



GT NEWS

NEWSLETTER nr 9 - 25th MAY 2007

RACING IN THE STREETS ! SCUDERIA PLAYTEAM SARAFREE AND AF CORSE MOTOROLA CONQUER BUCHAREST !

Bucharest city centre was transformed into a race circuit over the weekend of May 17th - 20th, with a 3.111 km circuit, designed by Hermann Tilke, circumnavigating the gigantic Romanian parliamentary buildings. Despite rain, 69,000 spectators turned up over the weekend to watch the FIA GT Championship, the FIA GT3 European Championship, the Lloyds TSB Insurance British Formula Three International Series and the Logan Dacia Cup.

They were treated to a spectacular FIA GT race, which only saw one safety car period despite heavy rain, resulting in a fine win for Scuderia Playteam Sarafree's Maserati MC 12 of Bertolini and Piccini in GT1. The Italian duo finished nearly 40 seconds ahead of the All-Inkl.com Lamborghini Murciélago of Christophe Bouchut and Stefan Mücke. Having already won in Zhuhai, Bouchut and Mücke thus reclaimed the lead of the GT1 Drivers Championship. Third went to Vitaphone Racing team, with the nr 2 Maserati MC 12 of Christian Montanari and Miguel Ramos, both of whom claimed their first-ever FIA GT podium finishes. The leading Aston Martin, the Jetalliance DBR9 of Wendlinger and Sharp, was fourth after leading for much of the race.

In GT2, AF Corse Motorola's Ferrari 430 GT2 of Müller and Vilander was victorious for the third race in a row, finishing an amazing sixth overall. Second went to the BMS Scuderia Italia Porsche 997 of Collard and Malucelli, despite a puncture and two penalties. The final podium place was taken by Team Felbermayr Proton, with their Porsche 996 GT3 RSR driven by Lieb and Felbermayr Jr - a fine reward for the Felbermayr company, which has been heavily involved in the construction of the circuit. Eighteen cars out of the 27 entrant were classified on this challenging street circuit, with its unforgiving walls.

The weekend also saw the first street races for the FIA GT3 European Championship. It proved to be a good weekend for the Ferrari and Ford GT cars, with victory in the first race going to the JMB Racing duo of Stéphane Daoudi and Ian Khan, followed home by the Matech Racing Ford GT of Bartek and Mutsch, while the second race saw the second Ford GT, of Romain Bera and Stefan van Campenhoudt, claim the win, followed by a trio of Porsche 997 GT3 Cup cars from Trackspeed and Tech9. In the overall classification, Kessel Racing's Henri Moser and Gilles Vannelet still retain the lead, followed by JMB Racing's Daoudi and Khan, with the First Racing Lamborghini duo of Dubrulle and Navarro third.

The weekend also saw two rounds of the Lloyds TSB Insurance British Formula Three International series, in the first of three joint meetings with the FIA GT Championship. Hitech's Marko Asmer strengthened his lead with victory in the first race, while the win in the second went to Carlin's Sam Bird



"I would like to thank the Bucharest organisation. They really did a great job. It cannot be easy to organise such an event, in the first year. We would like to thank them all."

Andrea Piccini, Scuderia Playteam Sarafree



For more information on the teams,
drivers and everything about the
FIA GT Championship,
please visit :
www.fiagt.com



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED FOR BERTOLINI AND PICCINI

They came to Romania determined to make up for their poor start to the season before their home race in Monza : for Andrea Bertolini and Andrea Piccini, it was a case of Mission Accomplished in Bucharest ! In wet conditions on the street circuit, the nr 11 Scuderia Playteam Sarafree Maserati MC 12 finished 39 seconds ahead of the nr 7 All-Inkl.com Lamborghini Murciélago and a minute ahead of the nr 2 Vitaphone Maserati of Montanari and Ramos. "I am really, really happy," reigning Champion Bertolini said afterwards. "We had a very bad start to the season, and this was our last possibility to come back for the Championship. As you can imagine, we pushed a lot for the title, and the points are now very close. This was race was very important for the whole team. It is a very young team, but very motivated, and we have good support from Pirelli. I think the reason we won today was because of the tyres." Andrea Piccini added : "I would like to thank the Bucharest organisation. They really did a great job. It cannot be easy to organise such an event, in the first year, and despite the difficult conditions, we only needed to get the safety car out once. They moved the cars out of the way really quickly and did a great job, and we would like to thank them all."

BOUCHUT AND MÜCKE REGAIN CHAMPIONSHIP LEAD

New circuits are usually lucky for Christophe Bouchut, as he proved again today, when the nr 7 Lamborghini Murciélago he shares with Stefan Mücke finished second, giving the All-Inkl.com duo the lead in the Drivers Classification. Running strongly throughout the race in the wet conditions, they took second place when the nr 33 Aston Martin made its second pit stop, and came home just under 40 seconds behind the winners. "We didn't win the race, but we are very happy to finish second. We are now leading the Championship, so it is definitely a good situation," Bouchut said. "This car has shown a potential nobody imagined before, and it is also reliable, and now we can dream of the best race after race. It is excellent to come to Romania, to race here for the first time, to visit new countries, to meet new people. For the Championship, this is really good."

