

## MERCEDES DRIVER LEWIS HAMILTON WINS WITH A TWO-STOP STRATEGY, AFTER DEBRIS CAUSES A PUNCTURE FOR HIS TEAM MATE VALTTERI BOTTAS

### NEARLY ALL THE DRIVERS SWITCH TO ULTRASOFT FOR A FINAL FOUR-LAP SPRINT TO THE CHEQUERED FLAG, IN COOL AND WINDY CONDITIONS

### TWO PIT STOPS FOR THE MAJORITY OF DRIVERS IN BAKU WITH A VARIETY OF DIFFERENT STRATEGIES THROUGHOUT THE TOP 10




*Baku, April 29, 2018* – As expected, the appearance of the safety car had a decisive impact on the outcome of the Azerbaijan Grand Prix. This prompted all the frontrunners to switch to the ultrasoft for the final few laps and fell conveniently within the pit-stop window for Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas, who had been leading the race at the time – on his original set of supersoft starting tyres. After the re-start, Bottas punctured due to on-track debris, with his team mate Lewis Hamilton going on to win: having changed tyres twice.

Most drivers chose the supersoft to begin the race, but all three compounds were seen at the start, with many drivers also using all three during the race. In total, there were six different combinations of tyre strategy seen in the top 10 at the finish, with two safety car periods affecting the race. These had the effect of limiting tyre wear and degradation on the second-longest track of the year.

#### MARIO ISOLA - HEAD OF CAR RACING

*“There were a number of different strategy combinations at the Azerbaijan Grand Prix and it was interesting to see all three compounds used extensively during the race, with varying strategies for each driver. The safety car’s intervention had a strong influence on the race outcome, but Bottas also managed an extremely long stint on the supersoft tyres before the win went to his team mate Hamilton, who capitalised on every opportunity and again used all three compounds. With the cool conditions, long straight, and yellow flag plus safety car interruptions, maintaining tyre temperature was a challenge, particularly at the re-starts. Congratulations also to Formula 2 champion Charles Leclerc, who took his best result by finishing sixth.”*

#### BEST TIME BY COMPOUND

		
Hamilton 1m45.412s	Bottas 1m45.149s	Ricciardo 1m45.602s
Vettel 1m45.530s	Ricciardo 1m45.419s	Hamilton 1m46.017s
Raikkonen 1m46.859s	Verstappen 1m45.771s	Vettel 1m46.344s

#### LONGEST STINT OF THE RACE

COMPOUND	DRIVER	LAPS
SOFT	Alonso, Raikkonen	39
SUPERSOFT	Bottas	40
ULTRASOFT	Hartley	21

## TRUTHOMETER

Lewis Hamilton won the race using two pit stops, going from supersoft to soft on lap 22 and then to ultrasoft under the safety car on lap 40. The top three all used completely different strategies.

Car	Driver	Start	Pit 1	Pit 2	Pit 3	Pit 4
44	HAM	SSu	Sn (22)	USn (40)		
7	RAI	USu	Sn (1)	USn (40)		
11	PER	USu	Sn (2)	SSn (40)		
5	VET	SSu	Sn (30)	USn (40)		
55	SAI	USu	Sn (15)	USu (40)		
16	LEC	SSn	Sn (24)	USn (40)		
14	ALO	SSn	Sn (1)	USu (40)		
18	STR	SSn	Sn (23)	USn (40)		
2	VAN	SSn	Sn (17)	USn (25)	USn (39)	USu (46)
28	HAR	Sn	USn (1)	SSn (22)	USn (39)	
9	ERI	SSn	Sn (1)	USn (18)	USn (36)	
10	GAS	USn	Sn (12)	USn (39)		
20	MAG	SSn	Sn (1)	USn (39)		
77	BOT	SSu	USu (40)			
8	GRO	Sn	SSn (2)	USn (40)		
33	VER	SSu	USn (38)			
3	RIC	SSu	USn (37)			
27	HUL	USu				
31	OCO	USu				
35	SIR	SSn				

US= Ultrasoft

SS= Supersoft

S= Soft n= new

u= used

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