

EUROPEAN RALLY CHAMPIONSHIP ACROPOLIS RALLY (GR), OCTOBER 9-11 RD 9/10

Kajetanowicz as Breen unstuck by mud

THE ACROPOLIS RALLY WAS A DREAM come true for Kajetan Kajetanowicz, who became 2015 European Rally champion with victory in his LOTOS Rally Team Ford Fiesta R5.

For others the rally was nothing short of a nightmare, with torrential rain forcing the cancellation of the last three stages, which almost certainly cost Craig Breen victory.

The Irishman had been by far the quickest driver in Greece. He'd lost time on the Saturday night stage when his Peugeot Rally Academy 208 T16's rear tracking was out, but two stunning times on Sunday morning gave him a 33.7-second lead. That advantage was lost when the bonnet flew open on SS6 and blocked his view. That left him 10 seconds behind Kajetanowicz – no real problem, as the champion elect was hardly pushing hard, except that a big thunderstorm turned the normally hard dusty gravel roads into a mud bath, and the remaining



Kajetanowicz presses on before the rain



Breen was scuppered

three stages were cancelled.

Kajetanowicz is a worthy champion, having recorded three wins and consistently high scores all season. He is the third Polish driver to win the ERC title, following Sobieslaw Zasada (1966, '67, '71) and Krzysztof Holowczyc (1997).

Local driver Lambros Athanassoulas had sold the Waves nightclub in Loutraki to fund a new Skoda Fabia R5. Despite a four-year

break, he led overnight and eventually achieved his aim of a podium finish.

Alexey Lukyanuk mistook a tight hairpin for a fast fourth-gear corner and put his Fiesta R5 into a wall. Robert Consani slid his Citroen DS3 R5 off the road on a particularly slippery section, while Bruno Magalhaes stopped after his Peugeot 208 T16 broke its front suspension. ● Paul Evans

RESULTS

1 Kajetanowicz/Jaroslaw Baran (Ford Fiesta R5), 1h32m11.1s; 2 Craig Breen/Scott Martin (Peugeot 208 T16), +10.0s; 3 Lambros Athanassoulas/Nikolaos Zakheos (Skoda Fabia R5); 4 Jaromir Tarabus/Daniel Trunkat (Skoda Fabia S2000); 5 David Botka/Peter Szeles (Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX); 6 Raul Jeets/Andrus Toom (Ford). **POINTS**
1 Kajetanowicz, 230; 2 Breen, 162; 3 Alexey Lukyanuk, 124; 4 Robert Consani, 79; 5 Tarabus, 75; 6 Bruno Magalhaes, 68.

ASIAN LE MANS SERIES
FUJI (J), OCTOBER 10 RD 1/4

Nakano puts in best race performance

THE SWISS RACE PERFORMANCE LMP2 squad claimed a clear victory in the opening round of the 2015-16 Asian Le Mans Series after its only rival for race honours in the 13-car field hit trouble.

Shinji Nakano and Nicolas Leutwiler came home with a one-lap margin aboard their ORECA-Judd/BMW 03R over the Clearwater Racing McLaren 650S GT3 driven by Rob Bell, Keita Sawa and Mok Weng Sun at the end of the two-hour race. The Eurasia Motorsport ORECA, a Nissan-engined version, led to the first pitstops in the hands of Tristan Gommendy, after which William Lok relinquished



Race Performance
ORECA on top

the lead to Leutwiler.

The result was put beyond doubt when Tacksung Kim stalled the Eurasia car in the pits and flattened the battery. A heavy flat-spot resulted in a puncture and the car finished eight laps down in 10th and last position.

● Gary Watkins

RESULTS

1 Shinji Nakano/Niki Leutwiler (ORECA-Judd 03R), 70 laps in 2h00m48.837s; 2 Rob Bell/Keita Sawa/Mok Weng Sun (McLaren 650S GT3); 3 Ho-Pin Tung/David Cheng (Ligier-Nissan JSP3); 4 Rui Aguas/Nasrat Muzayyin (Ferrari 458 Italia GT3); 5 Shinya Hosokawa/Hiroki Yoshimoto/Han Chen Chen (BMW Z4 GT3); 6 Pierre Kaffer/Miro Konopka (Audi R8 LMS ultra).

FORMULA RENAULT ALPS JEREZ (E), OCTOBER 10-11 RD 7/7

Aitken grabs it at last gasp

JACK AITKEN LEAPFROGGED FELLOW Brit and Koiranen GP team-mate Jake Hughes for the title in the final race of the season.

Aitken stayed close to wildcard runner Anthoine Hubert's Tech 1 Racing machine in Saturday's race to claim a maximum score, with Ben Barnicoat – another wildcard entrant – taking third in his Fortec Motorsport car.

Hughes took points for second, in fourth place, to take a five-point lead into the finale, while Matevos

Isaakyan (thanks to a collision), Thiago Vivacqua and Stefan Riener all fell mathematically out of championship contention.

Barnicoat chased Fortec team-mate Martin Kodric all the way in race two, but the Croatian slipped to fourth thanks to a 10-second penalty for jumping the start.

In a chaotic red-flag-infested qualifying session, Aitken and Hughes had qualified 10th and 19th respectively. But both charged in the race, Aitken's third place (and another maximum score) behind Hubert allowing him the season verdict over ninth-placed Hughes.



Aitken is ALPS champ

RESULTS

RACE 1 1 Anthoine Hubert, 16 laps in 27m23.918s; 2 Jack Aitken, +0.972s; 3 Ben Barnicoat; 4 Jake Hughes; 5 Vasily Romanov; 6 Jehan Daruvala. **RACE 2 1 Barnicoat**, 16 laps in 27m31.532s; 2 Hubert, +3.591s; 3 Aitken; 4 Martin Kodric; 5 Max Defourny; 6 Thiago Vivacqua. **POINTS 1 Aitken, 242**; 2 Hughes, 237; 3 Vivacqua, 197; 4 Matevos Isaakyan, 193; 5 Stefan Riener, 191; 6 Romanov, 138.