THIRD FOR VITAPHONE RACING

Vitaphone Racing Team finished on the podium for the second race in a row, but this time with the nr 2 Maserati MC 12 of Christian Montanari and Miguel Ramos – a first FIA GT podium for both drivers. Running strongly all weekend, the car qualified third and managed to cross the line in third position despite a drive-through penalty and an additional stop. "For me, this result was very important," Montanari said. "I think it was well deserved due to the conditions; it was not easy to race in these conditions. We had a drive-through penalty, and had some damage which meant we had to stop. We finished third, and I am very happy for me and Miguel and for Michelin, it's a very good result." Thomas Biagi and Fabrizio Gollin, in the nr 1 car, had a strong start, and Biagi was second when he pitted. However, problems meant the car finished seventh overall, sixth in GT1. This gave Thomas an additional three points, and he is now in joint second place in the Drivers Classification. "It would have been nice to get a podium in Bucharest, but I am confident for the next race in Monza as we will have a lighter car," Thomas explained. Vitaphone has further strengthened its lead in the Teams points table, while today's result placed Maserati back in the lead in the Manufacturer's Cup. Wendlinger and Sharp, long-time race leaders in the nr 33 Jetalliance Aston Martin DBR9, were fourth once again, their pit-stop strategy unfortunately dropping them back at the end, having lost too much time on the final stop. The team's second car, running in a strong fourth early on, was eliminated after being unable to avoid the Kessel Ferrari 575 Maranello , which had a spin.

The PK Carsport Corvette C5R of Kumpen and Longin finished fifth, maintaining the two Belgian drivers in a strong joint second position in the points table, just two points behind Bouchut and Mücke. With Gollin and Biagi sixth, Aston Martin Racing BMS's DBR9 of Davies and Babini was seventh, with SRT taking the final point – and the Citation Cup victory – in eighth.

RESULTS ROUND 3



QUALIFYING - GT1

- 1: Pier Guidi Maserati MC 12 1:14.214
- 2: Bertolini Maserati MC 12 1:14.587
- 3: Montanari Maserati MC 12 1:14.697
- 4: Lechner Aston Martin 1:15.329
- 5: Kumpen Corvette C5R 1:15.371
- 6: Wendlinger Aston Martin 1:15.469

QUALIFYING - GT2

- 1: Collard Porsche 997 GT3 1:18.175
- 2: Edwards Porsche 997 GT3 1:18.474
- 3: Janis Ferrari 430 GT2 1:18.684
- 4: Zani Porsche 997 GT3 1:18.776
- 5: Mullen Ferrari 430 GT2 1:19.097
- 6: Cressoni Ferrari 430 GT2 1:19.832



RACE RESULTS - GT1

- 1: Bertolini/Piccini Scuderia Playteam Sarafree Maserati MC 12
- 2: Bouchut/Mücke All-Inkl.com Lamborghini Murciélago
- 3 : Montanari/Ramos Vitaphone Maserati MC 12
- 4: Wendlinger/Sharp Jetalliance Aston Martin Racing DBR9
- 5: Kumpen/Longin PK Carsport Corvette C5
- 6: Biagi/Gollin Vitaphone Maserati MC12

RACE RESULTS- GT2

- 1: Muller/Vilander AF Corse Motorola Ferrari 430 GT2
- 2 :Malucelli/Collard BMS Scuderia Italia Porsche 997 GT3 RSR
- 3: Lieb/Felbermayr Jr Felbermayr Proton Porsche 996 GT3 RSR
- 4: Zani/Busnelli Ebimotors Porsche 997
- 5: Kirkaldy/Mullen Scuderia Ecosse Ferrari 430 GT2



CLASSIFICATION AFTER BUCHAREST

GT1 Drivers Classification

Bouchut /Mücke	18
Biagi/Kumpen/Longin	16
Bertolini/Piccini	14
Hezemans/Deletraz	12
Montanari/Ramos	11
Wendlinger/Sharp/Salo	10

GT1 Teams Classification

Vitaphone Racing	27
All-Inkl.com Racing	18
Pekaracing	16
Scuderia Playteam Sarafree	15
Carsport Holland	12
Jetalliance	10

GT2 Drivers Classification

Müller/Vilander	30
Tim Mullen	14
Collard/Malucelli	13
Kirkaldy	12
Zani/Busnelli	10
Rugolo/Cressoni	9

GT2 Teams Championship

AF Corse Motorola	38
Scuderia Ecosse	20
Racing Team Edil Cris	17
BMS Scuderia Italia	13
Ebimotors	10
Felbermayr Proton	8
Tech9 Motorsport	6

GT1 Manufacturers Cup

Maserati	42
Corvette	37
Aston Martin	20
Lamborghini	18

GT2 Manufacturers Cup

Ferrari	73
Porsche	37

FANTASTIC THREE IN A ROW FOR AF CORSE MOTOROLA

With four makes in the top five, the sixth position went to the winning GT2 car, the nr 50 AF Corse Motorola Ferrari 430 GT2 car of Dirk Müller and Toni Vilander, after a majestic performance in the rain gave them their third win of the season, and a commanding lead in the Championship.

“It feels really great,” Müller said. “We had a very bad day yesterday, losing one car completely; luckily the driver is OK. Then we lost our engine, just before the second practice. But that’s the way it is. I’d like to congratulate the team – the mechanics worked until midnight and did a fantastic job, giving us the possibility to turn it around today and win it. Toni did a fantastic first stint, staying out of trouble. He was the first guy to come in when the safety car came out : the team had very good communication and a very good strategy, and I think it was a strategy race today. It was up to the drivers not to make any mistakes, and up to the team to make the right strategy, and we got it all right. What else can I say – three times in a row, it’s fantastic !”

