

ROUNDS 9 & 10 – PORTIMÃO, PORTUGAL
RACE REPORT

Weather: sunny and hot, with dry track

MONTEIRO AND TARQUINI MAKE TWO SEAT WINS

Local hero Tiago Monteiro and reigning world champion Gabriele Tarquini scored one victory apiece in Portugal, making it a perfect weekend for SEAT Customers Technology.

In Race 1, cheered by his home crowd, Monteiro ended the monopoly of the three WTCC champions – Tarquini, Muller and Priaulx – who had claimed all the race wins from the beginning of the season. The Portuguese racer came back on the WTCC winning podium two years after another home victory at Estoril, resisting a final charge from Yvan Muller and Tarquini.

In Race 2, Tarquini put in a dominant performance, annihilating the rest of the field to achieve his fourth victory of the season. Muller and Rob Huff completed the podium after a breathtaking battle with Andy Priaulx, Augusto Farfus, Tom Coronel and Alain Menu.

Thanks to a couple of second places, Yvan Muller maintained his leadership in the Drivers' Championship. With Priaulx and Huff non-scorers in the first race, the Frenchman and Tarquini stretched the gap at the front.

Norbert Michelisz and Fredy Barth shared victories in the Rookie Challenge, while the Independents' Trophy saw successes for Sergio Hernández and Darryl O'Young. The championship will resume for rounds 11 and 12 at Brands Hatch, UK, on July 18th.

LAST UPDATE – HUFF STRIPPED OF RACE 2 PODIUM

Chevrolet's Rob Huff was stripped of his third place in the second race following a Stewards decision.

The Briton was under investigation for two different incidents with Augusto Farfus, one in each of today's races.

After hearing the competitors and watching videos, the Panel of the Stewards decided to impose Huff a reprimand for the first incident and a 30-second time penalty for the second one.

The decision meant that Huff slipped from third to 22nd in Portimão's Race 2, while his teammate Alain Menu inherited third position.

MONTEIRO WINS A CLOSE RACE 1

Tiago Monteiro claimed his first WTCC win of the season in front of his home crowd in Portimão today. Monteiro managed his tyres in the Portuguese heat to take the chequered flag ahead of Chevrolet's Yvan Muller and SR-Sport teammate Gabriele Tarquini.

Norbert Michelisz won the Rookie Challenge, in seventh overall, after a race long battle with Michel Nykjær. Another rookie, Fredy Barth, will start on pole for Race 2 after Nykjær's last lap puncture dropped him from eighth to 17th.

The battle for Independents' glory was also raging with Sergio Hernández taking the spoils in ninth just 0.132s ahead of Darryl O'Young and Kristian Poulsen in 10th and 11th.



With such a wide track there was plenty of space for the WTCC field to race side-by-side as they came down to Turn 1 off the rolling start. Tarquini had a good run to move up from fourth to second before Muller fought back and the pair raced wheel-to-wheel through the first few corners. Muller held onto second position despite the challenges of Tarquini and teammate Rob Huff while Monteiro began to pull away in the lead. Tom Coronel also had a great start moving up from 15th to tenth by the end of the first lap.

Rookie Norbert Michelisz went to the outside of turns one and two at the start and dropped back two places to eighth after battling his way through the first lap. The order at the end of lap one was now Monteiro from Muller, Tarquini, Huff, Farfus, Gené, Menu, Michelisz, Nykjær, Coronel and Barth.

Andy Priaulx's race was over only a couple of laps in after coming together with Barth and damaging the left-rear of his BMW 320si. He limped back to the pits but rejoined in the latter stages.

Rookie drivers Michelisz and Nykjær both made moves to demote Menu two places to ninth and continued their battle for the Rookie Challenge. The pair raced side-by-side switching positions, but as Nykjær moved ahead on lap four the pair touched and ran wide allowing Menu and Coronel through for seventh and eighth positions.

Up at the front, Monteiro had now pulled out a 1.57-second lead while Tarquini continued to push Muller for second. The battle in the Independents was also heating up with Turkington in 12th holding off the challenges from Hernández, D'Aste and O'Young. After series newcomer Turkington came together with Barth and spun, Hernández was able to capitalize to move into the Independents' lead. Mehdi Bennani's race ended on lap five after spinning out at Turn 9, while Farfus was beginning to catch the leading trio in his BMW 320si.

