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**CEV Repsol Moto2 European Championship and Hawkers European Talent Cup:  
thrilling season kicks off in Portugal**



First round of the season at the Circuito Estoril in Portugal with all races final lap fights.

The **Moto2™ ECh** gave two thrilling races. Race 1 saw a major duel between Fermin Aldeguer and Alonso Lopez, as both battled hard and studied each other, whilst Lucas Tulovic (Liqui Moly Intact SIC Racing Team) watched on in third until a crash at Turn 7 - the German pole-sitter was ok. That left Lopez in the lead from Aldeguer until the final lap, where Aldeguer pounced at Turn 6, holding on to take victory. In third place was Adam Norrodin (Liqui Moly Intact SIC Racing Team), giving the Malaysian a career-first podium.



Race 2 was even more dramatic; Aldeguer got a good start whilst Lopez dropped down as low as 11th place from third on the grid. He raced hard was soon in the battle for the lead with his Boscoscuro teammate and Lucas Tulovic. Tulovic hit the front briefly on Lap 7, slowing Aldeguer and bringing Lopez further into play. Rookie Lopez was leading by Lap 11 in a stunning comeback and then led until Turn 6 on the last lap, when Aldeguer took over again. Both collided at Turn 9 on the entrance to the chicane as Lopez barged through but on the drag to the line, Aldeguer slipstreamed his way to the lead to take a second victory of the day. Tulovic completed the podium, whilst teammate Norrodin took fourth. In the standings, Aldeguer leads on 50 points, whilst Lopez sits on 40 and Norrodin is third with 29.

The HETC first outing was a stunning, action-packed encounter which saw drama from the start. Starting from pole, Alvaro Carpe (MT-Foundation 77) got a great start to the race, but it was Casey O’Gorman (Cuna de Campeones) who led into Turn 1. The Irishman’s lead only lasted until Turn 4, where he slid out of contention before remounting. The race continued and there was a battle between Roberto Garcia (Avatel - Cardoso Racing), Phillip Tonn (Liqui Moly Intact SIC Racing Team) and Alberto Ferrandez (MT-Foundation 77), before Tonn crashed at Turn 9, taking out Garcia and Ferrandez. This allowed the likes of Carpe and Australian Jacob Roulstone to come through to the front. Carpe was leading on the last lap but crashed at Turn 7, leaving Roulstone to charge home for a first victory, beating Adrian Cruces (Cuna de Campeones) and Joel Esteban Ruiz (IGAX Team). In Race 2 of the HETC, it was a far different battle at the front, as Alvaro Carpe was in the mix for victory, but all eyes were on David Garcia, who came through from the fourth row to take honours. Garcia was able to hold off Alberto Ferrandez (MT-Foundation 77) who was in contention right until the end, whilst Hugo Millan (Cuna de Campeones) completed the podium in third. In the Championship standings, it is Cruces who leads the title with 31 points, whilst race winners Roulstone and Garcia are second and third with 25 points.