They finished ahead of a trio of Porsches, as always comfortable in the rain. The nr 97 BMS Scuderia Italia Porsche was second, and might have finished higher were it not for a puncture and two penalties. “I am really happy to finish second and it’s a good result considering,” Collard explained. “The conditions were, as we expected, really difficult, but we did a good job with no mistakes, and I’m happy to give the car back to the team in one piece.” The nr 66 Felbermayr Proton Porsche 996 GT3 was an excellent third for Marc Lieb and Horst Felbermayr Jr - a fine result for the year-old car, which started from the back of the grid, especially for Horst, whose company has been involved in the building of the circuit. “It’s a fantastic race for the whole team, for Horst and myself,” Lieb said. “When we came here we were hoping for a top five finish, and now we’re on the podium which we didn’t expect. The car was running brilliantly, we didn’t change tyres which meant it was a bit difficult at the end and very slippery. Horst also did a fantastic job. Neither car in the team had any crashes, which is unusual in a street race in the rain. We’re all very happy, it’s great for Felbermayr.”

In a Porsche one-two-three behind the AF Corse Ferrari, the nr 74 Ebimotors Porsche of Zani and Busnelli was fourth. Scuderia Ecosse’s Ferrari 430 GT2 of Mullen and Kirkaldy was fifth; the second car was out early on when Jarek Janis locked up and went straight on into the tyre barriers. The nr 53 Racing Team Edil Cris Ferrari was sixth and the nr 69 Felbermayr Proton Porsche seventh.

In the classification, Muller and Vilander have a 16-point lead over Tim Mullen, with Collard and Malucelli just one point behind the British driver. In the Teams’ classification, AF Corse Motorola leads Scuderia Ecosse.

GREAT RACE FOR THE GILLET VERTIGO

The Belgian Racing Gillet Vertigo finished 11th, after running as high as 6th with an excellent performance in the rain from Bas Leinders and Renaud Kuppens – their second best result, after 10th in Adria last year. “Renaud took the start behind the safety car but we came in on lap one to make the mandatory driver change,” Bas Leinders said. “I took over, and pushed like hell from the start until I got out of the car. At one point I was sixth overall. It’s really good to be passing GT1 cars, not only Citation Cup cars but the real GT1 cars. I really like street circuits, I’ve done Monaco six times, so maybe that helps a bit. It separates the men from the boys... I’d like to thank the team and especially Pirelli. It’s the first time we’ve driven with them, and they gave us excellent tyres.”





SRT REPEAT THEIR CITATION CUP WIN

Belgian team SRT claimed its second consecutive win in the Citation Cup, with the nr 18 Corvette C5 of Cloet and Vannelet finishing eighth to take the final GT1 point. Vannelet had a busy weekend as he is also leading the FIA GT3 European Championship with his team-mate Henri Moser. "Everything went well, it was quite tricky, the car had harder tyres, so it was not easy, but you have to make the best with what you have," Cloet explained. "It was difficult for everyone out there. It was the first time I drove in a street race and I didn't know what to expect, but I liked the experience very much and would like to repeat it." Vannelet also enjoyed the experience: "It was a good weekend. It was difficult in the FIA GT as the car and the track were both new to me, especially with the rain and the conditions. I really enjoyed it and I am very happy to have helped Tom for this race."



The SRT Corvette was closely followed by the two JMB Racing Maserati MC 12 cars of Macari/Aucott and Kutemann/Waaijberg. The fourth car in competition this weekend, the nr 21 Kessel Racing Ferrari 575 M Maranello, was involved in a collision with the nr 36 Aston Martin DBR9 after spinning.

Cloet is delighted to be leading the Citation Cup after two rounds: "Two races, two victories, and sole leader in the Citation Cup ranking...and on top of that one point for 8th place in GT1", a delighted Cloet continued. "Up until now we are well on course. It also means that I'll be present at Monza, for the 3rd round of the Citation Cup, at the end of June. The idea of being able to win this race within a race really excites me, and I will have to alter my initial race schedule to be able to compete in a maximum number of FIA-GT events between now and the end of the year.. It's all looking pretty bright for me. By Jove, it's great to win..."

QUALIFYING

- 1: Joe Macari - JMB Racing Maserati MC 12
- 2: Tom Cloet - SRT Corvette C5R
- 3: Peter Kutemann - JMB Racing Maserati MC 12
- Loris Kessel - Kessel Racing Ferrari 575 M Maranello - DNQ

RESULTS - ROUND 2

- 1 : Cloet/Vannelet - SRT Corvette C5R
- 2 : MacAri/Aucott - JMB Maserati MC12
- 3 : Kutemann/Waaijberg JMB Maserati MC12

Not Classified

Kessel/Cattori Kessel Racing Ferrari 575 M Maranello

POINTS AFTER ROUND 2

Cloet	20
Macari/Aucott	16
Kutemann/Waaijberg	12
Vannelet	10
Jakubowski/Labhardt	5
Stepec/Carcon	4



MACARI TAKES CITATION CUP POLE

The second round of the Citation Cup saw Joe Macari put the nr 16 JMB Racing Maserati MC 12 on pole position, in 19th position overall. He was closely followed by the nr 18 SRT car, with the nr 15 JMB Maserati third. The Kessel

Racing Ferrari did not take part in the session and will start from the back of the grid. "We are very, very pleased with the result, which is great for Maserati," Macari said afterwards. "The circuit is fantastic – it's my first time on a street circuit, and I can't wait to do it again. My team-mate Ben Aucott is coming on; he was a bit nervous, the walls are a bit bigger than he thought they would be, and he was trying to stay away from them, but he'll do a lot better in the race, and hopefully we can get a good result out of it. We are on a different tyre which means we cannot compete with the GT1 cars, and we have a bit more performance in a straight line than the GT2 cars, but we haven't got their cornering capabilities. If we're accurate, stay out of trouble and get to the end, who knows?"

