

GREAT WORLD DEBUT OF NEVILLE CRICHTON'S NEW ALFA ROMEO IN THE COPA DEL REY AUDI MAPFRE

The brand new Reichel and Pugh's new Mini Maxi won the first two races in the IRC class, in the opening of the 28th Copa del Rey Audi Mapfre, followed by also Mini Maxis American Bellamente and German Container. Dutch No Limits was the winner in Swan 45's, and Norwegian Matti Sepp's "Lexus" in the X-41, the newcomer class to the event.

Palma de Mallorca, August 3rd- Neville Crichton's brand new Mini Maxi Alfa Romeo has fulfilled the expectations by winning both its races in the opening day of the 28th Copa del Rey Audi Mapfre. In his world debut, the Reichel and Pugh design, that came out of the shipyard just a few days ago, clearly demonstrated it was the best of the IRC fleet on a day that began with very light conditions.

The start of the first race for the IRC was postponed by 1 hour and 20 minutes, until the sea breeze built in the Bravo area, the most central of the three set up for the windward-leeward races.

"Alfa Romeo" took no risk and started to the left-hand side of the area, and was able to round the first top mark at the head of the group, maintaining this position till the end of the race. Bellamente was second and Container was third. 17 knots of wind with a direction of 180, known as the *Embat* in the region, provided a fantastic show of Mini Maxis on the water during the second race, which was much tighter. "Alfa Romeo" was first again, followed by Bellamente just 17 seconds behind, and Container, again, was third. Hap Fauth's American Bellamente is second in the overall classification, and Udo Schuetz's Container remains third, confirming the leadership of the Mini Maxis in the group. CAM with H.R.H The Prince of Asturias Don Felipe de Borbón as helmsman is fourth.

Last year's winner Aifos with Jaime Rodríguez Toubes at the helm could only manage an eighth.

In the Swan 45 class, with eight entries, Gideon Messink's is first in the overall after two very tight races and exciting mark roundings in the Alpha area, that is located just in front of Ca'n Pastilla and the airport.

The magnificent Swans have sailed in the same area as the X-35 and the X-41. The latter makes herewith its debut in competition in Spain, and two boats are tied first after two races: Matti Sepp's "Lexus", which was first and third, and José María Van der Ploeg's "Turismo Madrid" (usually onboard a GP42 but without sufficient entries for competition), second in both.

Estonian Lexus sailed to victory in the first race breaking the tie with Turismo Madrid. Not such a fortunate day for Javier Bandera's "Karhu" that suffered a broken backstay at the very start and was fourth.

The other monotype X-35 class proved to be dominated by the Italian teams in the fleet, which claimed the three first places: Enrico Matta's "Karma" at the top, after finishing first and second, followed by "Tixelio" and "Giochelotta".

The one joyful moment for the Spanish competitors came for those in the RI, with a great performance from one of the favourites, Enrique Terol's "Telefónica", followed by Manuel Gallego Frontera's Itaca IX.

The TP52's had their practice day, dominated by favourite "Realstone Matador" that satisfied all expectations with its first place finish.

