



CIK-FIA WORLD CUP FOR SKF
SUZUKA (J), 21-24/05/09

PDB A BREATH AWAY FROM THE WORLD CUP

Peter de Bruijn's PDB Racing Team goes very close to the Suzuka World Cup title thanks to its top driver, Frenchman Manuel Renaudie. All Peter's efforts go into Manuel's equipment, who is up against the best in the world supported by the respective factory teams. The start of the weekend is promising. In fact, in timed practice Manuel stops the ninth fastest lap time at only 0"085 from pole. In Heat 1 he ends in 4th marking very consistent lap times, and in Heat 2 he moves up to 2nd but a broken accelerator cable at only 100 metres from the chequered flag force him to finish 14th. As a result of this unfortunate mechanical problem, Manuel is forced to start the prefinal from 11th on the grid. And the prefinal is very tough: Manuel makes up two positions in the first few laps, but then he drops down to 14th, going on to close in 10th. Not all is lost, PDB Racing Team equipment is up for the task and Manuel pulls off one of his great performances when it matters most. In fact the final looks promising from the very start: Manuel still laps with the fastest drivers on

track and manages to keep off trouble, making up position after position. On lap 2 he's 8th, on lap 3 he's 7th, and by lap 6 he's 5th. Unstoppable Manuel! The French driver is on fire, three more laps and he's 4th, and by half way through the race he's on the virtual podium. Manuel continues lapping in the 48"3s, on lap 19 he marks fastest lap of the race (48"304) and two laps later he grabs a fantastic 2nd, starting to chase down the leader. Too few laps remain though, and Manuel at less than 1" from the leader has to be content with the vice World Cup title, another truly deserved trophy for the French driver that pays off PDB Racing Team brilliant effort.

"Manuel was truly outstanding and he once again showed to be on the ball when it most counts - says Peter de Bruijn -. It's a pity he ran out of laps because he was closing down on the leader who was lapping almost 2 tenths slower. But I have to say congratulations to Manuel for another brilliant performance."