MULLER AND VILANDER : THREE IN A ROW



AF Corse Motorola's Dirk Müller and Toni Vilander claimed their third win in a row in Bucharest : quite a rare event in the Championship. So who else has managed - or surpassed - this feat ?

5 in a row : BMS Scuderia Italia's Thomas Biagi and Matteo Bobbi claimed five wins in a row in 2003, rounds 1 to 5, in a Ferrari 550 Maranello. They went on to win the 2003 FIA GT Championship.

4 in a row : Chrysler Viper Team Oreca's Pedro Lamy and Olivier Beretta won the first four races of 1998 in their Chrysler Viper GTS-R, winning the GT2 title

3 in a row : Andrea Bertolini and Fabrizio De Simone won the last three rounds of 2003 in their JMB Racing Ferrari 360 Modena.

Sascha Maassen and Lucas Luhr, in a Freisinger Motorsport Porsche 996 GT3 RS claimed three wins in a row on two occasions in 2004. They went on to win the title.

Fabrizio Gollin and Luca Cappellari won the last round of 2003 and the first two rounds of 2004 in the BMS Scuderia Italia Ferrari 550 Maranello, the year in which they won the title.

In 2002, eventual Champion Stephane Ortelli won three rounds in a row, and then another four in a row. However, he had a variety of different team-mates, including Marc Lieb, Emmanuel Collard, Sascha Maassen and Romain Dumas.

SCUDERIA PLAYTEAM PLAYS... FOOTBALL !

Thursday, May 18, 2007 Andrea Bertolini, Andrea Piccini, Giambattista Giannoccaro, Alessandro Pier Guidi were the first drivers to have been invited by the world famous football club Dinamo Bucurest to their stadium Stefan cel Mare. Almost 15,300 spectators watched on as the footballers and drivers fought it out on pitch and a scoreline of 8-8 marked by a goal from Andrea Piccini.

"I am quite proud to have participated in this charity game in front of a rather full grand stand of fans, and media," commented Andrea after the game. Giambattista Giannoccaro commented, "My first ever football game was great. When my son hears that I played against the famous Dinamo, he will never believe me. Usually my son cheers for Milano. It is incredible to have played against the most celebrated team of the country, who just won the Cup. It was a normal game where fair play and common sense were present all along. F.C. Dinamo Bucharest is one of the most successful Romanian football clubs. They gave me the club's triangular emblems. I will certainly keep it in the garage to bring luck to the team. I was voted captain of the team of drivers. It was a lot of responsibility. I can imagine now, that if I was not a racing driver, I could have become a football player. It was a fast game and felt like a good training session also after the flight from Italy. Just like there are football games for drivers in Monza or a charity game in Monaco at the Louis II stadium, it is a good way to prepare physically for the race. The score is good. It showed that everyone worked well. There are no winners and no losers. Just a fair way to end a good and tough game to finish with such a high score."

Andrea Piccini added, "I scored one goal. Everyone cheered. I heard my name several times on the commentary throughout the stadium. Overall, we played very sensibly. We did not take any risk of getting injured. I wish the football players could try our cars around the track. I tell you they would not make it in some parts that are quite narrow for our wide Maserati. Tonight everyone has been fantastic and we really had lot of fun."

PROVISIONAL HANDICAPS R4

nr 7 Lamborghini	+ 70 kg
nr 11 Maserati	+ 40 kg
nr 1 Maserati	+ 20 kg
nr 4 Corvette	+ 10 kg

nr 50 Ferrari	+ 50 kg
nr 66 Porsche	+ 35 kg
nr 97 Porsche	+ 15 kg

All Maserati MC 12 cars have +25kg from the GT Bureau for performance balancing.

All newcomers have 40 kg in GT1 and 20 kg in GT2.

GT2 cars deemed to have two professional drivers have an additional 28 kg

NOTE : Weights from the GT Bureau can be changed up to the day before scrutining for the next event.



FOURTH PLACE FOR JETALLIANCE

Jetalliance's duo of Karl Wendlinger and Ryan Sharp narrowly missed out on the podium in Bucharest, finishing fourth, just like the last time in Silverstone. With ten points, they are only eight off the current leaders Bouchut and Mücke. During the difficult race, Karl Wendlinger led for much of the first hour. "We fought for the podium positions all race long – and in the end it's just another fourth place finish," Wendlinger said. "We ran well the entire weekend – and in today's race as well. What's decisive is that we simply lose too much time during driver changes. The roll bars in our Aston Martin are just too tight, so getting in and out takes its time. At least we were able to keep the pace of the front runners!" As for the nr 36 car of Lechner and Lichtner-Hoyer, they had qualified an excellent fourth but had to retire early after being unable to avoid a spinning Ferrari. "We didn't make a single mistake during the entire weekend. We were really close to a points finish today..." a disappointed Lechner commented afterwards.



