

ROUNDS 17 & 18 – BRANDS HATCH, UNITED KINGDOM
RACE 1 REPORT

Weather: cloudy, with a cool breeze and a dry track

CHEVROLET WIN FROM ALFA AND BMW

Alain Menu claimed victory after not putting a wheel wrong all race. The Chevrolet driver came under pressure from N.technology's James Thompson on numerous occasions but the Alfa Romeo never got close enough to overtake. Third across the line was Colin Turkington's BMW that overtook Jordi Gené's SEAT on the penultimate lap.

Gené got a fantastic start and promoted himself from sixth to third in his diesel powered SEAT León. His SEAT Sport team-mate, Tiago Monteiro, who should have lined up fourth, frustratingly had to start from the pits after he suffered a fuel feeding problem.

Gabriele Tarquini braked late coming into Paddock Hill Bend on the first lap. On the outside of him was Jörg Müller who took a tap, spun across the track and collected Nicola Larini's Chevrolet into the gravel with him. Müller continued and eventually finished 14th but Larini did not rejoin.

The incident meant the deployment of the safety car for two laps. On the restart the field kept position but Yvan Muller was making ground on Turkington for fourth place. The pair were side by side at Hawthorn Bend but Turkington defended successfully. The Team RAC driver then went on to catch up with Gené but while chasing his tail Muller managed to reduce the gap and consequently the orange BMW had to defend again. Eventually on lap 15 both Turkington and Muller overtook Gené.

Rob Huff and Andy Priaulx spent most of the race looking at the rear of Pierre-Yves Corthals' independent SEAT León, however, on lap 15 Huff overtook the Belgian at Druids Bend for sixth place. Corthals quickly shut the door on Priaulx but persistence meant the reigning champion took seventh place on the last lap. Corthals claimed the independent win and also a brilliant eighth place in the overall results.

Félix Porteiro will line up on pole for the second race. The BMW Team Italy-Spain driver finished ninth but due to the fact Turkington is not eligible for points and finished in the top eight, the reverse grid has been extended to nine.

These results meant that Andy Priaulx re-took the championship lead, two points ahead of Augusto Farfus.



BULLET NEWS

MCRAE HONOURED AT BRANDS

Former World Rally Champion Colin McRae was honoured today at Brands Hatch when a minute of silence was observed after the end of the first FIA WTCC race.

McRae died last week in a helicopter crash, together with his 5-year old son and two other people.

ZANARDI AND JOURDAIN DROPPED

Alessandro Zanardi and Michel Jourdain were both dropped ten positions on the grid. The Italian (15th fastest time) because of an incident at the start of Oschersleben's first race and the Mexican (20th fastest) for not slowing down under yellow flags in yesterday's qualifying session.

BAD LUCK FOR PEDALÀ

Massimiliano Pedalà had a bad start to his race day when he suffered a spin at Clark Curve in the warm up. His engine burst into flames. The team managed to change the engine in time for the Italian to join Race 1 for the final few laps of the race. However, with repairs not entirely complete, SEAT Sport Italia applied for neutralization of parc ferme between the races and therefore Pedalà will begin from the back of the grid for the second race.

THEY SAID, THEY SAID...

Alain MENU

"That win was fantastic. I am very happy with myself to win here again because it is like my home country. It was certainly a tough race because Thompson was quicker than me. Having said that; it is one thing to be close and another to overtake. I had to push for the entire race but I knew the places that Thompson wouldn't be able to overtake. The championship is now a slightly more realistic goal. As long as there is a chance I will keep fighting."

James THOMPSON

"It was always going to be a tough race because I was starting on the outside line. The only real chance we had of winning was to be on pole and make a gap in the early stages of the race. I thought I might have chance to overtake in the last five laps but the wily old fox kept me at bay."

Colin TURKINGTON

"That was a very special result for me and the team and I am delighted to have got on the podium. I honestly didn't expect it. The race was tough because I was under pressure from SEAT cars in front and behind."

Pierre-Yves CORTHALS

"My objective was clear – to win the independent race. I didn't want to get caught up with Huff and Priaulx. It is amazing that I was the best finishing petrol SEAT and it shows my team is progressing very well."

