

ROUNDS 9 & 10 – BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC
RACE 1 REPORT

Weather: sunny with a dry track.

RACE 1: PORTEIRO LEADS A BMW 1-2-3-4

Félix Porteiro turned his first pole of the season into his and BMW Team Italy-Spain's first victory. Alessandro Zanardi overtook Augusto Farfus for third position on lap seven making it a double celebration for the team. Jörg Müller completed the BMW podium in second place.

At the first corner Andy Priaulx's car was hit by Pierre-Yves Corthals in an accident which is under investigation. Jordi Gené also got caught up in the incident and strayed into the gravel but while the Spaniard continued and finished 15th, the reigning champion's race was over.

On the same lap Tom Coronel from GR Asia and Luca Rangoni for Proteam Motorsport clashed, with the former not able to continue. The second lap was completed under safety car conditions.

While at the front the four BMWs managed to pull away when the race resumed and created a gap, another quartet of cars – two Chevrolets and two SEATs – fought for the positions from 5 to 8.

There was a tough battle for the independent win with Corthals and Massimiliano Pedalà overtaking each other on numerous occasions. Eventually Pedalà was the more successful and despite chasing James Thompson for 9th he finished 10th for SEAT Sport Italia while Corthals of Exagon Racing came home 12th. This was the team's first victory since they joined the championship.

Nicola Larini crossed the line fifth for Chevrolet while his team-mate Alain Menu secured eighth and pole position for race two. Sandwiched in between the blue cars were Yvan Muller and Gabriele Tarquini of SEAT Sport.

Results of the first race meant that Augusto Farfus regained the Drivers' Championship lead, with a 3 point gap ahead of Priaulx, while Müller is 6 points off his own team-mate.

BULLET NEWS

PEDALÀ FASTEST IN THE WARM UP

Massimiliano Pedalà created a surprise by setting the fastest time of 2:13.699. Alex Zanardi and Gabriele Tarquini were 0.053 and 0.144 of a second slower respectively.

Jörg Müller went wide and skidded onto the gravel at turn five but rejoined while Davide Roda of Proteam Motorsport found himself in the gravel at turn 12 where his session ended.



NEW ENGINES FOR GEIPEL AND FREITAS

Philip Geipel's Toyota Corolla T-Sport and Miguel Freitas' Alfa Romeo 156 both underwent engine changes last night. The two independent drivers will therefore start at the back of the grid.

Portuguese driver Freitas had to be permitted by the stewards to take part in the races after engine problems meant he didn't take part in qualifying.

FOUR CARS TO THE BACK OF THE GRID

Four competitors applied for neutralization of the parc fermé in between the two races in order to repair damages obtained in the first race: Luca Rangoni, Tom Coronel, Philip Geipel and Andy Priaulx.

Therefore they will be placed at the back of the grid for the second race.

THEY SAID, THEY SAID...

Félix PORTEIRO

"I'm really happy with this result because the team and I needed it for all our hard work. The race was constant and I pushed hard because I knew if I didn't make mistakes I could win it. There was a slight problem in the first corner where someone pushed me from the back but I continued. I have to say I am extra happy to be able to share the podium with Zanardi. The problem for race two is that there are three BMW cars ahead of me and so it will be a race for fun and to keep learning."

Jörg MÜLLER

"Félix didn't make any mistakes and my ballast meant I couldn't keep up with him. From the start I knew I would be happy with second place and I'm pleased I have closed the gap in the championship. This result is good for BMW and if all of us concentrate for the second race we can probably pass the front wheel drive cars and get some good points."

Alessandro ZANARDI

"This is a great result for the team, Félix and myself. Unfortunately it is the first race and we still have to do the second one so we can't celebrate properly yet! At the start I was right behind Félix and couldn't go anywhere while people were all over the place. After turn one my steering wasn't straight but I realised I still had the speed and while Farfus tried to resist he was fair when the time came for me to overtake. It was Félix's day today...he's talented, no doubt about it."

Massimiliano PEDALÀ

"It's a dream for me to be here so to get a win is incredible, especially because it is only my second race in the WTCC. The team gave me a perfect car so I could go and have a great race, which is exactly what I did."