PK CARSPORT MAINTAINS SECOND POSITION



PK Carsport's duo of Anthony Kumpen and Bert Longin finished fifth in Bucharest, maintaining second position in the Drivers classification after a difficult race. "We believed that this track would be a great venue for our car, but it wasn't," Longin said. "All cars with front engines were having trouble to catch up with the Maseratis and Lamborghinis. But Anthony

did a great job in qualifying and finished first of the 'Vettes', only fractions of a second behind the first non-Maserati. So with the risks of this type of track and rain pouring down just minutes before the start, we knew that a safe strategy would probably bring more than taking all risks possible." Kumpen agreed: "I came home fifth, but with many of our main competitors behind us or even out of the race, we knew that taking risks was no issue. We have kept our second position in the championship, only one point behind the new leaders. All together this was a very difficult weekend, but we made the best out of it and scored points again. And that's what counts at the end of the season..."

5 MILLIMETRES TOO FAR FOR CARSPORT HOLLAND



Mike Hezemans and Jean-Denis Deletraz, second in Silverstone, chose a different strategy in Bucharest, which looked like giving them another podium finish. Hezemans started, but came in for his pit-stop on the first lap, handing over to Deletraz for a long stint. The Swiss driver did really well, lapping with the fastest drivers, overtaking the pole-set-

ting nr 12 Maserati MC 12 and other GT1 cars. After an hour, the nr 5 Corvette C6R was lying fourth, ahead of its nearest rivals in the Championship. "Two laps before my scheduled pit stop," Deletraz explained. "I made a slight mistake in the driving line and brushed against the tyres on the inside of the nr 2 chicane. Considering the surface and the narrow track, this threw me up against the outside wall, tearing off the wing and destroying my front suspension.... the end of the race and of the dream ... all for 5 millimetres." However, the points are extremely close at this moment, with the top 14 drivers separated by only eight points, so a good result in Monza could turn the situation around.

FOURTH FOR EBIMOTORS

In a good race weekend for Porsche, with five out of the top seven places in GT2 going to Porsche 997 or 996 cars, Ebimotors finished just off the podium in 5th. "The car was really good, and we were good in these conditions," Marcello Zani said. "But we were unlucky during the safety car, and my co-driver came out in sixth position. Our lap times were quite good, and we finished fourth; the points were important for us. It wasn't easy, but at least we had no accidents. The track was very nice, but very difficult, especially in the rain."



MULLEN RETAINS SECOND IN GT2 DRIVERS

Scuderia Ecosse had to be content with a fifth-placed finish in Bucharest after a bruising race around the city streets. Jarek's first race for Scuderia Ecosse ended in the tyre wall after just ten minutes when the young Czech locked up going into turn one and hit the tyre barrier head on. As for Mullen and Kirkaldy, they finished fifth after contact with a Maserati meant an extra pit stop and damage. However the points mean that Tim is still in second place in the Championship, behind Müller and Vilander, while the team is also lying in second place. "This was my first event at a street circuit and I loved it," Niarchos said. "It is extremely challenging but it was a fantastic experience. Obviously I'm disappointed that I didn't get to race but the most important thing is that Jarek is okay; cars are fixable, people aren't."





RACING IN THE STREETS !

The first-ever street race for the FIA GT3 European Championship provided plenty of excitement for the Bucharest spectators who crowded into the grandstands around the track. With the unforgiving walls and tricky weather conditions, there was undoubtedly a lot of damage, but also some excellent

racing. With one win going to JMB Racing Ferrari, and the other to Matech Racing with its Ford GT, along with fine performances from the Lamborghini, Ascari and Porsche cars, the 2007 is proving to be as close and as thrilling as last year ! After four races, Kessel Racing still retains the lead in the Teams Championship, followed by Porsche team Trackspeed Racing and First Racing with its Lamborghini Gallardo cars. In the Drivers classification, double Silverstone winners Henri Moser and Gilles Vannelet still have a ten-point lead in their Kessel Racing Ferrari 430 GT3. Their nearest rivals are Bucharest race-winners Stéphane Daoudi and Ian Khan, also in a Ferrari 430 but entered by Monaco team JMB Racing. Third place goes to Maxime Dubrulle and Nicolas Navarro, the two Frenchmen driving for First Racing in a Lamborghini Gallardo.

QUALIFYING : FIRST POLE POSITIONS FOR TRACK-SPEED RACING AND TEAM BERLANGA

At this unusual track, qualifying sessions were to prove more important than anywhere else, due to the difficulties with overtaking . Wet at the beginning, but dry at the end, the conditions were tricky during the first session, where the nr 5 Trackspeed Racing Porsche 997 GT3 Cup driven by Richard Williams set its first pole position. The second session was rather chaotic, with three red flags. Ben Collins was the quickest, but unfortunately Collins had an accident at the end of the session with two other cars. The British driver, who was taken to hospital for further tests, was not able to take part in the race.

THE PORSCHE GETS ON WELL IN THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS

When the weather conditions are tricky, the Porsche cars are usually at the front ! The track was quite damp at the beginning of the session, but it began to dry during the sessions. From the start, Richard Williams, in the nr 5 Trackspeed Racing Porsche 997 GT3 Cup, was on a good pace, and he was the first driver to put slick tyres on. So of course Williams improved his time. After a nice battle with Erik Janis' Lamborghini, Williams managed to set pole position, the first of the season for a Porsche, and the first pole position for him and for Trackspeed Racing in the FIA GT3 European Championship. With Jonathan Lang in 3rd position, Tom Ferrier in 4th, and Luc Paillard in 6th, the Porsches managed a great result in this session.

In second position, Erik Janis was happy to be on the first row: "That was our main goal. At such a track you need to be on the first row to expect a good result". In the middle of the Porsches, he was determined to do his best to take the lead at the first corner.

