

PEDRO PIQUET (SMP Racing by AVF) TAKES FASTEST TIME IN BAHRAIN

› World Series Formula V8 3.5 takes the last checkered flag after 20 years

(22/11/2017) **The last of the Collective Test days marks the very end of World Series promoted by RPM-MKTG continually over the last 20 years, flourishing many top-class drivers in motorsports. Pedro Piquet (SMP Racing by AVF) got the best lap time of the day in the morning session: 1:43.623. Jean Daruvala (Fortec Motorsports), part of the Sahara Force India Formula 1 junior program, was the fastest guy in the afternoon.**

Cloudy weather kept the track temperature cool, so all the drivers have been able to avoid tyre wear. A red flag during morning session was necessary to recover Yan Shlom (Fortec Motorsports) in turn 1, while in the afternoon, with one hour left, few rain drops came on track.

Thanks to the afternoon session, Daruvala is runner up in the day's combined ranking, while Russian Sholm, after a solid work in the two days, sets the third time. Good job as well for Formula 4 promoted, Lirim Zendeli (Lotus), and race-winner Henrique Chaves (SMP Racing by AVF).

Diego Menchaca (Lotus) worked hard to drive the champion car, as he raced the whole season with Fortec Motorsports and he finished second among the Rookies. The Mexican was the last one to cross the finish line, taking the very last chequered flag of the World Series history.

Pedro Piquet (SMP Racing by AVF)

"Morning was good, we're really on it, we worked well. In the afternoon it was strange, we struggled a bit on both new and used set. I improved in the end, anyway was a nice test. I've learned a lot from this car: it's fast and enjoyable to drive. Feeling was good as well with the carbon brakes, a great car, I'm a bit tired, but I'm happy with that".

Jehan Daruvala (Fortec Motorsports)

"That's a comeback for me, last time was 2015, and I simply love this car. The day was good. I had to adapt a bit to the track and to the car, and I had no new tyres since I didn't run the first day. I think we worked well and when I put the right tyres I showed my pace. This car is amazing, has a lot of downforce. I would have love to race here, but unfortunately this is not going to happen".

Yan Shlom (Fortec Motorsports)

"I didn't expect this car would have been so fast. I'm happy about this two days, we worked well with the team, carbon brakes are the most impressive things coming from Formula 3, power as well: the acceleration is amazing, feeling is great. It's just a shame everything is finished".