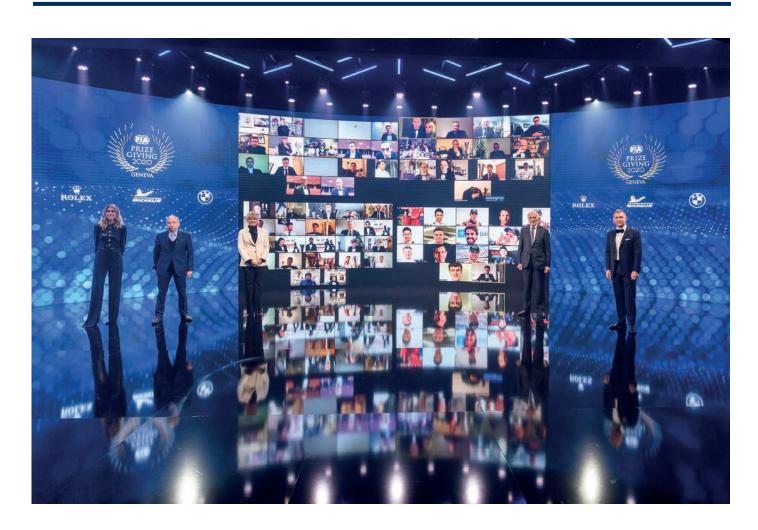


AUTO+ PRIZE GIVING

FIA PRIZE GIVING 2020 SATURDAY 19.12.20



VIRTUAL CELEBRATION OF REAL CHAMPIONS



2020 TITLE WINNERS LAUDED AT GLITTERING GENEVA GALA

The 2020 FIA champions were honoured in the first-ever virtual Prize Giving ceremony, hosted by FIA President Jean Todt.



Motor sport is noted for its ability to meet challenges through the power of technology. The champions, along with FIA Deputy President for Sport Graham Stoker, FIA Vice-Presidents for Sport, members of the World Motor Sport Council, Presidents of Commissions and special guests joined the event via video conferencing.

The global virtual audience were part of a truly unique event as the outstanding performers of 2020 were celebrated, tributes paid to those who performed exceptional feats in extraordinary circumstances and those lost to the motor sport fraternity in 2020 were fondly remembered.

"2020 has been an unprecedented year and it's remarkable to be here and to be able to honour our champions," said FIA President Jean Todt. "Unfortunately, they cannot be with us in person tonight, but the most important thing is that, through creativity and resourcefulness, we have been able to organise championships — and we have champions to celebrate. I want to pay credit to all those who made it possible."

The standout attraction of the night was Lewis Hamilton, whose exploits on and off track yielded three awards. Hamilton, the 2020 FIA Formula 1 World Champion, ended the season with 95 overall grand prix victories.

The Briton's achievements over the course of his career and in the past six months have made him Formula 1's and motor racing's biggest star. However, besides his ontrack exploits, his tireless commitment to diversity and inclusion in motor sport, which have earned him this year's Personality of the Year award, were recognised.

Hamilton also featured in one of three FIA President Awards. The award recognises outstanding achievement, courage and sportsmanship – often in the face of adversity. It also pays tribute to individuals who make an impact on motor sport – and those who contribute to a better society.

Together with Michael Schumacher, the pair were jointly honoured in recognition of their shared achievement in winning seven FIA Formula 1 World Drivers' Championships and the inspiration their sporting and personal commitments have brought to the world.

Lewis has been at the forefront of the FIA and Formula One's End Racism and #WeRaceAsOne campaign. Michael is the inspiration behind the Keep Fighting Foundation, created by the Schumacher family to promote the spirit of perseverance with which he is synonymous. Recently, the Keep Fighting Foundation became the first organisation to pledge 5,000 helmets to the Safe and Affordable Helmet Initiative.

Commenting on reaching the landmark of seven world titles and his work with the Hamilton Commission, Hamilton said: "It's such a privilege to have the opportunity to reach the milestone. I didn't think in my wildest dreams that I would stand here as a seven-time World Champion.

