

De Vries does what McLaren demanded

McLAREN GAVE NYCK DE VRIES ONE instruction in 2014, and it was not up for negotiation. The Dutchman had to win the Formula Renault Eurocup at the third attempt, and he did so in dominant fashion.

De Vries had found some form in the latter part of the 2013 campaign. Remaining with Koiranen GP, he carried that momentum into 2014.

Four poles in the first six races showed he was clearly the fastest driver in the field, but the fact that he only converted one of those into a victory was a cause for concern. He rounded out the year with three wins from the final four races, and proved a point by taking his final win thanks to a "very satisfying" mid-race pass for the lead at Jerez.

It was hard to judge exactly how much de Vries stepped it up this year though, as his opposition was so inconsistent through the season. While his average grid position was 2.7, the next best in the field were 7.6 and 9.2. Challengers came and went: Bruno Bonifacio used consistency to pose an early threat, while Prema team-mate and eventual runner-up Dennis Olsen stood out on his best days but was too far down the order on others. The same could be said for Andrea Pizzitola, and towards the end



of the year Alexander Albon got things together to vault up to third in the standings.

However, it's not de Vries's fault that his opposition didn't do a good enough job on a consistent basis, and his success earned him

a Formula Renault 3.5 drive with DAMS for 2015.

● Glenn Freeman

POINTS

1 Nyck de Vries (Koiranen GP), 254; 2 Dennis Olsen (Prema Powerteam), 124; 3 Alexander

Albon (KTR), 117; 4 Andrea Pizzitola (Manor MP Motorsport), 108; 5 Bruno Bonifacio (Prema), 88; 6 Kevin Jorg (Josef Kaufmann Racing), 87; 7 Jack Aitken (Fortec Motorsport), 86; 8 Egor Orudzhev (Tech 1 Racing), 83; 9 Aurelien Panis (ART Junior Team), 82; 10 Ignazio d'Agosto (Koiranen), 73.



FORMULA RENAULT ALPS

Another title for Dutchman

THERE WAS NEVER MUCH DOUBT THAT Nyck de Vries would win the Formula Renault ALPS series.

De Vries was the class act in winning nine of the 14 races, with the most-talented of his opposition being newcomers to the category.

Monegasque karting graduate Charles Leclerc was the runner-up, with two mid-summer wins at Monza helping him overhaul rapid Russian Matevos Isaakyan.

Both Isaakyan and George Russell missed a round apiece: Russell sat out one weekend with chicken pox, while

Isaakyan couldn't contest the opening round as he wasn't yet 16, so wasn't old enough to compete! Alessio Rovera also showed good speed.

● Marcus Simmons

POINTS

1 Nyck de Vries (Koiranen GP), 300; 2 Charles Leclerc (Fortec Motorsport), 199; 3 Matevos Isaakyan (JD Motorsport), 180; 4 George Russell (Koiranen), 123; 5 Simon Gachet (Arta Engineering), 78; 6 Alessio Rovera (Cram Motorsport), 65; 7 Dario Capitanio (BVM Racing), 55; 8 Denis Korneev (JD), 46; 9 Pietro Fittipaldi (MGR Motorsport), 43; 10 Stefan Riener (Cram), 37.

FORMULA RENAULT NORTHERN EUROPEAN CUP

Barnicoat takes big steps

DERBYSHIRE'S BEN BARNICOAT did a fine job to win an ultra-close title fight in his rookie season of car racing at the season finale.

Barnicoat and Fortec team-mate Seb Morris were both double winners in a year that saw 10 drivers take victory in 13 races.

The main title rivals for the Racing Steps-backed Barnicoat were Louis Deletraz and Steijn Schothorst. Bizarrely, Deletraz was one of three different Swiss to win the first three races, while Dutchman Schothorst really should have scored more than one

victory with his experience.

A number of other Brits competed, with Jake Hughes and Raoul Owens both in the top 10.

● Marcus Simmons

POINTS

1 Ben Barnicoat (Fortec Motorsport), 258; 2 Louis Deletraz (Josef Kaufmann Racing), 242; 3 Seb Morris (Fortec), 224; 4 Steijn Schothorst (Manor MP Motorsport), 224; 5 Gustav Malja (JKR), 193; 6 Ukyo Sasahara (Euronova Racing), 191; 7 Callan O'Keeffe (ART Junior Team/KTR), 187; 8 Jake Hughes (Mark Burdett Motorsport/ART), 152; 9 Ryan Tveter (JKR), 150; 10 Raoul Owens (MBM), 125.