BEN COLLINS ON POLE FOR RACE 2

For the first time of the season, an Ascari set the fastest time. With two Red Flags, this session was in three different parts, and all the drivers improved in the last minutes. In the nr 33 Team Berlanga Ascari KZ1R GT3, Ben Collins managed to set the fastest time, even if the track was really busy at the end of the session. Unfortunately, after the chequered flag, Ben Collins had an accident with Martin Matzcke, in the nr 12 First Racing Lamborghini, and Jirik Jaromir, in the nr 15 S-Berg Racing Lamborghini. Those drivers were sent to the University Hospital for a check up. The cars were badly damaged, and it will be difficult for them to take part in both races, even with the teams doing their best. Behind Collins' Ascari, five different cars were close. James Ruffier, in the nr 19 Riverside Corvette was second, Thomas Mutsch (Ford) third, Stephane Daoudi (Ferrari) fourth, James Pickford (Porsche) fifth and Diego Alessi (Aston Martin) sixth. With Alex Mortimer in 8th position, there were seven different makes in the top10.

POINTS AFTER EVENT 2 DRIVERS CLASSIFICATION

Moser/Vannelet	26
Daoudi/Khan	16
Dubrulle/Navarro	13
Pirri / von Gartzen	11
Bera/Van Campenhoudt	10
Williams	10
Mutsch/Bartek	9
Jirik/Janis /Pickford	8
etc	

TEAMS CLASSIFICATION

Kessel Racing	30
Trackspeed Racing	22
First Racing	19
JMB Racing	17
BMS Scuderia Italia	13
Tech9 Motorsport	10
Martini Callaway Racing	8
S-Berg Racing Team	8
Team Berlanga	8
etc	

ASCARI CUP

Spooner/Wilmott	20
Stanton/Morris/Bertram	18
Erik Zwart	16

ASTON MARTIN CUP

Alessi/Frassinetti	26
Mateu/Rodrigues	26
Seiler/Sardelli	18

CORVETTE CUP

Pirri/Von Gartzen	26
Martini/Ludwig	11
Ruffier/Peyrolles	11

FERRARI CUP

Moser/Vannelet	28
Daoudi/Khan	28
Kremer	24

FORD CUP

Mutsch/Bartek	13
Bera/van Campenhoudt	7

LAMBORGHINI CUP

Navarro/Dubrulle	28
Knauss Grobl	27
Tuchbant	21

PORSCHE CUP

Hooker/Pickford/Williams	34
Ferrier/Quaife	27
Buncombe	18

RACE ONE : STEPHANE DAUDI AND IAN KHAN GIVE FERRARI ANOTHER VICTORY

Safety Car, rain, overtaking... everything happened during this first race in the streets of Bucharest. In the nr 34 JMB Racing Ferrari 430, Ian Khan and Stephane Daoudi passed through all the traps, Daoudi even choosing to stay on slick tyres in the rain, finally winning their first race of the season; the third victory for a Ferrari, in three races! Thomas Mutsch and Martin Bartek finished second, the best result so far for a Ford GT, and the Championship Leaders, Henri Moser and Gilles Vannelet, scored more important points with their 3rd position.

KHAN AND DAUDI ARE DANCING IN THE RAIN

It was a crazy race, very difficult and as it was expected, each mistake took important proportions. When the rain started at the end of the race, it became even more difficult for every driver. But Ian Khan and Stephane Daoudi managed to pass through all the difficulties, and win their first race of the season, adding one more victory for Ferrari. Three wins in three races, the Ferrari 430 GT3 seems to be a good winning weapon. In this race, Khan and Daoudi had a good strategy. Starting from 8th position, Ian Khan was 5th when the Safety car forced everybody to change driver at the same time, and then Stephane Daoudi did the rest, as Ian Khan explained : "I did not do much for that victory honestly... it is Stephane's race, he is the one who made it and I have to congratulate him!".

At the beginning of his stint, Stephane Daoudi was on a good pace, and managed to climb to third position, following the Championship leader, Henri Moser, in the Ferrari 430. Then the rain came, and logically most of the drivers decided to put rain tyres on. Most of them, but not all of them! Stephane Daoudi, after talking on the radio with his team manager, decided to stay on track: "He asked me how the track was, and if I wanted to put rain tyres on. And I said no, it will be OK... then I realized what I just said. I had few tricky moments, and I have to admit that the Safety Car helped us a lot. To win the race you also need luck sometime." Ten minutes before the end of the race, the nr 24 BMS Scuderia Italia Aston Martin DBRS9 driven by Toni Seiler hit the wall. Frederic Makowiecki, in the nr 26 Hexis Racing Aston Martin DBRS9, could not avoid him, and both cars were badly damaged.

So behind the Safety Car, Stephane Daoudi and Ian Kahn won their first win of the season, ahead of Martin Bartek and Thomas Mutsch's nr 43 Matech Racing Ford GT. Helped by a good strategy with a very early pit stop to change driver, the Ford GT finished second, its best result so far. Third, Henri Moser and Gilles Vannelet scored more important points, and consolidated their leading position in the FIA GT3 European Championship.