"The Commission is about breaking down barriers and creating opportunity and opening up more doors for everyone. I'm really hopeful that together with the FIA and Formula 1, we can move forward in this direction."



Accepting the award on Michael's behalf, his wife Corinna, said: "Michael has always had a big heart to do something for people who are in need. With the Keep Fighting Foundation, we want to continue the work that he started."

In addition, Hamilton was also awarded the Automobile Club d'Italia (ACI) Trophy for becoming the highest points' scorer across the three Italian Formula 1 Grands Prix staged this season. He amassed 59 points in total with two wins, a seventh place and three fastest laps. The trophy was presented via video link by Angelo Sticchi Damiani, FIA Vice-President and President of the ACI.

The recipients of the third FIA President Award were recognised for their brave reactions in coming to the aid of Haas F1 Team driver Romain Grosjean following his accident in Bahrain.

Marshals from the Bahraini International Circuit rushed to the scene to assist Grosjean's escape from the fire that had engulfed his race car. They were joined by the FIA Formula 1 Medical Rescue Co-ordinator Dr Ian Roberts and FIA Formula 1 Medical Car Driver Alan van der Merwe.

The Bahraini marshals were accompanied by Abdulaziz Al Thawadi, General Manager of the Bahrain Motorsport Federation, representing the Club's President His Excellence Sheikh Abdulla Bin Isa Al-Khalifa in receiving the accolade from the FIA President and Professor Gérard Saillant, President of the FIA Medical Commission.

In rallying, Sébastien Ogier and co-driver Julien Ingrassia clinched their seventh FIA World Rally Championship, while Hyundai Motorsport claimed their second consecutive Manufacturers' crown.

Johan Kristoffersson returned to the FIA World Rallycross Championship after a one-year hiatus to claim a record-breaking third drivers' accolade with KYB Team JC squad taking the Teams' prize.

The 2019-20 FIA World Endurance Championship season featured eight events in all, with the trio of Mike Conway, Kamui Kobayashi and José María López taking the drivers' championship, while securing the LMP1 manufacturers' honours for Toyota Gazoo Racing.

The Danish duo of Marco Sorensen and Nicki Thiim were top of the LMGTE Pro class with Aston Martin Racing, the winning manufacturer.

The FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) crowned its youngestever world champion, 24-year-old Yann Erhlacher with Cyan Racing Lynk & Co on defending the WTCR Teams' championship.

Since its inaugural season in 2014-15, the ABB FIA Formula E Championship, which joins the FIA World Championships portfolio next season, has been setting standards in the area of innovation and alternative energy. This year, it became the first global sporting series to achieve net zero carbon footprint since inception.

Portugal's António Félix da Costa's assumed the lead of the championship, before the intervention of COVID-19 resulted in a Season 6 climax featuring six, back-to-back events at the former Berlin-Tempelhof airport.

Da Costa took two wins in the German capital to round out the season with almost twice as many points as his nearest rival. The Portuguese driver's DS Techeetah squad were Teams' champions.

In FIA World Karting Championship, 19-year-old Callum Bradshaw was crowned the OK World Champion, fellow British driver Freddie Slater, aged 12, won the OK-Junior title and, after a quest that has spanned 15 years, France's Jérémy Iglesias became World Champion in the KZ category, at the age of 33.

Mick Schumacher clinched the FIA Formula 2 Championship, while Oscar Piastri took the honours in the FIA Formula 3 Championship. Italy's PREMA Racing won the Teams' championship for both categories.

Reflecting on his achievement, Mick, who recently took part in the F1 rookie driver test, said: "I'm just trying to realise what actually happened this year and how far I've gotten in my career. It was great to be with the Haas F1 team in Abu Dhabi and seeing how they work. I'm looking forward to the first race now and I can't wait to jump in the car again."

