

WTCC

FIA World Touring Car
Championship



ROUNDS 23 & 24 – MACAU RACE REPORT

Weather: sunny, the track was dry

GABRIELE TARQUINI IS CROWNED WORLD CHAMPION AS CHEVROLET AND BMW SHARE VICTORIES

Gabriele Tarquini set a couple of new records: he has become the oldest FIA World Champion ever and scored the highest number of points (127) ever for a WTCC season.

The 47-year old Italian eclipsed Juan-Manuel Fangio's record that lasted since 1957, when the Argentine ace claimed his fifth F1 title. Tarquini is the first Italian to win an FIA world championship since Teo Fabi in the 1991 World Sportscars Championship.

The two races in Macau were frantic as usual and contained plenty of drama. Chevrolet and BMW shared victories, with Robert Huff in the first race and Augusto Farfus in the second respectively. This was Farfus' sixth win in the season, which also marked a new record for WTCC. But in the end SEAT took all for the second consecutive year, including the Manufacturers' Championship with a slim three-point margin ahead of BMW.

Tom Coronel completed SEAT's triumph by winning the Independents' Trophy for the second time.

The championship now faces a three-month winter break, before the new season will start in Curitiba, Brazil, on March 7th, 2010.

RACE 1 – HUFF WINS, TARQUINI CLOSER TO THE TITLE

Robert Huff won the race with Gabriele Tarquini second and Jordi Gené third. Augusto Farfus finished eighth; he is now out of the championship but will line up on pole for Race 2 in a bid to score maximum points for BMW. Yvan Muller is still in with a chance of the title - after coming home fifth he is six points behind Tarquini. SEAT lead BMW by 10 points in the Manufacturers' Championship.

In the final two laps it became a race of tactics as the positions from second to eighth shuffled. The outcome was that Farfus and Müller made it an all-BMW front row for Race 2. Menu took fourth place while Monteiro, who had blistering pace and at one point was challenging Huff for the win, finished sixth.

Men of the race

Jordi Gené and Tiago Monteiro played a crucial role in ousting Farfus from championship contention, presenting Tarquini with second place and strengthening SEAT's grip on the manufacturers' title. Their starts and composed driving meant SEAT could place them like pawns on a chess board to maximum effect.

Key moment

The opening lap didn't feature the usual Macau pile-up but the pack was shuffled within the first couple of corners which consequently dictated the rest of the race. Andy Priaulx hit the barrier at the Mandarin Oriental bend and had to drag his



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damaged car to the pits. At the end of the first lap Tarquini was lying third with the comfort of Monteiro in front and Gené behind. In this scenario, Farfus' hopes were dashed.

Withdrawals

A. Priaux: race incident; A. Couto: drive-shaft; J. van Lagen: engine; Liu Lic Ka: gearbox.

RACE 2 – BMW MAKES A DOUBLE BUT SEAT TAKES ALL

Augusto Farfus and Jörg Müller claimed a 1-2 for BMW, but the laurels went to SEAT. Gabriele Tarquini was crowned the new world champion; despite Yvan Muller finishing third in the race Tarquini took fifth and stretched his overall point lead to six, taking the title from his team-mate. Thanks to their results and to those of Jordi Gené and Tiago Monteiro, SEAT retained the Manufacturers' Championship.

The race ended prematurely after a massive crash involving Félix Porteiro, Franz Engstler and André Couto at the end of lap eight. Because the final results took into consideration the lap before the suspension, Porteiro won the Independents' race anyway. There was also a safety car spell for four laps, mid-way into the race, after Tom Boardman crashed on the way to Moorish Hill involving Tom Coronel.

Larini's last WTCC race came to an end after he was hit by Zanardi coming into Lisboa bend on lap eight.

Man of the race

Gabriele Tarquini – the oldest FIA world champion ever. His track record at Macau is one tarnished with accidents but this year he kept his head when it counted and had two faultless races. As a family man with a smile for everyone in the paddock Tarquini will be a popular champion. A mention should also go to his team who worked tirelessly on the damaged car after qualifying to make his dream a reality.

Key moment

The crash involving Porteiro, Engstler and Couto spelt the end of the season. Porteiro went off at 'R' bend, bounced into the racing line and was smashed into by Engstler. Seconds later Couto added to the carnage by hitting Engstler's car. With three laps left of battle there is no knowing what could have been. And as demonstrated this weekend – you never know what the next corner of Macau will bring.

Withdrawals

T. Coronel: race incident; K. Poulsen: race incident; T. Boardman: race incident.

FLASH NEWS

BROKEN COLLARBONE FOR ENGSTLER

Franz Engstler and Félix Porteiro were both taken to the hospital after the three-car crash at the Firshermen's bend that prematurely ended the second race.

The young Spaniard was discharged soon after all the clinical checks were all clear, while x-rays revealed a fracture in Engstler's left collarbone. However Engstler was discharged from the hospital as well.

CHEVROLET SIGNS YVAN MULLER FOR 2010

Yvan Muller will move to Chevrolet for the 2010 WTCC season. The 2008 world champion joins Robert Huff and Alain Menu in the three-car line up and underlines Chevrolet's commitment to the WTCC.

