

Rene Binder (Lotus) fastest in collective testing at Bahrain International Circuit

Scoring the fastest lap of the night practice session, Rene Binder (Lotus) took the lead at Bahrain with a lap of 1:44.153 in better weather conditions and with more rubber laid on-track. The Austrian was followed, just 0,576s away, by Diego Menchaca (Fortec Motorsports), who had secured the lead in practice 1. Menchaca was also the best rookie of Collective Test 2, while fellow countryman and team-mate Alfonso Celis Jr (Fortec Motorsports), third driver of Sahara Force India in Formula One, finished in P3.

(16 November 2017) The opening day of the World Series Formula V8 3.5 at Bahrain International Circuit, in the ninth and final event of the 2017 season, was successfully completed today at the Middle Eastern venue. The RPM-MKTG series, as happened in the previous rounds supporting the FIA WEC at Spa-Francorchamps and Austin, sees the traditional scheduled anticipated by one day. Today will also be remembered for night running, a first time for the World Series V8 3.5. The series once again proved it is one of the most diverse on the international scene.

With Egor Orudzhev absent due to acute angina last night in Moscow, as reported by SMP Racing, the Russian operation assisted on-track by AVF called compatriot Konstantin Tereschenko to drive. The Russian finished fifth, behind team-mate Matevos Isaakyan (SMP Racing by AVF). Championship leader Pietro Fittipaldi (Lotus) had to settle for P8.

Two new entries are present for the Bahrain race, Henrique Chaves (AVF), who finished sixth, and Tatiana Calderon (RP Motorsport). The Colombian female racer raised the number of drivers with links in Formula 1 running in the World Series Formula V8 3.5, as she is Sauber Formula 1 Team's Development Driver.

Rene Binder (Lotus)

"Of course I am happy with how the final race weekend of the season started. I managed to keep the positive momentum from Austin and post the fastest lap time this evening. There is still a lot of work to do until the final race is completed on Saturday, but Lotus provided me with a very competitive car. I will try to get the maximum out of it".

Alfonso Celis Jr (Fortec Motorsports)

"It has been a frustrating day in general, as we have been losing straight line speed since Austin. The engine gets heated up pretty easily, and the evening session was beneficial for us, but generally we're struggling on that side. We'll try to do our best tomorrow, but if nothing changes it's going to be a nightmare".

Diego Menchaca (Fortec Motorsports)

"It was a positive day. I didn't know the track, and in warm conditions, the same we will have in quly tomorrow, it went good. In the night we're competitive as well, I just made a small mistake in my second push lap, but we can grow up fast. Of course, I want to thank the team for the great car. Let's see how it goes tomorrow".