

ROUNDS 3 & 4 – PUEBLA, MEXICO RACE REPORT

Weather: sunny and warm, with a wind from the East and a dry track

SEAT WIN AGAIN BUT BMW CLOSE THE GAP

The SEAT team have accomplished their mission: completing the American part of the season with four victories.

A couple of SEAT wins in Puebla – where the altitude played in favour of turbo engines – were expected. However the way Rickard Rydell, Yvan Muller and company were threatened by the BMW cars of Augusto Farfus, Andy Priaulx and Jörg Müller, proved that the German cars have closed the gap and, from now on, will make the champions' life very hard.

Muller and Rydell are co-leading the drivers' championship, but Farfus is only ten points away and when the championship will restart after one month break, on the streets of Marrakech, the battle will be more interesting than ever,

The Mexican races were also encouraging for the other two Manufacturers. Chevrolet scored the first point with the new Cruze, and started on pole position in the second race. LADA seemed to have solved their reliability problems and now they can focus on the performance.

The championship will resume in Marrakech, Morocco, on May 3rd, for rounds 5 and 6.

RACE 1 – RYDELL RESISTS BMW PRESSURE

Rickard Rydell forced his way through the BMW front row to claim SEAT's third consecutive victory in three rounds.

Augusto Farfus and Andy Priaulx put a lot of pressure on the Swedish driver and eventually settled in second and third respectively, the first podium results for BMW in the season so far.

While SEAT and BMW men were fighting for the top positions, Nicola Larini managed to defend his eighth place, scoring the first point for the new Chevrolet Cruze.

Félix Porteiro won the Independents' class once again, recovering from the 14th position where he had fallen after being involved in a collision at the start.

Man of the race

Throughout the whole Mexican event, Nicola Larini has emerged as the fastest of the Chevrolet drivers. While his team mates Alain Menu and Robert Huff were fighting against technical issues and set-up problems, the Italian proved consistent and reliable.

His reward was a brilliant eighth place in the first race that was worth the first point scored by the new Chevrolet Cruze car and the pole position on the reverse grid for the second race.

Key moment

Rydell had already moved up from fourth to second going past Priaulx at the start on the outside line. And yet, during the first lap, he struck again stealing the lead from Farfus with an hazardous manoeuvre.

He dived to the inside at the braking of turn 12, and then managed to defend his position through turns 13, 14 and 15 from Farfus' return.

On that move Rydell built a small margin that was crucial to claim the win.

Withdrawals

G. Tanev: clutch; M. Čolak: race incident; R. Huff: broken suspension; A. Menu: broken suspension; Shapovalov: throttle cable.



RACE 2 – YVAN MULLER SCORES SECOND VICTORY

The second race was another SEAT vs. BMW fight. The reigning world champion Yvan Muller claimed his second victory of the season as he managed to keep at bay the former world champion Andy Priaulx.

Jordi Gené took the lead at the start, but then, in a breathtaking succession of overtaking manoeuvres, Jörg Müller, Gabriele Tarquini, Y. Muller, Priaulx, Rickard Rydell and Augusto Farfus overturned the order completely. Müller and Tarquini however, had to leave the company after they clashed on lap 6 and slipped down.

All the three Chevrolet cars completed the race, with Nicola Larini's in tenth position, and so did the LADA cars, with Jaap van Lagen's in 17th.

Porteiro claimed a fourth consecutive win in the Independents' trophy.

Man of the race

With two podium results today, Andy Priaulx was the most effective BMW driver once again. The former triple WTCC champion was very close to stop SEAT's winning streak in the second race.

Priaulx and Bart Mampaey's BMW Team UK did an excellent job to find the best set up for a track that did not give BMW many reasons to rejoice in the past.

The concentration and the grit Priaulx showed while chasing his rivals in the two Mexican races are testament that whoever wants to be champion will have him to reckon with.

Key moment

On lap 8 Jordi Gené, who had taken the lead at the start, was struggling to resist the charge of his chasers.

When the field got to turn 5, Yvan Muller took the inside line and squeezed between his team mate's car and the kerbs. As the Spaniards was forced to turn wide, Andy Priaulx was swift to take advantage and followed Muller in his manoeuvre. As Muller and Priaulx cleared off, Gené began to lose positions and eventually slipped down to seventh.

Withdrawals

T. Monteiro: race incident; K. Poulsen: race incident; M. Čolak: car on fire.

FLASH NEWS

TARQUINI GETS PENALTY AND SEAT APPEAL

Gabriele Tarquini was given a 30-second penalty because of an incident with Jörg Müller in the second race. The two drivers clashed on lap 6 at the exit of the North banking, while were lying in second and third positions respectively, behind Jordi Gené.

The SEAT Sport team have lodged an appeal against the decision, therefore the results of the second race remain suspended, pending the decision of the court of appeal.

