

ROUNDS 7 & 8 – ZOLDER, BELGIUM
QUALIFYING REPORT

Weather: changeable; the track was drying for Practice 1, dry for Practice 2 and Qualifying 1, but eventually a shower made it wet during Qualifying 2

TARQUINI FLIES TO SECURE POLE POSITION

Gabriele Tarquini (1:38.265) claimed his second pole of the season for SR-Sport in Zolder today after rain brought an early end to proceedings. Teammate Jordi Gené (1:38.430) will line up alongside him on the grid for Race 1 while Chevrolet's Alain Menu (1:38.494) will start third.

Norbert Michelisz (1:39.072) finished top rookie in sixth for the Zengö-Dension Team while local racer Pierre-Yves Corthals (1:39.610) was top Independent in 13th on his season debut for Exagon Engineering.

After a closely fought Q1 with the top ten covered by less than 0.4-seconds, the drivers only had chance for one flying lap in Q2 before the heavens opened making it impossible for anyone to improve.

Q1 – On a dry track Andy Priaulx was quickest out the box with his first time of 1:39.349 already much faster than any time this weekend so far. As the times continued to drop, the final minutes saw a jostle for positions with Michelisz improving on his final run to knock SR-Sport's Tom Coronel out of the top ten.

Darryl O'Young was in the top ten for the majority of Q1 following his promising start to the weekend. However, as the top drivers improved further he ended 14th with a time of 1:39.824. Belgium's Vincent Radermecker (1:40.003) will start 16th for Chevrolet.

The top ten going forward into Q2 were Menu, Monteiro, Tarquini, Priaulx, Muller, Gené, Michelisz, Farfus, Barth and Huff.

Corthals clocked the 13th fastest lap, emerging as the best of the Independents ahead of O'Young and Kristian Poulsen.

Q2 – The 10-minute Q2 session was over quickly as after eight of the top ten had only recorded their first flying laps the rain began to fall. All but the BMW Team RBM cars had set a fast time before the rain fell with Farfus and Priaulx's decision to wait costing them dearly.

The final order after one flying lap was therefore Tarquini from Gené, Menu, Muller, Michelisz, Barth, Monteiro, Priaulx and Farfus. With the track now wet Tarquini's second pole position of the season, following his first at Marrakech last month, was secured.

FLASH NEWS

WEIGHT BONUS FOR CORTHALS' SEAT

Following a request from Exagon Engineering the Stewards of the Meeting decided to reduce the minimum weight of Pierre-Yves Corthals' SEAT León by 40 kg.

As this car has taken part in previous seasons of the Championship and its homologation form dates back to 2005, the maximum ballast that can be imposed by art. 79 B) 5) of the Sporting Regulations does not apply to it.



THEY SAID... THEY SAID...

Gabriele TARQUINI – pole position: *“The cold conditions were good for us. It was good to get a lap at the start of Q2 and fortunately we chose to put new tyres on for our first run and it paid off. My second practice session was cut short as I tried to fly at the second chicane! I destroyed the flat bottom and the engine was leaking oil. We changed the engine as we had no penalty due to using it for the last three events, so to come out with a pole has been a lucky day for us.”*

Jordi GENÉ – qualified second: *“The track suits our diesel car as the corners open up at the exit and the tyre wear has been low. All in all it’s going very well and I feel comfortable. I want a good result now so the objective tomorrow is a podium in Race 1.”*

Alain MENU – qualified third: *“I am very pleased. I don’t think there was any more time to find but it’s looking good for tomorrow. I need some good points for sure after some bad luck and making the mistake of letting Priaux through for eighth in Marrakech Race 1 giving him pole for Race 2.”*

Norbert MICHELISZ – top Rookie, P6: *“After testing I wasn’t sure if we would be able to even make it into Q2. It is my best result in qualifying this year and I’m very proud of the team. I’m feeling very happy with the car so I’m just looking to survive the first few corners of the race tomorrow now.”*

Pierre-Yves CORTHALS – top Independent, P13: *“I am really happy to be top independent and to race in Zolder. I didn’t expect this result but I had a good last lap and made no mistake so I’m very pleased. I will now try to do my best tomorrow during the race and hopefully take victory in the Independents’ trophy.”*

**2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship
COMBINED QUALIFYING RESULT**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	Q1	Q2
1	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:38.999	1:38.265
2	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.061	1:38.430
3	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	1:38.840	1:38.494
4	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	1:39.037	1:38.584
5	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	1:39.187	1:38.779
6	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.072	1:39.072
7	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.151	1:39.173
8	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	1:38.875	1:39.255
9	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	1:39.030	1:42.856
10	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	1:39.112	1:52.493
11	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.456	
12	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.472	
13	27	I	Pierre-Yves CORTHALS	BEL	SEAT Leon	1:39.610	
14	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:39.824	
15	24	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	1:39.863	
16	35		Vincent RADERMECKER	BEL	Chevrolet Cruze	1:40.003	
17	15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	1:40.058	
18	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	1:40.278	
19	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	1:40.287	
20	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:40.395	
21	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	1:40.738	
22	16	I	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	1:42.934	

QUALIFICATION MAXIMA 1:45.758

Zolder

Circuit Length = 4.0000 km.

Start: 14:15 End: 14:50

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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