

Press release 15/06/09

Success in Finland.

Arnold Neveling enjoyed a successful weekend at Alastaro in Finland by taking his second podium for the 2009 season and moving himself into 3rd place in the championship standings.

Practise.

The race weekend started with 3 free practise sessions on Wednesday and another 3 on Thursday, allowing the drivers enough time to learn the circuit and make the necessary setup adjustments. During these free practise sessions Arnold soon got to grips with the track, regularly posting top 6 lap times. Arnold and the team was reasonably satisfied, but they wanted more...



Qualifying.

With the rain falling overnight, a wet track was presented for qualifying. At the start of the qualifying session, Arnold immediately went to the top of the lap charts.

With the track drying out the team made the change to slicks. Arnold used this opportunity well by remaining fastest right up till the dying moments of qualifying, just missing out right at the end, leaving him in 3rd place, securing a second row start.

Race 1.

On a dry but cloudy track Arnold lost some ground on the start but recovered his 3rd place by using a wide line through turn one. The young South African clearly had the pace during the first part of the race as he applied pressure on the second placed driver. With very little overtaking opportunity on the Finnish circuit, he could not find his way into second.

Settling for a sensible 3rd place, rather than risking a do-or-die move, he kept a close following distance and brought the car home in 3rd.

This result gave him his second podium in only 3 race weekends.

Race 2.

The Formula Renault NEC format calls for a reverse grid for the top 8 finishers of race one for the start of the second race. Conditions for Sunday's race weren't exactly ideal, as temperature dropped to around 9 deg. Celsius.

The damp, cold track that was quickly drying out, testing the young drivers' skills to the limit.

A good start from 6th and again using the outside line in the first corner helped Arnold move up to take 5th in turn one.

Alastaro circuit being short and tight, overtaking is very difficult and risky. Arnold was under pressure from behind, whilst still applying maximum pressure on the 4th placed car. He could not find the opportunity to pass, but a 5th place meant he would be 3rd in the series, just 6 points behind the leader.

Looking forward.

Finances allowing, Arnold's next race will be at Oschersleben in Germany where he will be pushing forward to once again finish on the podium and hopefully taste his first victory.

Arnold's comments:

"This has been a very rewarding weekend for me and the team and I am very happy with the outcome. Despite not being the fastest during testing on Wednesday and Thursday we remained positive as we kept improving our set-up. In the damp qualifying conditions, I was able to really push the car and just missed out on pole position.

To go away from this weekend with another podium, a 5th place and more importantly 3rd in the championship has boosted my confidence.

The NECup is proving to be a very competitive series. I just have to keep these good results up in Oschersleben next weekend.

"I'm sure the car will be good there, the team has shown at each race weekend that they understand the car very well and they are able to prepare a race-winning car."