2007 FIA World Touring Car Championship

RACE CLASSIFICATION - RACE 1

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	26:51.609	11		132.76	2:13.750
2	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	26:51.868	11	0.259	132.74	2:13.761
3	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	26:54.894	11	3.285	132.49	2:13.748
4	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	26:55.893	11	4.284	132.40	2:13.721
5	7		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	27:05.756	11	14.147	131.60	2:15.042
6	12		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon	27:06.214	11	14.605	131.56	2:14.980
7	11		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon	27:06.407	11	14.798	131.55	2:14.510
8	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	27:09.179	11	17.570	131.32	2:15.153
9	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Alfa Romeo 156	27:11.003	11	19.394	131.18	2:15.065
10	34		Massimiliano PEDALA	ITA	SEAT Leon	27:11.235	11	19.626	131.16	2:14.061
11	10		Michel JOURDAIN	MEX	SEAT Leon	27:13.003	11	21.394	131.02	2:15.332
12	23		Pierre-Yves CORTHALS	BEL	SEAT Leon	27:14.417	11	22.808	130.90	2:15.896
13	18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon	27:16.056	11	24.447	130.77	2:15.520
14	26		Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	27:16.375	11	24.766	130.75	2:15.558
15	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon	27:18.445	11	26.836	130.58	2:14.754
16	21		Emmet O'BRIEN	IRL	SEAT Leon	27:28.446	11	36.837	129.79	2:16.871
17	22		Maurizio CERESOLI	ITA	SEAT Leon	27:30.257	11	38.648	129.65	2:16.820
18	30		Luca RANGONI	ITA	BMW 320si	27:38.954	11	47.345	128.97	2:16.912
19	16		Olivier TIELEMANS	NED	Alfa Romeo 156	27:42.097	11	50.488	128.72	2:17.281
20	6		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	27:43.014	11	51.405	128.65	2:18.232
21	33		Miguel FREITAS	POR	Alfa Romeo 156	27:43.191	11	51.582	128.64	2:16.820
22	37		Philip GEIPEL	GER	Toyota Corolla T-Sport	27:43.328	11	51.719	128.63	2:17.084
23	32		Davide RODA	ITA	BMW 320si	28:04.031	11	1:12.422	127.05	2:19.221

NOT CLASSIFIED

1	Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	0	D.N.F.	N/A
20	Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	0	D.N.F.	N/A

FASTEST LAP

3	Augusto FARFUS		BMW 320si	2:13.721	3	145.45kph	90.38mph
34	Massimiliano PEDALA		SEAT Leon	2:14.061	3	145.08kph	90.15mph

Weather/Track: Sun 24°/Dry 51°

Brno
Circuit Length = 5.4030 km.
Start: 12:04 End: 12:31

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:
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2007 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	# - driver	Curitiba (BRA) 10 / 11 March		Zandvoort (NED) 5 / 6 May		Valencia (ESP) 19 / 20 May		Pau (FRA) 2 / 3 June		Brno (CZE) 16 / 17 June		Porto (POR) 8 / 9 July		Anderstorp (SWE) 28 / 29 July		Oschersleben (GER) 25 / 26 August		Brands Hatch (GBR) 22 / 23 September		Monza (ITA) 6 / 7 October		Macau (CHN) 16 / 18 November		TOTAL
		6	10	4	8	0	0	2	10	5														
1	3 - Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	6	10	4	8	0	0	2	10	5														45
2	1 - Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	8	8	1	4	4	6	3	8	0														42
3	2 - Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	10	6	0	6	1	8	0	0	8														39
4	12 - Yvan MULLER (FRA)	1	5	0	0	6	5	8	3	3														31
5	7 - Nicola LARINI (ITA)	0	0	8	5	8	4	0	0	4														29
6	11 - Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	5	4	2	10	0	0	0	0	2														23
7	15 - James THOMPSON (GBR)	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	2	0														22
8	8 - Alain MENU (SUI)	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	1	1														22
9	18 - Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	-	-	5	0	0	0	6	6	0														17
10	5 - Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	10														15
11	30 - Luca RANGONI (ITA)	0	2	6	3	2	2	0	0	0														15
12	6 - Robert HUFF (GBR)	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0														14
13	9 - Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	0	0	0	0	5	3	1	4	0														13
14	4 - Alessandro ZANARDI (ITA)	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6														11
15	19 - Roberto COLCIAGO (ITA)	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	-														5
16	20 - Tom CORONEL (NED)	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0														4
17	10 - Michel JOURDAIN (MEX)	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0														3
18	31 - Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	0	-	-	0	1	0	0	-														1

2007 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA) 10 / 11 March		Zandvoort (NED) 5 / 6 May		Valencia (ESP) 19 / 20 May		Pau (FRA) 2 / 3 June		Brno (CZE) 16 / 17 June		Porto (POR) 8 / 9 July		Anderstorp (SWE) 28 / 29 July		Oschersleben (GER) 25 / 26 August		Brands Hatch (GBR) 22 / 23 September		Monza (ITA) 6 / 7 October		Macau (CHN) 16 / 18 November		TOTAL
		18	18	10	14	7	14	7	18	18														
1	BMW	18	18	10	14	7	14	7	18	18														124
2	SEAT	10	11	8	14	11	8	14	10	9														95
3	CHEVROLET	5	4	18	8	10	5	15	7	9														81
4	ALFA ROMEO	0	5	3	3	11	12	3	4	3														44