

For Immediate Release

ROUND 2 SENIOR ESKC TRIUMPH FOR JUMEIRAH COLLEGE

Ghost Racing 1 tops Nomad Category

Dubai, UAE, 10 December 2018: David Zandieh and Eliot Jones of Jumeirah College battled back from fourth on the grid to seize their first overall victory in Round Two of the Emirates Schools Karting Championship (ESKC) Senior division at Dubai Kartdrome on Monday night (9 December). The team now leads the ESKC Challenge Class championship.

Sameer Mohideen and Samuel Garbutt of Ghost Racing 1 challenged Jumeirah College for the win but had to settle for second-place overall. However, the team finished above their Nomad rivals at VDR Racing, which has allowed Ghost Racing 1 to close the gap in the Nomad Cup Challenge championship.

Qualifying and Race Highlights

Last season's Nomad champs, Ghost Racing, are fielding two teams this season, and both teams excelled in qualifying for Senior ESKC Round Two. Samuel Garbutt of Ghost Racing 1 recorded a best lap time of 1:14.647 on the Hill Circuit at Dubai Kartdrome, the only team out of twenty in the field that managed to dip below the 1:15 mark.

Sister team Ghost Racing 2 was 0.386 seconds off the pace and lined up in P2 ahead of VDR Racing. Jumeirah College was over half a second down from the leaders and took the fourth spot on the starting grid.

Eliot Jones rocketed off the line to start the 75-minute endurance race, jumping into the lead in the opening lap. After a few more laps Ghost Racing 1 hunted Jones down and dispossessed him of the frontrunner spot, but only momentarily.

Eliot Jones of Jumeirah College said, "Sadly I lost the position but during the race we managed to build our way back up to first place."

With a combination of speed, consistency and well-drilled pit stops, Jumeirah College took control of the contest, with the two Ghost Racing teams giving chase.

On the final lap of the race Khalifa Al Qubaisi of VDR Racing clocked an incredible lap time of 1:13.888, the fastest lap of the night, but overall the team struggled to keep pace and VDR Racing faded back into eighth-place.

David Zandieh of Jumeirah College maintained his composure and kept the Ghost Racing teams behind him. He crossed the finish line to take the chequered flag, just over nine seconds clear of Ghost Racing 1, followed immediately by Ghost Racing 2.

After the race David Zandieh of Jumeirah College remarked, "We held first position nearly the whole time and the pit stops were perfect."

What about the first overall win for Jumeirah College this season? "It feels great." He added.

And Jumeirah College is in great position for the ESKC Challenge championship. The team tops the leaderboard with a total of 68 points, ahead of Dubai English Speaking College (DESC) Team 6 and Swiss International Scientific School in Dubai (SISD) Senior, with both teams on 57 points.

The Ghost Racing teams may have missed out on the big win, but they did quite well for their Nomad Cup championship aspirations. Ghost Racing 1 have closed the gap to VDR Racing to just a single point. VDR Racing maintains the edge in the Nomad Cup championship with 65 points, followed by Ghost Racing 1 with 64 points and Ghost Racing 2 on 57 points.

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Captions for Images:

1. Eliot Jones of winning team Jumeirah College at Dubai Kartdrome
2. Senior ESKC Challenge podium 9 December 2018
3. Senior ESKC Nomad Cup podium 9 December 2018

About Emirates Schools Karting Championship (ESKC)

Founded in 2015 under the patronage of Mohammed Ben Sulayem, FIA Vice President and President of the Automobile and Touring Club for the UAE, the ESKC was designed to allow school and college students the platform to participate in competitive kart racing.

The ESKC is open to students of all karting abilities, with two age categories available: **Junior** (ages 7-12) and **Senior** (ages 13-18). The ESKC aims to encourage students to adopt and learn new skill sets, which will help them later in life, whilst at the same time have competitive fun.

Students of the same school on a team compete in the ESKC Class, while students of mixed schools on a team compete in the Nomad Class.

About Dubai Kartdrome Outdoor Circuit

The 1.2km International Circuit at the Dubai Kartdrome features 17 corners to test a driver's skills, as well as a tunnel and bridge to add to the excitement. This challenging configuration affords maximum safety to all drivers and spectators and is equipped with a complete set of flood lights to offer perfect viewing for night time racing.

Since 2004 the venue has hosted many local and international karting races, as well as offering corporate events and Arrive & Drive karting for guests.

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