SEVEN DIFFERENT MAKES IN THE TOP 10

Behind the winning Ferrari and the nr 43 Matech racing Ford GT, six other different makes finished in the top 10. After a long first stint, Nicolas Navarro and Maxime Dubrulle, in the nr 10 First Racing Lamborghini Gallardo, finished in 4th position, and first of the Lamborghinis. Those two young French drivers were really pleased and motivated by this result. In 5th position, Alex Mortimer and paraplegic driver Gilles Duqueine finished first of the Dodges, just in front of the nr 18 Martini Callaway Racing Corvette Z06 GT3 of Luca Pirri and Jurgen Von Gartzten.

First of the Aston Martins, Diego Alessi and Alex Frassinetti were 7th, and the first Porsche, the nr 4 Trackspeed Racing, was 8th overall. This mixed result proves that even on this particular street track, all the GT3 cars are really close to each others. This was a very difficult day for Ascari, and several cars were unfortunately badly damaged. Richard Stanton and Ed Morris finished in 14th position despite everything. And for its first ever race, the nr 49 AutoGT Morgan Aero 8 GT3 was classified in 29th position, whereas the nr 50 retired at the beginning of the race.



BUCHAREST RACE ONE

QUALIFYING

- 1: Richard WILLIAMS - Porsche 997 Cup
- 2: Erik JANIS - Lamborghini Gallardo
- 3: Jonathan LANG - Porsche 997 Cup
- 4: Tom FERRIER - Porsche 997 Cup
- 5: Michael GREENHALGH - Ascari KZ1R

RESULTS - RACE ONE

- 1: Khan/Daoudi - JMB Racing Ferrari 430
- 2: Bartek/Mutsch - Matech Racing Ford GT
- 3: Vannelet/Moser - Kessel Racing Ferrari 430
- 4: Navarro/Dubrulle - First Racing Lamborghini Gallardo
- 5: Duqueine /Mortimer - RPM -Dodge Viper
- 6: Pirri / Von Gartzten - Martini Callaway Racing - Corvette Z06



RACE TWO : GREAT SUCCESS FOR MATECH RACING

Once again, at the Bucharest ring, the second FIA GT3 European Championship race of the week-end was undecided until the chequered flag. To claim their first ever victory, Stefan van Campenhoudt and Romain Bera avoided all the potential traps, including difficult weather conditions, with heavy rain. After only four races, the Ford GT has taken its first victory, which was extremely satisfying for the whole Matech Racing team. As usual, the Porsche cars were competitive in the wet conditions. With the nr 5 Trackspeed car second; the nr 1 Tech9 third and the nr 4 Trackspeed fourth, the Porsches managed a great result.

VICTORY FOR BERA AND VAN CAMPENHOUDT

After a first pole position in Silverstone, the Matech Racing Ford GT claimed its first race win in Bucharest, only a few months after the beginning of this project. At the end of another difficult race, Romain Bera and Stefan von Campenhoudt had a perfect strategy, both drivers did not make any mistakes, and even with a flat tyre they managed to cross the line in first place. "This project started four months ago, and we've won today, after only four races. It is fantastic, and we have to give a big thank you to Matech Racing. In a short time, they've done a great job! This victory is important for all of them" declared Stefan van Campenhoudt. After two Safety Car periods, Romain Bera was leading the race, and managed to keep the car on track, in spite of terrible weather conditions. "It was hard to use the power of the car, and I was really concentrating, I did not want to make any mistakes. I was really fighting with the car, and after the race the team told me that I had a flat tyre at the rear" he said.

Second in the first race with Martin Bartek and Thomas Mutsch, first today with Romain Bera and Stefan von Campenhoudt, Matech Racing had a perfect week end, on a track not really suited to this car, as Stefan von Campenhoudt explained: "Our car is longer than the others, and it is quite hard to manage the car around the corners and to keep the pace in this street track. It is really not that easy, so we are even more proud of our result." The team is now extremely motivated for the next round in Monza, and they will work hard in order to be ready to surprise everyone again.

FACT : PORSCHE ARE FAST IN THE RAIN !

As shown during the first qualifying session, when the conditions are tricky, the Porsches are always there. Back on the pace on this unusual track, three Porsches finished in the top 5. In the nr 5 Trackspeed Porsche 997 GT3 Cup, Richard Williams and James Pickford finished second, after a thrilling start from James Pickford and a great stint from Richard Williams. "I'm glad the Porsche is back on the pace here. This circuit really suits the Porsche" he said.

In the nr 31 Team Berlanga Ascari KZ1R GT3, Eric Zwart and Rory Bertram crossed the line in second place, but after the race they had 30 seconds added to their time for a pit lane infringement, so they finally finished in 5th position. Nevertheless; it is a great result for the team, after a difficult beginning of the weekend. "Ben Collins got the pole position, but unfortunately he had an accident and he is in hospital and we wish him all the best. We hope he will get well soon" declared Eric Zwart.

In sixth place, Stephane Daoudi and Ian Khan finished first of the Ferrari, and scored some important points. They finished just in front of Maxime Dubrulle and Nicolas Navarro, first of the Lamborghinis for the second time this week end.

In the nr 18 Martini Callaway Racing Corvette Z06R GT3, Luca Pirri and Jurgen von Gartzen were first of the Corvettes, while Clement Mateu and Julien Rodrigues, in nr 25 Hexis Racing Aston Martin, were the only Aston Martin drivers to cross the line. Local Heroes, David Claudiu and Mihai Marinescu, in the nr 9 RPM Dodge Viper Competition Coupe, crossed the line in 9th position, but 30 seconds was added to their race time for a yellow flag infringement, so they were finally classified in 14th position, but remained the first of the Dodge cars.