Monteiro made a couple of mistakes with only a few laps remaining allowing Muller to really close the gap. The potential tyre problems in the heat were also on everyone's minds as Jordi Gené and Rob Huff both retired with punctures. The order was now Monteiro from Muller, Tarquini, Farfus, Menu, Coronel, Michelisz, Nykjær, Hernández, Barth and O'Young.

As they began the penultimate lap, the top four had a 5-second gap from the rest of the field. After easing off the pace to protect his tyres Monteiro was defending from Muller and Tarquini with Farfus, in fourth, waiting for an opportune moment to pounce. Monteiro, however, held on and claimed his first victory of the season, celebrating with a jump in the circuit's swimming pool. Nykjær was not so lucky, suffering another last lap tyre blow out and losing pole for Race 2.

Muller, Tarquini and Farfus remained as they were ahead of Menu and Coronel who came through to sixth from 15th on the grid. Michelisz claimed his fourth consecutive Rookie victory in seventh putting him alongside Barth, on pole, for Race 2.

Hernández fought hard, first with Turkington and then with a fast O'Young at the end, to seal the Independents' Trophy. The Spaniard finished ninth overall with O'Young rounding out the top ten.

Monroe Performer

Overall: Gabriele Tarquini 1:56.984; Independent: Harry Vaulkhard 1:58.394

Withdrawals

A. Priaulx: race incident; M. Bennani: differential; J. Gené: puncture; R. Huff: puncture; M. Nykjær: puncture

TARQUINI WINS ACTION-PACKED RACE 2

Gabriele Tarquini claimed his fourth win of the season in Race 2 at Portimão today. In a hotly contested race, the reigning world champion came from sixth on the grid to take victory ahead of Chevrolet's Yvan Muller. Rob Huff put in a fantastic drive to come through from 18th on the grid to fill the final podium spot.

Poleman Fredy Barth ended the day in ninth but still first in the Rookie Challenge, while Darryl O'Young claimed his first victory in the Independents' Trophy finishing 10th overall.

From the front of the grid, Barth had a slow getaway dropping down to eighth as fellow rookie driver Norbert Michelisz had a clean start to take a comfortable lead down into the first corner. Alain Menu jumped ahead of Coronel for second with Tarquini briefly up to fourth before he too found a way past the Dutchman.

Further down the grid Colin Turkington had a spin at Turn 4, after being quick in every session, the Northern Irish racer continued his bad race luck on his WTCC debut. Fellow Independent Kristian Poulsen also had a spin, before returning to the pits.

At the end of the first lap Michelisz was leading from Menu, Tarquini, Coronel, Muller, Farfus, Monteiro and Barth.

The following lap Priaulx, Hernández, O'Young, Huff and Gené all jumped ahead of Barth as Menu began pushing Michelisz for the lead.

By lap three there was a seven car battle for the lead with Michelisz, Menu, Tarquini, Coronel, Muller, Farfus and Monteiro all running closely together. Lap four saw most of the action as Menu made a move on Michelisz for the lead into Turn 1. Tarquini also saw his opportunity following the Chevrolet Cruze through and then also making his own successful challenge for the lead. Muller got ahead of Coronel for P4 as Michelisz slipped down the field with a water pressure problem. Danish rookie Michel Nykjær's race was also over due to a pierced radiator.

The order was now Tarquini from Menu, Muller, Coronel, Farfus, Monteiro, Huff, Priaulx, Gené, Barth and O'Young. Michelisz pitted while Sergio Hernández dropped back following a collision with Barth. Monteiro and Huff both moved ahead of Farfus while Tarquini started pulling out a gap at the front.

As the field began lap eight, Tarquini was still leading from Muller and Menu. Huff found a way past Monteiro before the BMW Team RBM duo also came through on the inside. Coronel's rear bumper flew off and across the front of Priaulx's car before the BMWs both moved ahead of the SEAT León TDI. With only a couple of laps remaining Jordi Gené's race ended with a tyre blow out for the second time today.

On the last lap, Britain's Rob Huff completed a fantastic race to take the final podium step from his Chevrolet teammate, Menu, after starting from the second to last row on the grid.