THE WORD TO THE WINNERS

Rickard RYDELL – winner of Race 1

"I knew I had to pass the BMW cars on the first lap, otherwise I would not stand a chance. I saw the opportunity and took it. After that it was quite good, but then in the last five-six laps Augusto (Farfus) was quicker than me and it was not easy to keep him behind. I'm really really pleased that I won."

Yvan MULLER – winner of Race 2

"I sweat a lot today, because I am a bit overweight, a bit too old, because of the altitude and especially because of Andy (Priaulx) who was pushing behind. I had to be focused at 200 per cent. I could not make any mistake, because for sure Andy would use the opportunity. I really had to drive my best, and even more."

2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 1 - RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	3		Rickard RYDELL SEAT Sport	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	26:40.728	16		116.58	1:39.080
2	8		Augusto FARFUS BMW Team Germany	BRA	BMW 320si	26:42.236	16	1.508	116.47	1:39.091
3	6		Andy PRIAULX BMW Team UK	GBR	BMW 320si	26:42.714	16	1.986	116.44	1:38.076
4	1		Yvan MULLER SEAT Sport	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	26:45.348	16	4.620	116.25	1:38.979
5	7		Jorg MULLER BMW Team Germany	GER	BMW 320si	26:46.445	16	5.717	116.17	1:38.690
6	2		Gabriele TARQUINI SEAT Sport	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	26:50.201	16	9.473	115.90	1:39.097
7	4		Jordi GENE SEAT Sport	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	27:00.127	16	19.399	115.19	1:40.222
8	14		Nicola LARINI Chevrolet	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	27:03.522	16	22.794	114.95	1:40.230
9	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ BMW Team Italy-Spain	ESP	BMW 320si	27:05.453	16	24.725	114.81	1:39.166
10	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO Scuderia Proteam	ESP	BMW 320si	27:06.718	16	25.990	114.72	1:39.679
11	5		Tiago MONTEIRO SEAT Sport	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	27:09.128	16	28.400	114.55	1:39.591
12	27	I	Stefano D'ASTE Wiechers-Sport	ITA	BMW 320si	27:11.017	16	30.289	114.42	1:39.877
13	9		Alessandro ZANARDI BMW Team Italy-Spain	ITA	BMW 320si	27:14.493	16	33.765	114.17	1:40.124
14	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER Liqui Moly Team	GER	BMW 320si	27:14.680	16	33.952	114.16	1:39.930
15	21	I	Tom CORONEL SUNRED Engineering	NED	SEAT Leon	27:15.030	16	34.302	114.14	1:39.905
16	22	I	Tom BOARDMAN SUNRED Engineering	GBR	SEAT Leon	27:26.682	16	45.954	113.33	1:41.190
17	18		Jaap van LAGEN LADA Sport	NED	LADA 110	27:27.285	16	46.557	113.29	1:41.179

Puebla
 Circuit Length = 3.2400 km.
 Start: 12:17 End: 12:44

Weather/Track: Sun 20°/Dry 40°

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
----------	----------	----------	------------

2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 1 - RESULT (continued)

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
18	19		Kirill LADYGIN LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	27:38.673	16	57.945	112.51	1:41.856
19	20		Viktor SHAPOVALOV LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	23:31.943	13	3 LAPS	107.39	1:42.396

NOT CLASSIFIED

12			Alain MENU Chevrolet	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	19:08.394	11	D.N.F.	111.72	
11			Robert HUFF Chevrolet	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	27:35.589	6	N.C.F.	42.27	
28	I		Marin COLAK Colak Racing Team	CRO	SEAT Leon		0	D.N.F.	N/A	
24	I		George TANEV Scuderia Proteam	BUL	BMW 320si		0	D.N.F.	N/A	
26	I		Kristian POULSEN Liqui Moly Team	DEN	BMW 320si		0	D.N.F.	N/A	

FASTEST LAP

6			Andy PRIAULX BMW Team UK		BMW 320si	1:38.076	14	73.89mph	118.92	
23	I		Felix PORTEIRO Scuderia Proteam		BMW 320si	1:39.679	15	72.71mph	117.01	

Puebla
 Circuit Length = 3.2400 km.
 Start: 12:17 End: 12:44

Weather/Track: Sun 20°/Dry 40°

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
----------	----------	----------	------------

