UIM F2 World Championship went to Nelson Morin from the China CTIC Team. The French driver continues the high standards set by the team after his brother Peter Morin took the runners up title back in 2014.

In the next couple of days the UIM General Assembly takes place in Montenegro and all eyes will be looking out for the dates and venues for the 2018 UIM F2 World Championship calendar, which will include some familiar and not so familiar venues.

## TERNOPIL'S 5TH HOSTING OF THE UIM HYDRO GP EUROPEAN AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ternopil just wrapped up its 5th "TERNOPIL HydroGP - 2017" - the fourth stage of the World Championship in the F500 class, final stage of the European Championship for both the F125 and F250 classes, as well as races for the S550 European Cup sponsored by the mayor of Ternopil.

These races have traditionally been held during the last week of August for the past 5 years.

The year of 2017 is special due to it being the 30th anniversary since the first powerboat races in Ternopil.

The first races in 1987 sparked excitement and many memories amongst both residents and visitors in Ternopil. At that time the head officials were President and Vice President of UIM, as well as the city council.

After 25 year break Victor Shemchuk's project "Ukrainian Spirit", NUPF and Ternopil's city council brought back this breathtaking event back to the city's lake. In the past 5 years the level of organization has improved greatly.

It can be seen through professionalism of the judges, rescue and medical teams as well as city's Council. The fact that everything is done right can be seen through feedback from racers, their teams, guests as well as officials and commissioners from UIM.





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This time the UIM Championship has broken a record by the amount of participating teams! To participate in championship in F500, F250 and F125 classes registered 50 teams from 13 countries (Ukraine, Austria, Bulgaria, Belorussia, Great Britain, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Germany, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary and Czech Republic)

There were 16 pilots in both F500 and F250 classes, as well as 14 in F125. Furthermore, there has been racings in S550 class (7 participants ) for the "European Cup" from the Mayor of the Ternopil city.

The championship ran on a high professional level and came to its end without any incidents, complaints or protests.

People responsible for organization as well as judges have put all that's in their power to make Ternopil comfortable and safe environment at all times. The residents of Ternopil kept tradition going and with the most hospitality welcomed racing teams and supported them throughout the event.

Thousands of people have come to the opening ceremony and the podium and it became a true celebration for both racing teams as well as city guests.

Racings in F250 class have been named "Massimo Rossi Memorial" by Viktor Shemchuk's (president of NUPF) initiative. This year's memorial plate was opened in memory of Massimo Rossi on the "Champion Alley" in Ternopil.





### OPENING OF THE 90<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF THE UIM GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN BUDVA, MONTENEGRO

Many of us may remember Budva and Montenegro for having featured prominently on Planet Powerboat already some years ago, precisely in 2008, when the Metropolis of Montenegrin Tourism hosted a UIM Class 1 Grand Prix. This year, the UIM Community is delighted to be back together on the shores of the Adriatic Sea in Budva, for the 90<sup>th</sup> UIM General Assembly.

As from Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, the 130 UIM officials, delegates, promoters and stakeholders coming from 26 countries will be warmly welcomed by the UIM Office Team and the Powerboat Federation of Montenegro.

This 90<sup>th</sup> session will be the occasion for all UIM Commissions, Committees, Working Groups, Council and Executive Committee to join forces to further strengthening UIM's leadership in Powerboating by reviewing and modernizing the regulatory foundations of the International Powerboat Sport during one week of constructive meetings leading up to the conclusive General Assembly which will be held on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

A special feature of this year's UIM Summit is the introduction of the brand new UIM Propstars Aquabike Training Manual as well as the 2017 edition of the Circuit and Offshore YDP Training Manual: two essential tools for National Authorities

wishing to promote the Powerboat Sport in the disciplines Aquabike, Circuit and Offshore competition in their country.

"Our heartfelt thanks go to the Powerboat Federation of Montenegro, its President Darko Prelevic and Secretary General Aleksandar Petrovic, for welcoming the UIM President, the Members of the UIM Council, the Commissions and the Committees as well as the Delegates of all UIM Member Federations for the International Powerboat Sport's most important institutional Event of 2017." Stated UIM Secretary General, Mr. Thomas Kurth.




 UIM  
UNION INTERNATIONALE MOTONAUTIQUE

## THE 2017 UIM ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD AND SPECIAL MENTIONS 8<sup>TH</sup> EDITION

### *2017 Environmental Award*

Encouraged by the success of past editions, the UIM is proud to launch the **2017 UIM Environmental Award and Special Mentions**.

#### WHAT ARE THE UIM ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD & SPECIAL MENTIONS ?

This award recognizes outstanding environmental leaders, whether individuals or organizations that have excelled in inspiration vision, innovation, leadership and initiatives to the benefit of the Environment.

#### WHO CAN ENTER ?

UIM Member Federations, racing teams, boat builders, engine manufacturers, universities, research centers, scientists, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's), event organizers, companies and individuals are all eligible for the 2017 UIM Environmental Award and Special Mentions.

The Awards can be won through positive and proven actions and efforts favoring the protection of the environment which result in a reduction of the environmental footprint in all types of motorboating activities.

#### WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF THE RECOGNITION ?

The 2017 UIM Environmental Award Winner and the Special Mentions will be announced early February 2018 through a press release presenting the company/ organisation and the winning projects.

The winners of the 2017 Environmental Award and Special Mentions will be invited to attend the UIM Awards Giving Gala and will be presented with a personalized trophy in presence of 500 international guests. The winners will also be offered the opportunity to present their projects at the UIM Gala press conference, attended by international press representatives, televisions, photographers and the UIM TV Production.

#### HOW TO ENTER ?

Simply complete the Entry Form for the 2017 Environmental Award incl. terms and conditions for application available on the news section of the UIM website [www.uim@uimpowerboating.com](http://www.uim@uimpowerboating.com) and return it **no later than 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017**.



We at the UIM, make it a point of honor to raise environmental performance of powerboating and make our sport a vector of environmental protection and sustainable development. We will continue to promote the optimal use of resources and materials, efficient logistics and transport, continued reduction of polluting, discharges to water and emissions to air.

The Environmental Award is the reflection of the values we hold. For this reason we continue encouraging all our stakeholders to showcase their most original initiatives and their most successful innovations in terms of sustainable eco-friendly technologies.

I believe that together, we can take up these challenges. Together, we can ensure a bright future for our Sports.

Dr. Raffaele Chiulli



If you want to be part of the UIM "Green" adventure or simply learn more about the UIM Environmental Award & Special Mentions, do not miss the 2017 Environmental Award brochure.

Main info, conditions of eligibility, former winner's projects, Sponsor opportunities...everything is included in the brochure.

You can read it on the UIM website or directly log in [HERE](#)



# UIM Aquabike Training Manual

The UIM are delighted to announce that the New UIM Propstars Aquabike Training manual will be launched at the UIM General Assembly in Montenegro in October 2017

This publication is the second training manual in the Propstars family and specialises in Aquabike Training.

## Basic

Training for the beginner

## Advanced

How to go racing

## Competition

How to win races

## Slalom

All about head to head racing

## Freestyle

The wild world of Freestyle

## Environmental

Essentials to protect the environment

## Instructors notes

Lesson plans for new Instructors

This training manual is an essential guide for National Authorities wishing to promote and encourage the growth of Aquabike competition in their region and is part of the UIM Youth Development Programme.



**Dream ...**

**Train ...**

**Race ...**



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