For the first time this season, Henri Moser and Gilles Vannelet, in the nr 38 Kessel Racing Ferrari did not score any points. They retired during the first Safety Car period, with a transmission problem. But they are still leading the FIA GT3 European Championship with 26 points, Stephane Daoudi and Ian Khan are following them with 16 points, three points ahead of Maxime Dubrulle and Nicolas Navarro.

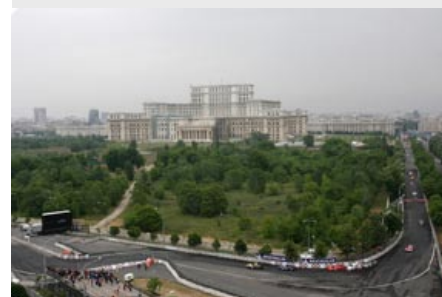


BUCHAREST RACE TWO QUALIFYING

- 1: Ben COLLINS - Ascari KZ1R
- 2: James RUFFIER - Corvette Z06
- 3: Thomas MUTSCH - Ford GT
- 4: Stephane DAOUDI - Ferrari 430
- 5: James Pickford - Porsche 997 Cup
- 6: Diego Alessi - Aston Martin DBRS9

RESULTS - RACE TWO

- 1: Van Campenhoudt/Bera - Matech Racing Ford GT
- 2: Pickford/Williams - Trackspeed Porsche 997 Cup
- 3: Quaife / Ferrier - Tech9 Motorsport Porsche 997 Cup
- 4: Hooker / Ashburn - Trackspeed Porsche 997 Cup
- 5: Zwart/Bertram - Berlanga Ascari KZ1R
- 6: Daoudi / Khan - JMB Racing Ferrari 430



RACE 1 : ASMER WINS FIRST-EVER BUCHAREST RACE

With the Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series having the first race of the weekend, Marko Asmer became the first driver ever to win a race in Bucharest. The Estonian took the chequered flag in a race dominated by safety car periods ahead of Carlin Motorsport teammates Alberto Valerio and Sam Bird.

Mike Meadows scored another victory in the National Class, his second of the season, after poleman Alistair Jackson had an incident with Jonathan Kennard force the Northern Irish driver into retirement. Sergio Perez was a close second, ahead of Hamad Al Fardan, the first visit to the podium for the Bahraini driver.

Marko Asmer: "The race wasn't that fantastic, we didn't get many racing laps, but still it was good for me. The organisers and Romania have done a fantastic job to make this circuit. I really like it and I enjoy it. The championship is looking good and we will keep trying to get as many points as possible."

Michael Meadows: "It's good to sign for Double R and get the weekend off to a good start with a win."

RACE 2 : BIRD FLIES IN ROMANIA

Sam Bird headed a Carlin 1-2 in Round 6 of the 2007 Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series, becoming the third different winner and the first Rookie to take a win this season. Niall Breen was second, with pole man Stephen Jelley coming home in third after dropping back following an incident with Alberto Valerio in Turn 1.

Marko Asmer (105) now holds a commanding 47 point lead over second placed Stephen Jelley (58), with Sam Bird (51) moving up to 3rd place ahead of Maro Engel (50).

Sergio Perez scored his second win of the year in the National Class, ahead of Viktor Jensen, who stormed through from the back of the grid and 'Frankie' Cheng, who leaves Bucharest with some points after suffering in qualifying and the first race.

Sam Bird: "I said the weight had been lifted of my shoulders after yesterday and I think today proved it. I'm lost for words really. I couldn't ask for any more. For me it's been fantastic weekend and I think everybody in the Formula 3 Paddock will come away with smiles on their faces. It's been a fantastic event; the organisers have been superb, they've done such a good job and I'd like to thank everybody here for putting this event on. Hopefully, if I do British F3, I just hope this will be on the calendar."

Sergio Perez: "The team have done a perfect job, we have been working very hard and we are going to keep working hard to win the championship."

The Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series now moves back to the UK with Rounds 7 & 8 at Snetterton in Norfolk on 3rd June before heading off to Italy and the fast straights of Monza on June 24th.





ROUND 4 MONZA (ITALY) - JUNE 23rd & 24th 2007

The weekend will feature :
round 4 of the 2007 FIA GT Championship, along with rounds 5 & 6 of the FIA GT3 European Championship and rounds 9 & 10 of the Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

TIMETABLE

Please note that this event takes place over TWO DAYS for all events :

Saturday June 23rd will feature free practice and qualifying for all series.

Sunday June 24th will include two British F3 International Series races, two rounds of the FIA GT3 European Championship and the two-hour FIA GT Championship race

MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Publications based in Italy should contact the National Press Officer, Gianni Cattaneo, on stampa@acimi.it

All other publications should contact the Media Delegate, Jacquie Groom, on jacquie@sro.co.uk. A form can be downloaded from the FIA GT website, in the Downloads page.

The deadline for accreditation is **June 15th**, and letters of confirmation will be sent out shortly afterwards.

Permanent passholders from the Lloyds TSB Insurance British F3 International Series should contact Jacquie Groom to indicate that they will be attending; they will be issued with an FIA GT media pass and car pass.

AUTODROMO NAZIONALE DI MONZA

This will be the seventh time that the FIA GT Championship has raced in Monza, one of the fastest tracks visited by the Championship. It will be the first time for the FIA GT 3 European Championship, and the second time for the British F3 International Series - although few drivers from the 2005 series are still competing in 2007 !

The circuit, 5770 m long, is located 25 km north of Milan.

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Malpensa (MXP) - 60 km



FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

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