P.D.B. Racing Team

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP Round 1
MURO LECCESE (I), 19/04/09

CONSISTENCY IS THE KEY

The first round of the European SKF Championship held at La Conca proved once again that PDB ace Manuel Renaudie consistent performance always makes the difference. The French driver propelled Peter de Bruijn's team to a comfortable third position in the championship, after grabbing 6th and 4th in final 1 and 2 respectively. Manuel's 12th time in qualifying practice shows a bit of lack of power in his equipment, but in the heats the Frenchman takes 2nd and 5th twice to start final 1 from 2nd on the grid. The main race of Sunday programme is as hard as it gets. On lap 1 Manuel loses one position, and by lap 7 is fighting for mid ranking position. Thanks to the tenacity he's well known for, Manuel managed to fight back and overtake some of his rivals to finish 6th. *"After starting from row 1, I expected to do better than 6th,* - admits Manuel - *but the rain and the tyre problems I experienced it could have gone even worse."* After a difficult start, final 2 turns in Manuel's favour on lap 5, when he grabs 4th and few laps later overtakes for 2nd, hunting down the leader. Probably he asks too much off his tyres, and with 4 laps to go, Renaudie drops back to 4th, unable to close the 2 hundreds of a second gap from 3rd place man and fight for the podium. *"I didn't make the podium today* – says Manuel – *but I'm happy because 6th and 4th in the two finals mean valuable points. Now I'm 3rd in the championship, which is definitely in our reach."*

Finn Jarno Hamppi struggled to find the right set up in timed practice and qualifying heats, but in final 1 he manages a good 12th position off 19th on the grid, grabbing 4 championship points.

Peter de Bruijn, PDB Team Principal, talks with optimism.

"We didn't manage to go through the heats in KZ2 with our three drivers, but Manuel did a superb job in SKF, where our title chances are looking good. We will keep up the good work, with the confidence that hard work always pays off."