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SEPTEMBER 18, 2008 NEWS

Ontario F1200: Ellis Captures 2008 Vallis Cup

As part of the 2008 Ontario Formula 1200 Championship series, Mosport International Raceway hosted the second annual Vallis Cup presented by eFormulaCarNews.com on September 13-14. In a repeat of the inaugural race one



The 2008 Vallis Cup featured three races decided by less than two tenths of a second (Photo: Teresa Matkovich - photoartsinternational.com)

year ago, the award winner was only decided following the final race of the weekend tripleheader, with Alexander Ellis narrowly edging Michael Iamundi.

Running conjunction with the British Empire Motor Club Indian Summer event, the European trophy race style Vallis Cup, named in honor of longtime F1200 supporter Bill Vallis, got underway Saturday via a morning practice session. Unfortunately before the action truly got going, the event was over for one of the leading drivers in the Formula 1200 Championship, as Team Grote/TLM Racing's Dylan Gibson crashed heavily in turn nine. Following a brief trip to the hospital, the talented rookie returned to the track to cheer on his teammates for the rest of the weekend.

After a brief break, the F1200 race pilots were back on-course for the lone qualifying session of the event, setting the grid for Round 13 of the series and race one of the Vallis Cup. For second consecutive year, Robert Tronchi was the man to beat in qualifying, securing the pole position for the opening race of the 2008 Vallis Cup. Starting alongside on the front-row via the second fastest time in the session was Ellis.

Given Ellis and Iamundi had won the previous seven Formula 1200 Championship races, it came as little surprise that soon after the green flag waved for race one of the weekend tripleheader that the duo were once again

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battling for top honors. While the fight for the race lead garnered much of the attention, Tronchi and Andrew McMurray were engaged in no less of a thrilling fight for the final podium position. Further adding to the entertainment value for the fans on hand, the rest of the field ran in close formation for the majority of the race, with positions routinely changing more than once a lap. At the conclusion of the 12-lap affair, Ellis took the early lead in the fight for the Vallis Cup, edging Iamundi by a mere 0.162s at the stripe. Tronchi came home third, leading McMurray and Greg Brenzil to the start/finish.

With the finishing order from race one setting the grid for race two, the Vallis Cup competitors were back behind the wheel early Sunday morning. Showcasing why the Ontario Formula 1200 Championship is one of the most competitive and highly entertaining junior open-wheel series in North America, the action in Round 14 once again proved to be a thrilling to watch. Immediately upon the green flag waving, Ellis and Iamundi renewed their fight for series supremacy, running nose-to-tail around the high-speed Canadian road course. This time however, the fight for race honors was not limited to two cars, as Tronchi latched on to the battle for position. Not far behind the lead trio, the fight was just as intense, with Eric Barrett, Phil Wang and David Aird running nose-to-tail. Once again coming down to the final sequence of corners, Ellis made it two-for-two, taking the checkered flag 0.074s ahead of Iamundi, who in turn was a mere 0.114s ahead of Tronchi. McMurray crossed the stripe in fourth, while Barrett emerged ahead of the second pack of cars in fifth.



*Alexander Ellis secured the 2008 Vallis Cup by a single point
 (Photo: Teresa Matkovich - photoartsinternational.com)*

Rolling back on-course a short time after the lunch break, the Vallis Cup was still up for grabs when the green flag waved for Round 15 of the Formula 1200 Championship. Unlike the previous two races, which almost immediately witnessed a two or three car break, the

lead pack in race three remained a multi-car fight, with the top-six running in close formation from start-to-finish. Utilizing the draft to full effect down the long Andretti straight, positions shuffled lap after lap. Fighting not only for the Vallis Cup, but also vital championship points ahead of the final event of the season, it was anyone's guess who would be out front when the checkered flag waved. Remaining the series leader, Iamundi was the first driver to cross the stripe at the conclusion of the 12-lap race. Only 0.088s later Brenzil, having crashed in the morning warm-up and missed the first race of the day, was next driver to take the checkered flag. A further 0.266s adrift, Ellis completed the top-three, narrowly edging Tronchi and Barrett to the start/finish. With the podium finish, Ellis captured the 2008 Vallis Cup by a single point over

Iamundi. Wang, finishing sixth in all three races, was third in Vallis Cup standings.

The Ontario Formula 1200 Championship season comes to a close on September 27-28, with Rounds 16, 17 and 18 taking place at Mosport International Raceway. Iamundi enters the weekend with a 50-point advantage over Ellis in the championship standings. With Ellis scheduled to miss the final event due to participation in the Formula BMW Americas scholarship runoffs in Spain, Iamundi has unofficially captured the series title.

Formula 1200 Championship

Vallis Cup Results

September 13-14, 2008

Mosport International Raceway – Bowmanville, Ontario

| Pos. | Driver | Pts | Race 1 | Race 2 | Race 3 |
|------|-----------------|-----|--------|--------|--------|
| 1 | Alexander Ellis | 277 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| 2 | Michael Iamundi | 276 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| 3 | Phil Wang | 159 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| 4 | Robert Tronchi | 222 | 3 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | Greg Brenzil | 148 | 5 | - | 2 |
| 6 | Eric Barrett | 210 | 11 | 5 | 5 |
| 7 | Andrew McMurray | 136 | 4 | 4 | - |
| 8 | David Aird | 128 | 7 | 7 | 9 |
| 9 | Sam Ashtiani | 123 | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| 10 | Eugene Cartini | 118 | 9 | 9 | 7 |
| 11 | Kyle Kosir | 96 | 10 | 10 | 10 |

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