Tarquini took the chequered flag first from Muller, with Huff and Menu in third and fourth. BMW Team RBM's Priaulx and Farfus claimed some good points for BMW in fifth and sixth with Priaulx having a great race to fight through from 19th on the grid. The BMWs finished ahead of Coronel and Monteiro in seventh and eighth. Fredy Barth was ninth, taking the Rookie Challenge win ahead of O'Young in a solid 10th claiming his first Independents' victory. Turkington and Vaulkhard completed the Independents' podium finishing 11th and 12th overall.

Monroe Performer

Overall: Jordi Gené 1:57.902; Independent: Colin Turkington 1:58.552

Withdrawals

K. Poulsen: racing incident; M. Nykjær: pierced radiator; N. Michelisz: water pressure; J. Gené: puncture

FLASH NEWS

ENGINE CHANGE FOR CORONEL

SR-Sport's Tom Coronel suffered engine problems in qualifying yesterday and will start today's Race 1 in Portugal from 15th on the grid. His SEAT León TDI was leaking oil during Q1 losing him nearly 0.8s in the final sector.

The team applied for an engine change which was granted by the Stewards without penalty, so the car was prepared overnight ready for this morning's warm up.

THE WORD TO THE WINNERS

Tiago MONTEIRO – Race 1 winner: *"It was a tough race but we knew it would be. It was very hot but we had good pace at the start to get a gap. I then made a few mistakes which allowed Yvan (Muller) to put the pressure on and I also tried to be a bit safe on my tyres for a couple of laps. The end result couldn't be better though with pole and victory. Home races seem to work for me as my last WTCC victory was at Estoril two years ago. I want to dedicate this victory to my two children, Mel and Noah who is seven months old and at his first race today, and also to Afonso Couto who we have been supporting all year. He has now had his operation and is recovering well."*

Gabriele TARQUINI – Race 2 winner: *"It was a great start and the key to my victory. My pace was faster than the guys in front and it all happened in the first corner. After that I was just managing my tyres. After the first race I knew my tyre choice was good so I stuck on used tyres instead of the new tyres I had left over from qualifying. My pace was very good on the first few laps and also on the last few. In these temperatures I was surprised our pace was so consistent as I thought it would drop off."*

2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 1 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	21:38.194	11		141.86	1:57.124
2	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	21:39.226	11	1.032	141.74	1:57.173
3	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	21:39.781	11	1.587	141.68	1:56.984
4	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	21:40.020	11	1.826	141.66	1:57.244
5	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	21:47.001	11	8.807	140.90	1:57.703
6	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	21:49.917	11	11.723	140.59	1:57.591
7	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	21:50.756	11	12.562	140.50	1:57.952
8	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	21:58.367	11	20.173	139.68	1:58.518
9	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	22:01.307	11	23.113	139.37	1:58.720
10	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	22:01.439	11	23.245	139.36	1:58.427
11	24	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	22:01.836	11	23.642	139.32	1:58.657
12	29	I	Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320si	22:03.932	11	25.738	139.10	1:58.407
13	15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	22:05.039	11	26.845	138.98	1:58.992
14	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	22:05.442	11	27.248	138.94	1:58.724
15	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	22:07.489	11	29.295	138.72	1:58.394
16	16	I	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	22:22.311	11	44.117	137.19	2:00.422
17	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	22:27.537	11	49.343	136.66	1:58.017
18	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	21:53.238	10	1 LAP	127.47	1:57.346

NOT CLASSIFIED

4			Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	13:49.449	7	D.N.F.	141.24	1:57.512
21	I		Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	8:04.531	4	D.N.F.	138.08	1:58.573
11			Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	13:32.369	3	D.N.F.	61.73	2:11.053

FASTEST LAP

1			Gabriele TARQUINI		SEAT Leon TDI	1:56.984	2	88.97mph	143.18kph
19	I		Harry VAULKHARD		Chevrolet Lacetti	1:58.394	3	87.91mph	141.48kph

Portimao

Circuit Length = 4.6530 km.