Speaking of the move Yvan said, *"I am delighted to join Chevrolet. After four successful years with SEAT, I was looking for a new challenge and Chevrolet was my first choice. Having witnessed their growth in the WTCC and knowing RML since my years in the BTCC, I am extremely confident in the potential of the Cruze."*

Wayne Brannon, manager of Chevrolet Europe commented: *"To be able to secure the services of a world champion such as Yvan Muller is a valuable plus to our WTCC programme. I am convinced that he will contribute a lot to the development of the Cruze."*

THE WORD TO THE WINNERS

Gabriele TARQUINI – 2009 FIA World Touring Car Champion

"Maybe this was my last chance to be world champion and I took it. It was a tough season, against great drivers like Yvan (Muller) and Augusto (Farfus). I became the champion without knowing – the team was smiling and crying but I didn't have a radio so realised a little bit later. I started the weekend with a crash which is obviously not the best way to win a championship. The mechanics were fantastic and spent all night and one day to re-build the car better than it was before! I must say thank you to the team who are unbelievable."

Robert HUFF – winner of Race 1

"It is certainly easier to win starting from pole but winning is never easy in Macau, sometimes it's an achievement in itself to finish a lap. Monteiro made life difficult in Race 1 but then I got a gap and focused until the end. I'd like to thank Chevrolet for giving me a great car all season."

Augusto FARFUS – winner of Race 2

"We had a tough start to the season with the first three events being disappointing which could have made the difference. My thanks go to BMW, Jörg (Müller) and Andy (Priaulx). We pushed hard to the end but unfortunately it didn't work and hopefully we can look to a better season in 2010."

2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 1 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	11		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	23:02.627	9		143.41	2:32.273
2	2		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	23:10.579	9	7.952	142.59	2:32.727
3	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	23:11.623	9	8.996	142.48	2:32.777
4	12		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	23:12.955	9	10.328	142.35	2:33.068
5	1		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	23:16.161	9	13.534	142.02	2:33.003
6	5		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	23:18.144	9	15.517	141.82	2:32.076
7	7		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	23:18.409	9	15.782	141.79	2:32.857
8	8		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	23:18.594	9	15.967	141.77	2:33.032
9	9		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	23:18.928	9	16.301	141.74	2:32.919
10	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	23:19.154	9	16.527	141.72	2:32.925
11	3		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	23:19.245	9	16.618	141.71	2:32.542
12	14		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	23:21.103	9	18.476	141.52	2:33.510
13	21	I	Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	23:23.983	9	21.356	141.23	2:33.828
14	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	23:24.588	9	21.961	141.17	2:33.734
15	22	I	Tom BOARDMAN	GBR	SEAT Leon	23:32.550	9	29.923	140.37	2:34.825
16	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	23:33.095	9	30.468	140.32	2:34.348
17	26	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	23:47.274	9	44.647	138.92	2:36.128
18	49	I	Nobuteru TANIGUCHI	JPN	BMW 320si	23:49.198	9	46.571	138.74	2:35.314
19	52	I	Takayuki AOKI	JPN	BMW 320si	23:58.925	9	56.298	137.80	2:37.332
20	51	I	Henry HO	MAC	BMW 320si	24:26.535	9	1:23.908	135.20	2:39.483
21	67	I	LEI Kit Meng	MAC	BMW 320si	25:04.688	9	2:02.061	131.78	2:44.308
22	55	I	Joseph Rosa MERSZEI	MAC	BMW 320si	25:04.948	9	2:02.321	131.75	2:43.686
23	18		Jaap van LAGEN	NED	LADA Priora	19:03.136	7	2 LAPS	134.91	2:35.047
24	53	I	LIU Lic Ka	MAC	BMW 320si	20:48.750	7	2 LAPS	123.50	2:52.175
25	66	I	Andre COUTO	MAC	SEAT Leon	25:25.628	7	2 LAPS	101.08	2:34.836

NOT CLASSIFIED

6	Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	25:25.629	2	N.C.F.	28.88	20:26.000
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FASTEST LAP

5	Tiago MONTEIRO		SEAT Leon TDI	2:32.076	6	90.02mph	144.87kph
23	Felix PORTEIRO	I	BMW 320si	2:33.734	7	89.05mph	143.31kph

