



SOUTH GARDA KARTING - LONATO (BRESCIA, ITALY)

## SPECTACULAR END TO THE WINTER CUP IN LONATO

***KZ2 victory to Ben Hanley, who made it four wins in the Winter Cup, Hannes Janker won OK, Paul Aron OK-Junior and Andrea Kimi Antonelli Mini Rok.***

Edition 23 of the Winter Cup has been another memorable one. The traditional event part of the CIK-FIA calendar that took place at the South Garda Karting circuit of Lonato has been highly spectacular with 322 drivers verified out of the entered 333 coming from 40 different Nations, virtually covering the whole globe.

The most important outfits and the strongest teams have been taken part to this racing weekend with their top drivers. The race has been a spectacular event in an intense and successful weekend, despite the rain fallen from Saturday evening making the circuit tricky nearly until the last race on Sunday. Luckily, there was no big incident anyway and everything went smoothly until the final chequered flag closing the curtains on the **KZ2** Final with the victory taken by the British driver **Ben Hanley** on the new Drago Corse chassis pushed by TM on Bridgestone tyres.

**KZ2 TO BEN HANLEY.** Fourth win in the Winter Cup and victory record for **Ben Hanley**, who claimed the Final of the 23rd edition pipping the French **Anthony Abbasse** (Sodikart-Tm) and the Italian **Fabian Federer** (CRG-Tm) at the sprint to the line. Among the quickest on track, **Francesco Celenta** (Praga-Tm) was fourth, **Jeremy Iglesias** (Formula K-Tm) was sixth but posted the fastest lap of the race, and 2017 World Champion **Paolo De Conto** (CRG-Tm) recovered well from the last spot of the grid taking a final P8. The other excellent drivers in the top ten were the French **Adrien Renaudin** (Sodi-Tm) who was fifth, **Alexander Schmitz** (Tony Kart-Vortex), seventh, the emerging **Giuseppe Palomba** (Intrepid-Tm) ninth and 2016 World Champion **Jorrit Pex** (CRG-Tm) in tenth. The two early protagonist of the weekend **Alessio Lorandi** (Parolin-Tm) and his brother **Leonardo Lorandi** (Tony Kart-Tm), missed out on taking the podium as the first ended 15th and the second had to retire early from the race but posted the quickest lap of the whole weekend.

**JANKER WINNER OF OK.** Category OK also had a nice and exciting end, as the German **Hannes Janker** (KR-Parilla-Bridgestone) managed to cross the finish line first proceeding the Dane **Nicklas Nielsen** (Tony Kart-Vortex), who had to settle for P2. The third place went to the combative Spanish driver **Pedro Hiltbrand** (CRG-Tm), who confirmed to be among the protagonists of the category in P3. A 10s time penalty relegated the other protagonist of the weekend, and author of the fastest lap, **Lorenzo Trvisanutto** (KR-Parilla) to the final 7h place.

**VICTORY HANDED TO ARON IN OK-JUNIOR.** In OK-Junior, the duel between the Estonian driver **Paul Aron** (FA-Vortex-Bridgestone) and **Luca Griggs** (Exprit-Vortex), saw **Griggs** having the best of his rival, but the overtaking move was not considered correct. Stewards eventually decided to give **Griggs** a 1s time penalty and to hand back the lead to **Aron**. The penalty made **Griggs** slip down to the third place of the classification, as he also fell behind the French **Sami Meguetounif** (Formula K-Tm), who inherited P2. Among the sons of excellent drivers, **Enzo Trulli** (CRG-Tm) was 24th and **Sebastian Montoya** (Tony Kart-Vortex) 28th.

**ANTONELLI KING OF MINI ROK.** Among the very young drivers of Mini Rok, another son following his father's footsteps claimed his maiden victory at the Winter Cup. **Andrea Kimi Antonelli** (Energy-Vortex) had been shining for most of the weekend and took the lead of the race in the closing stages of the Final, leading team mate **Karol Pasiewicz** from Poland and **Cristian**



**Bertuca** (Evokart-Vortex). **Brando Badoer** (Parolin-Vortex) was seventh in this category reserved to the youngest drivers.

All results are available at [www.southgardakarting.it](http://www.southgardakarting.it).

South Garda Karting  
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In the pictures: 1) Ben Hanley, KZ2; 2) Hannes Jancker, OK; 3) Paul Aron, OK-Junior; 4) Andrea Kimi Antonelli, Mini Rok.

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