A number of other special awards included the FIA Outstanding Official of the Year for Hungary's Attila László. The FIA Rookie Of The Year was 20-year-old Japanese racer Yuki Tsunoda, who will join Scuderia AlphaTauri Honda F1 Team in 2021. Formula 1 veteran Kimi Räikkönen took the FIA Action of the Year trophy, voted for by motor sport fans on FIA.com.

The evening concluded with a virtual family photo and a final applause for all of the 2020 category winners as the curtain fell on what has been a challenging - but ultimately successful - motor sport year.

















double-headers."

Johan Kristoffersson





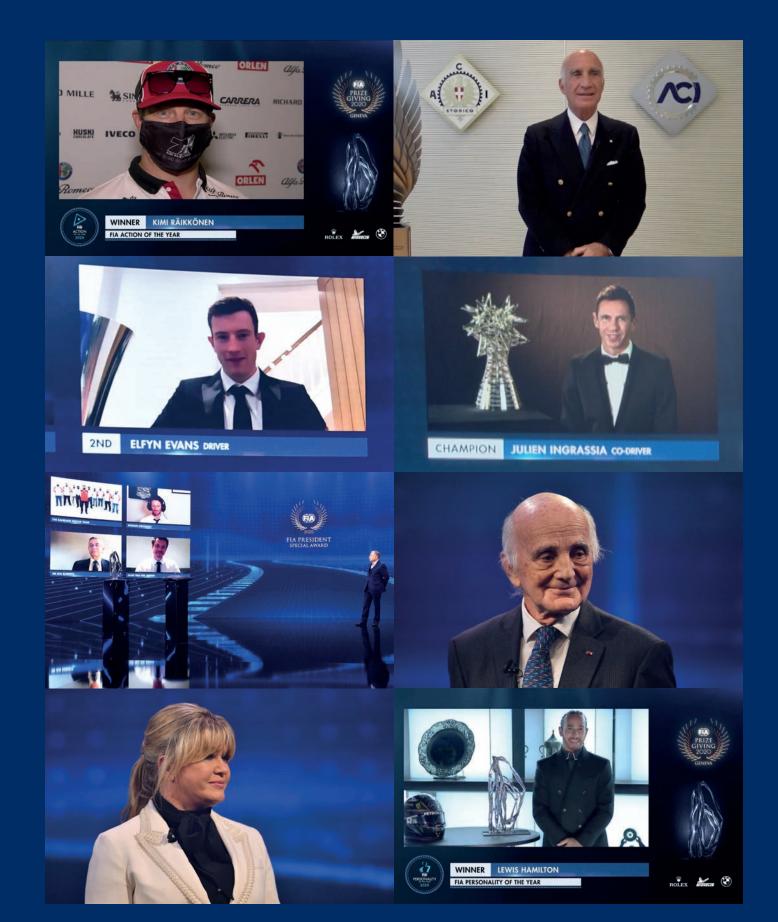














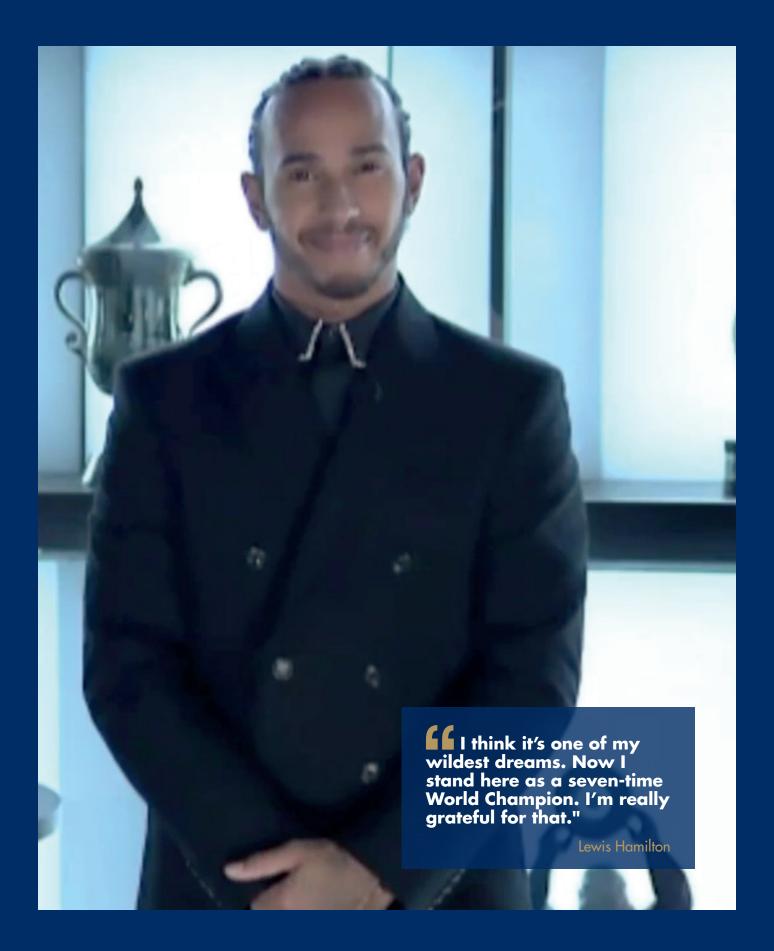
It's been a special year for all of us. We were the only one to start the year with three rallies, but then we had a huge break. When competition resumed, there were still a lot a question marks. On every rally, the Toyota Team had to give everything we had as it was really hard to plan ahead."

Sébastien Ogier

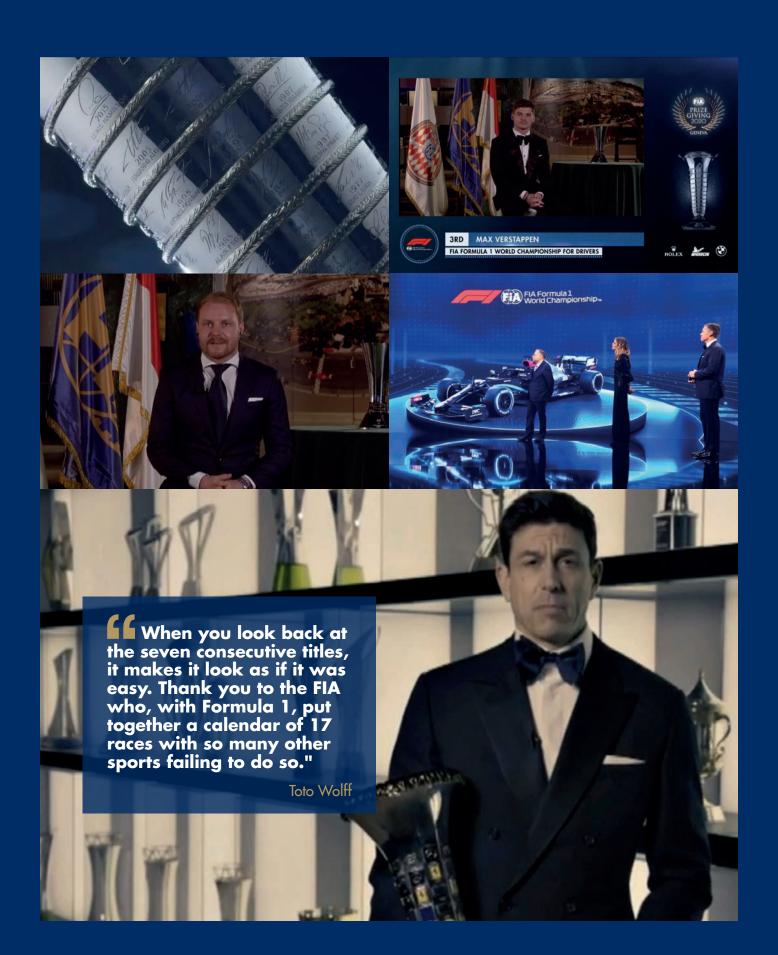














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