2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 2 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	1		Yvan MULLER SEAT Sport	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	26:41.014	16		116.56	1:38.885
2	6		Andy PRIAULX BMW Team UK	GBR	BMW 320si	26:41.473	16	0.459	116.53	1:38.655
3	3		Rickard RYDELL SEAT Sport	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	26:42.254	16	1.240	116.47	1:38.771
4	8		Augusto FARFUS BMW Team Germany	BRA	BMW 320si	26:42.987	16	1.973	116.42	1:38.401
5	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ BMW Team Italy-Spain	ESP	BMW 320si	26:46.833	16	5.819	116.14	1:38.775
6	9		Alessandro ZANARDI BMW Team Italy-Spain	ITA	BMW 320si	26:47.295	16	6.281	116.11	1:38.841
7	4		Jordi GENE SEAT Sport	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	26:52.769	16	11.755	115.71	1:39.578
8	2		Gabriele TARQUINI SEAT Sport	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	26:53.203	16	12.189	115.68	1:39.236
9	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO Scuderia Proteam	ESP	BMW 320si	26:56.527	16	15.513	115.44	1:39.289
10	14		Nicola LARINI Chevrolet	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	26:57.607	16	16.593	115.37	1:39.715
11	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER Liqui Moly Team	GER	BMW 320si	27:02.051	16	21.037	115.05	1:39.338
12	12		Alain MENU Chevrolet	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	27:03.809	16	22.795	114.93	1:39.708
13	7		Jorg MULLER BMW Team Germany	GER	BMW 320si	27:04.001	16	22.987	114.91	1:38.287
14	11		Robert HUFF Chevrolet	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	27:04.658	16	23.644	114.87	1:39.798
15	21	I	Tom CORONEL SUNRED Engineering	NED	SEAT Leon	27:05.232	16	24.218	114.82	1:39.713
16	27	I	Stefano D'ASTE Wiechers-Sport	ITA	BMW 320si	27:06.345	16	25.331	114.75	1:39.232
17	18		Jaap van LAGEN LADA Sport	NED	LADA 110	27:20.344	16	39.330	113.77	1:40.996

Puebla

Result suspended subject to decision of the Court of Appeal.

Circuit Length = 3.2400 km.

Ref. Stewards decision No. 12 (Car 2).

Start: 15:48 End: 16:14

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
----------	----------	----------	------------

2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 2 RESULT (continued)

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
18	24	I	George TANEV Scuderia Proteam	BUL	BMW 320si	27:20.804	16	39.790	113.73	1:40.338
19	20		Viktor SHAPOVALOV LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	27:25.316	16	44.302	113.42	1:41.046
20	19		Kirill LADYGIN LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	27:29.990	16	48.976	113.10	1:41.261
21	22	I	Tom BOARDMAN SUNRED Engineering	GBR	SEAT Leon	27:34.608	14	2 LAPS	98.69	1:40.900
22	28	I	Marin COLAK Colak Racing Team	CRO	SEAT Leon	20:40.689	12	4 LAPS	112.81	1:40.345

NOT CLASSIFIED

26	I	Kristian POULSEN Liqui Moly Team	DEN	BMW 320si	12:05.576	7	D.N.F.	112.52
5		Tiago MONTEIRO SEAT Sport	POR	SEAT Leon TDI		0	D.N.F.	N/A

FASTEST LAP

7		Jorg MULLER BMW Team Germany		BMW 320si	1:38.287	12	73.74mph	118.67
27	I	Stefano D'ASTE Wiechers-Sport		BMW 320si	1:39.232	16	73.03mph	117.54

Result suspended subject to decision of the Court of Appeal.

Ref. Stewards decision No. 12 (Car 2).

Puebla

Circuit Length = 3.2400 km.

Start: 15:48 End: 16:14

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
----------	----------	----------	------------

2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	# - driver	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Marrakech (MAR)	3 May	Pau (FRA)	17 May	Valencia (ESP)	31 May	Brno (CZE)	21 June	Porto (POR)	5 July	Brands Hatch (GBR)	19 July	Oschersleben (GER)	6 September	Imola (ITA)	20 September	Okayama (JPN)	1 November	Macau (CHN)	22 November	TOTAL
		8 March	22 March	8 March	22 March																					
1	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	10	5	5	10																					30
2	Rickard RYDELL (SWE)	6	8	10	6																					30
3	Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	4	3	8	5																					20
4	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	5	10	3	1																					19
5	Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	8	6	2	2																					18
6	Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	2	0	6	8																					16
7	Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	0	4	4	0																					8
8	Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	3	0	0	4																					7
9	Alessandro ZANARDI (ITA)	0	0	0	3																					3
10	Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	1	2	0	0																					3
11	Nicola LARINI (ITA)	0	0	1	0																					1
11	Tom CORONEL (NED)	0	1	0	0																					1

2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Marrakech (MAR)	3 May	Pau (FRA)	17 May	Valencia (ESP)	31 May	Brno (CZE)	21 June	Porto (POR)	5 July	Brands Hatch (GBR)	19 July	Oschersleben (GER)	6 September	Imola (ITA)	20 September	Okayama (JPN)	1 November	Macau (CHN)	22 November	TOTAL
		8 March	22 March	8 March	22 March																					
1	SEAT	18	18	15	16																					67
2	BMW	11	11	14	13																					49
3	CHEVROLET	2	7	4	7																					20
4	LADA	7	3	5	3																					18