2007 FIA World Touring Car Championship

RACE CLASSIFICATION - RACE 1

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	26:48.377	16		132.68	1:34.187
2	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Alfa Romeo 156	26:49.036	16	0.659	132.62	1:34.171
3	27		Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320si	26:49.332	16	0.955	132.60	1:34.081
4	12		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	26:50.538	16	2.161	132.50	1:33.980
5	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	26:51.376	16	2.999	132.43	1:34.166
6	6		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	26:51.594	16	3.217	132.41	1:34.321
7	1		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	26:52.645	16	4.268	132.33	1:34.357
8	23		Pierre-Yves CORTHALS	BEL	SEAT Leon	26:53.354	16	4.977	132.27	1:34.273
9	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	26:55.326	16	6.949	132.11	1:34.310
10	11		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon	26:56.742	16	8.365	131.99	1:34.373
11	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	26:57.290	16	8.913	131.95	1:34.394
12	19		Roberto COLCIAGO	ITA	SEAT Leon	26:59.585	16	11.208	131.76	1:34.473
13	20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	27:00.049	16	11.672	131.72	1:34.886
14	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	27:00.166	16	11.789	131.71	1:34.519
15	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	27:01.993	16	13.616	131.56	1:34.689
16	30		Luca RANGONI	ITA	BMW 320si	27:04.932	16	16.555	131.32	1:34.452
17	26		Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	27:06.838	16	18.461	131.17	1:34.704
18	31		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	27:09.431	16	21.054	130.96	1:34.970
19	10		Michel JOURDAIN	MEX	SEAT Leon	27:10.050	16	21.673	130.91	1:35.180
20	16		Olivier TIELEMANS	NED	Alfa Romeo 156	27:16.352	16	27.975	130.41	1:35.418
21	18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon	27:05.833	15	1 LAP	123.05	1:34.271

NOT CLASSIFIED

22		Maurizio CERESOLI	ITA	SEAT Leon	19:12.377	11	D.N.F.	127.34	1:35.209
34		Massimiliano PEDALA	ITA	SEAT Leon	28:13.216	6	N.C.F.	47.30	1:35.859
45		Sergey KRYLOV	RUS	SEAT Leon		0	D.N.F.	N/A	
7		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti		0	D.N.F.	N/A	

FASTEST LAP

12		Yvan MULLER		SEAT Leon TDI	1:33.980	5	141.84kph	88.14mph
23		Pierre-Yves CORTHALS		SEAT Leon	1:34.273	5	141.40kph	87.86mph

Car 27 not eligible to score Championship points

Weather/Track: Sun 18°/Dry 20°

These results are provisional until the conclusion of any judicial and technical matters.

Brands Hatch GP

Circuit Length = 3.7030 km.

Start: 12:03 End: 12:30

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) 7 / 8 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					
1	1 - Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	8	8	1	4	4	6	3	8	0	2	2	10	0	0	4	8	3	71
2	3 - Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	6	10	4	8	0	0	2	10	5	8	0	3	0	1	2	10	0	69
3	2 - Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	10	6	0	6	1	8	0	0	8	10	1	8	0	0	5	0	0	63
4	12 - Yvan MULLER (FRA)	1	5	0	0	6	5	8	3	3	0	4	4	3	0	10	4	6	62
5	8 - Alain MENU (SUI)	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	1	1	0	10	6	1	6	0	0	10	55
6	15 - James THOMPSON (GBR)	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	2	0	4	0	0	6	4	6	5	8	55
7	11 - Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	5	4	2	10	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	2	4	2	8	2	0	51
8	7 - Nicola LARINI (ITA)	0	0	8	5	8	4	0	0	4	3	6	0	2	8	0	0	0	48
9	6 - Robert HUFF (GBR)	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	8	0	10	0	0	3	4	39
10	18 - Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	-	-	5	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	1	0	29
11	9 - Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	0	0	0	0	5	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	6	5	28
12	5 - Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	22
13	20 - Tom CORONEL (NED)	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	5	5	0	0	0	22
14	30 - Luca RANGONI (ITA)	0	2	6	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
15	4 - Alessandro ZANARDI (ITA)	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
16	88 - Rickard RYDELL (SWE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	10	-	-	-	10
17	19 - Roberto COLCIAGO (ITA)	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	6
18	10 - Michel JOURDAIN (MEX)	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
19	23 - Pierre-Yves CORTHALS (BEL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
20	31 - Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	0	-	-	0	1	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	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) 7 / 8 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					
1	BMW	18	18	10	14	7	14	7	18	18	18	7	18	5	5	9	18	5	209
2	SEAT	10	11	8	14	11	8	14	10	9	9	11	9	13	10	18	10	11	186
3	CHEVROLET	5	4	18	8	10	5	15	7	9	4	18	8	14	18	2	5	14	164
4	ALFA ROMEO	0	5	3	3	11	12	3	4	3	7	3	3	7	6	9	5	9	93