



BAHRAIN GRAND PRIX QUALIFYING

VALTTERI BOTTAS CLAIMS HIS FIRST POLE FOR MERCEDES AND SAVES A NEW SET OF SUPERSOFT TYRES

TWO-STOP STRATEGY LIKELY TOMORROW, DEPENDING ON TRACK CONDITIONS

FASTEST-EVER LAP OF SAKHIR CIRCUIT SET IN Q3

Sakhir, April 15, 2017 – The fastest-ever lap of the Bahrain International Circuit was set tonight thanks to Valtteri Bottas's pole time of 1m28.769s for Mercedes on the supersoft tyre. Conditions remained warm, with track temperatures of 37 degrees centigrade for the evening qualifying session. Bottas was one of three drivers, together with Hamilton and Vettel, to save a set of supersoft tyres by using only one set of soft tyres in Q1.

MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

"Today we saw the fastest-ever lap of Bahrain in qualifying, using the supersoft tyre. Depending on track conditions tomorrow, drivers might opt for a one-stop or a two-stop strategy. There's still enough of a time difference between the soft and the supersoft tyre to make some variations in strategy possible. As the teams seem very closely matched in terms of race pace, this could well make the difference."

HOW THE TYRES BEHAVED TODAY



WHITE MEDIUM

Not used in qualifying and unlikely to be seen in the race tomorrow.



YELLOW SOFT

Hamilton, Bottas and Vettel used just one set of soft in Q1.



RED SUPERSOFT

The predominant qualifying tyre, more than a second faster than the soft.

FREE PRACTICE 3 – TOP 3 TIMES

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Verstappen	1m 32.194s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 32.304s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 32.750s	SUPERSOFT USED



QUALIFYING TOP 10

DRIVER	TIME	COMPOUND
Bottas	1m 28.769s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hamilton	1m 28.792s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Vettel	1m 29.247s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Ricciardo	1m 29.545s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Raikkonen	1m 29.567s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Verstappen	1m 29.687s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Hulkenberg	1m 29.842s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Massa	1m 30.074s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Grosjean	1m 30.763s	SUPERSOFT NEW
Palmer	1m 31.074s	SUPERSOFT NEW

MOST LAPS BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
MEDIUM	Ocon, Ricciardo, Stroll	12
SOFT	Stroll	26
SUPERSOFT	Ericsson	26

BEST TIME BY COMPOUND SO FAR

COMPOUND	DRIVER	TIME
MEDIUM	Hamilton	1m 36.708s
SOFT	Hamilton	1m 30.814s
SUPERSOFT	Bottas	1m 28.769s



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