Start: 12:03 End: 12:25

Weather/Track: Sun 34C / Dry 52C

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 2 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	21:49.935	11		140.58	1:58.128
2	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	21:51.671	11	1.736	140.40	1:58.300
3	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	21:53.179	11	3.244	140.24	1:58.494
4	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	21:53.505	11	3.570	140.20	1:58.006
5	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	21:54.029	11	4.094	140.15	1:58.207
6	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	21:56.136	11	6.201	139.92	1:58.081
7	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	21:56.448	11	6.513	139.89	1:58.168
8	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	22:00.142	11	10.207	139.50	1:58.274
9	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	22:02.686	11	12.751	139.23	1:59.302
10	29	I	Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320si	22:03.544	11	13.609	139.14	1:58.552
11	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	22:04.792	11	14.857	139.01	1:58.730
12	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	22:08.035	11	18.100	138.67	1:59.226
13	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	22:09.060	11	19.125	138.56	1:59.481
14	15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	22:11.206	11	21.271	138.34	1:59.323
15	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	22:22.522	11	32.587	137.17	1:57.941
16	16	I	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	22:25.912	11	35.977	136.83	2:00.904
17	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	23:26.306	10	1 LAP	119.04	1:59.244
18	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	17:57.958	9	2 LAPS	139.76	1:57.902

NOT CLASSIFIED

5			Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	15:29.481	5	D.N.F.	90.00	1:58.799
17			Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	6:06.294	3	D.N.F.	136.92	1:58.940
24	I		Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	2:35.515	1	D.N.F.	107.08	

FASTEST LAP

4			Jordi GENE		SEAT Leon TDI	1:57.902	3	88.28mph	142.07kph	
29	I		Colin TURKINGTON		BMW 320si	1:58.552	2	87.79mph	141.29kph	

Car 7, +30s penalty applied, Stewards decision 22 refers.

Weather/Track: Sun 34C / Dry 44C

Portimao

Circuit Length = 4.6530 km.

Start: 16:48 End: 17:10

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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2010 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	driver	Curitiba (BRA) 7 March		Puebla (MEX) 11 April	Marrakech (MAR) 2 May		Monza (ITA) 23 May		Zolder (BEL) 20 June		Portimão (POR) 4 July		Brands Hatch (GBR) 18 July	Brno (CZE) 1 August	Oschersleben (GER) 5 September	Valencia (ESP) 19 September	Okayama (JPN) 31 October	Macau (CHN) 21 November	TOTAL	
		25	12		8	18	12	25	18	10	18	18								
1	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	25	12	CANCELLED	8	18	12	25	18	10	18	18							164	
2	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	12	25		25	8	6	0	25	8	15	25								149
3	Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	10	0		4	25	25	10	6	25	0	12								117
4	Robert HUFF (GBR)	18	10		18	0	15	15	10	18	0	0								104
5	Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	0	6		15	12	2	6	12	15	25	6								99
6	Alain MENU (SUI)	15	15		2	0	0	2	15	12	10	15								86
7	Tom CORONEL (NED)	4	0		10	15	10	18	4	1	8	8								78
8	Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	8	8		1	0	18	12	2	4	12	10								75
9	Fredy BARTH (SUI)	2	0		12	10	8	0	1	0	4	4								41
10	Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	6	18		0	4	0	8	0	0	0	0								36
11	Norbert MICHELISZ (HUN)	1	2		6	1	0	4	8	6	6	0								34
12	Michel NYKJÆR (DEN)	0	4		0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0								14
13	Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0								5
14	Darryl O'YOUNG (HKG)	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2								3
15	Mehdi BENNANI (MAR)	0	0		0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0								2
16	Colin TURKINGTON (GBR)	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1								1
16	Leonel PERNÍA (ARG)	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-								1	
16	Harry VAULKHARD (GBR)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0								1	

2010 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA) 7 March		Puebla (MEX) 11 April	Marrakech (MAR) 2 May		Monza (ITA) 23 May		Zolder (BEL) 20 June		Portimão (POR) 4 July		Brands Hatch (GBR) 18 July	Brno (CZE) 1 August	Oschersleben (GER) 5 September	Valencia (ESP) 19 September	Okayama (JPN) 31 October	Macau (CHN) 21 November	TOTAL	
		43	27		30	26	27	40	33	30	28	33								
1	CHEVROLET	43	27	CANCELLED	30	26	27	40	33	30	28	33							317	
2	SEAT CUSTOMERS TECHNOLOGY	23	43		40	27	18	26	37	25	40	33								312
3	BMW	22	18		18	35	43	22	18	33	20	22								251