Circuito Da Guia
Circuit Length = 6.1200 km.
Start: 12:04 End: 12:27

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Bulletin 178
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2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 2 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	8		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	22:20.166	7		115.07	2:32.990
2	7		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	22:20.967	7	0.801	115.01	2:32.671
3	1		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	22:21.367	7	1.201	114.97	2:32.744
4	5		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	22:22.146	7	1.980	114.90	2:32.872
5	2		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	22:23.981	7	3.815	114.75	2:33.174
6	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	22:25.184	7	5.018	114.64	2:33.179
7	14		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	22:25.525	7	5.359	114.62	2:33.060
8	11		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	22:26.061	7	5.895	114.57	2:32.993
9	9		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	22:26.333	7	6.167	114.55	2:33.162
10	3		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	22:26.878	7	6.712	114.50	2:33.497
11	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	22:27.930	7	7.764	114.41	2:34.273
12	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	22:28.456	7	8.290	114.37	2:34.914
13	6		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	22:28.749	7	8.583	114.34	2:35.261
14	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	22:29.556	7	9.390	114.27	2:34.991
15	49	I	Nobuteru TANIGUCHI	JPN	BMW 320si	22:30.801	7	10.635	114.17	2:35.964
16	52	I	Takayuki AOKI	JPN	BMW 320si	22:32.985	7	12.819	113.98	2:37.721
17	51	I	Henry HO	MAC	BMW 320si	22:47.341	7	27.175	112.79	2:40.270
18	66	I	Andre COUTO	MAC	SEAT Leon	23:03.697	7	43.531	111.45	2:35.019
19	67	I	LEI Kit Meng	MAC	BMW 320si	23:14.441	7	54.275	110.59	2:44.645
20	55	I	Joseph Rosa MERSZEI	MAC	BMW 320si	23:17.696	7	57.530	110.34	2:44.472
21	12		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	20:27.371	5	2 LAPS	89.75	2:33.481

NOT CLASSIFIED

21	I	Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	13:08.617	4	D.N.F.	111.75	2:35.214
22	I	Tom BOARDMAN	GBR	SEAT Leon	5:24.863	2	D.N.F.	135.63	2:35.121
26	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	5:28.309	2	D.N.F.	134.21	2:35.451

FASTEST LAP

7		Jorg MULLER		BMW 320si	2:32.671	2	89.67mph	144.31kph
23	I	Felix PORTEIRO		BMW 320si	2:34.914	2	88.37mph	142.22kph

Cars 55, 67 & 66, 30 seconds penalty added, Stewards decisions 11, 13 & 17 refer.

Circuito Da Guia

Circuit Length = 6.1200 km.

Start: 13:25 End: 13:47

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Bulletin 179
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2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	# - driver	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Marrakech (MAR)		Pau (FRA)		Valencia (ESP)		Brno (CZE)		Porto (POR)		Brands Hatch (GBR)		Oschersleben (GER)		Imola (ITA)		Okayama (JPN)		Macau (CHN)		TOTAL
		8 March	15 March	22 March	29 March	5 May	12 May	19 May	26 May	2 June	9 June	16 June	23 June	30 June	7 July	14 July	21 July	28 July	4 September	11 September	18 September	25 September	2 November	9 November	16 November	
1	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	5	10	3	1	8	4	0	3	6	6	6	4	10	0	5	6	8	6	10	8	4	2	8	4	127
2	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	10	5	5	10	5	8	0	2	10	2	1	8	6	8	0	2	0	2	8	10	5	6	4	6	123
3	Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	4	3	8	5	0	3	8	8	5	10	0	0	1	10	1	10	4	10	0	1	1	10	1	10	113
4	Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	2	0	6	8	0	0	5	5	4	5	0	1	0	2	6	4	10	8	0	0	10	8	0	0	84
5	Robert HUFF (GBR)	0	0	0	0	10	6	10	6	0	0	0	0	8	3	8	3	0	0	6	0	6	3	10	1	80
6	Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	0	4	4	0	1	5	6	0	3	8	8	2	0	1	3	8	0	5	0	0	8	0	2	8	76
7	Rickard RYDELL (SWE)	6	8	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	3	2	6	4	5	6	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	64
8	Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	8	6	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	4	3	0	6	3	48
9	Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	8	1	3	6	5	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	5	44
10	Alain MENU (SUI)	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	1	6	0	5	3	0	39
11	Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	3	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	1	3	4	10	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	36
12	Alessandro ZANARDI (ITA)	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	4	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	31
13	Nicola LARINI (ITA)	0	0	1	0	3	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4	0	2	27
14	Tom CORONEL (NED)	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	15
15	Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
16	Franz ENGSTLER (GER)	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
17	James THOMPSON (GBR)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	3	3	0	0	0	0	6
18	Stefano D'ASTE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
19	Eric CAYROLLE (FRA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Marrakech (MAR)		Pau (FRA)		Valencia (ESP)		Brno (CZE)		Porto (POR)		Brands Hatch (GBR)		Oschersleben (GER)		Imola (ITA)		Okayama (JPN)		Macau (CHN)		TOTAL
		8 March	15 March	22 March	29 March	5 May	12 May	19 May	26 May	2 June	9 June	16 June	23 June	30 June	7 July	14 July	21 July	28 July	4 September	11 September	18 September	25 September	2 November	9 November	16 November	
1	SEAT	18	18	15	16	14	12	7	7	18	11	11	14	16	14	9	11	14	10	18	18	9	9	14	11	314
2	BMW	11	11	14	13	7	8	14	13	11	18	18	15	7	14	9	18	15	18	8	8	18	18	7	18	311
3	CHEVROLET	2	7	4	7	15	16	15	16	7	7	0	7	13	6	18	7	4	8	8	8	9	9	15	7	215
4	LADA	7	3	5	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	7	3	3	5	3	3	6	3	5	5	3	0	2	0	83