



1/8th Off Road Buggy:
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EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF RADIO OPERATED MODEL AUTOMOBILES

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XXXVI EFRA EC A in the books

My dear sportfriends,

Back home from a successful event, and an excellent one.

The XXXVI European Championship A has been celebrated this past week at Redovan, Alicante, Spain. Nearby the Sun as said by some comments I did receive (but really by the Mediterranean Sea). The Organising club, RedovanRC has done an ultimate excellent job with the support of the Spanish Association, AECAR. They gave us a real good demonstration of how to put a state of the art event, during the 5 days of the Championship.

The RedovanRC club lead by the Baldo family, helped by a lot of fine crew has built & maintained an excellent track and facilities to make such a big race possible.

With more than 175 drivers enlisted, but finally 156 drivers showed up at the track site, together with their mechanics and supporting crew, nearly 500 people were present at the region to enjoy its weather, food, lodging and life.

The weather has respected us, some moments too hot and some moments too windy, and we have had a great time at the venue. The temperature may have had a role on the final result but races are races. It was just another challenge that the drivers had to deal with, together with a high demanding but fun track layout. Yes, the track layout has been highly appreciated, and has now reached the status of a new RC Off Road Cathedral. 560 meters long and lap times in the range from 52 to 58 seconds.

The event has geared up with a Practice day on Tuesday, 3 short runs of 5 minutes and one long of 9 minutes and an introductory Team Manager Meeting by lunch time. The controlled practice rounds took part on Wednesday after a shake down round early in the morning, used for reseeding purposes in the afternoon after a good lunch time at the premises restaurant (excellent job there too, really appreciated by ALL attendants).

All chassis marked at Technical inspection with people starting to suffer from the EFRA measuring box, fair to everyone limiting the extra-play of car width, either in front or the back. Loved or not, the box is tailored to the rule. This confirms it is time in EFRA to think on producing a short series of measuring boxes on demand of its member countries.

Then the reseeding of new groups, and the opening ceremony took place with a lot of pictures and short speeches by Town Council Major and your EFRA Section Chairman. Afterwards the Organizer invited everyone to beer and soft drinks by the bar, so the friendly atmosphere was there.

Next day, Thursday, we had our first Qualifying Day, 3 rounds of qualifying, but before its real start the drivers enjoy the "Sort Out Problems Round", a last practice for all of them. It was a good racing day with the help of our 2 superb referees, Mark Stitson & Javier Garcia.

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Everything was open at the end of the day for the final 2 rounds of Qualifying on Friday morning. Before the final round, the TQ position went to the Title defender Mr. Elliot Boots.

Saturday is the final day at our 5 days events, our EFRA TV Media Partner, RC Racing TV, was there from the EFRA Opening Ceremony, to broadcast an exciting day of races and celebrating its 10th anniversary broadcasting RC events. Here, again, we must highlight the impressive work done at lap-counting by Javier Llobregat performing a perfect job and helping everyone and even catching by hand all the missed laps of all weak transponders weak or broken.

Before the main final we had the 2 exhibition finals, the A youth one won by Burak Kilic from Germany, followed by the Finn J. Haatanen and the Englishman J. Skidmore, a remark here, that his brother Berkan Kilic won the B youth race, so it's a family matter. The Over 40 race was won by the French Stephane Deroch, with an overconfident Carmelo Baldo only worried by the 3rd driver, Kiko Navarro, so the clever French driver took his chance. Thanks to all drivers for the good exhibition races, We have learned and there have been trophies for such races.

The line-up of the main final was impressive, 4 Spaniards 3 English drivers, 2 Italians, 1 Swedish, 1 French and 1 Austrian driver with 2 juniors fighting for the absolute title and for the junior title as well, the new blood is ensured at the 1:8 Buggy Section in EFRA. It looks like a triangle race among Robert Battle, Elliot Boots & David Ronnefalk who made they own race fighting for the title.

The outcome of the main final was impressive as well, the domination done by the 3 drivers looks like going to be in the last 15 minutes of a race, among Battle & Ronnefalk but at the end it was completely the other way around. Both of them suffered mechanical problems at minute 32 of the race and left the field very easy to renew the title to the Kyosho driver Elliot Boots.

Another interest of the race has been the fight for the youth title, nearly 45 minutes together among Canas and Ongaro, finally going to Canas by less than 2 seconds

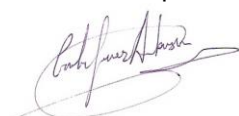
The second overall went to a happy Yannick Aigoïn, while the third went to another Englishman, Neil Cragg.

At Nations Cup the winner has been Great Britain followed by Spain and Italy, while the overall over 40 was won by Daniel Vega with the junior medal going to Juan Carlos Canas

I must point my special admiration to the sporting behaviour of a young driver who run to collect both leaders car at the main final, and the importance of the real knowledge of the rules and respecting those as 154 drivers have done. Undesirable attitudes are not acceptable at all. Big thanks from EFRA side to the City of Redovan, the Baldo family (Tono, Carmelo, Jose, Brian & Oscar & the rest), the Redovan Club, the cafeteria crew and AECAR and to all other Sponsors of the event. Big applause to all of you and that one includes as well the Race Direction of the event done at excellent level by Mr. Alfonso Pineda and Pencho, and the complete Technical Inspection Crew.

Please, find joined as pdf file the results of the event.

With my best regards
Yours in the sport



Carlos Gomez,
EFRA 1/8th Off Road
SECTION CHAIRMAN