

ROUNDS 19 & 20 – MONZA, ITALY
RACE 1 REPORT

Weather: sunny, with a dry track

RACE 1: MULLER CLOSES IN ON PRIAULX

Yvan Muller was victorious in race one after leading the field for the entire nine laps. His SEAT Sport team-mate Jordi Gené crossed the line behind him and the podium was completed by James Thompson of Alfa Romeo.

The chequered flag came just in time for Muller as on his in-lap he suffered a puncture to his front left tyre. The result enabled the Frenchman to move up to second in the Drivers' Championship, only four points behind Priaulx.

At the first corner an incident involving Andy Priaulx and Roberto Colciago occurred. Colciago hit Priaulx's BMW 320si which damaged its suspension and the reigning champion and current championship leader was forced to retire in the pits. Alessandro Zanardi and Sergio Hernández were stopped in avoidance and rejoined at the back of the field. Stefano D'Aste pitted after hitting a plastic barrier in the same chicane. Tom Coronel and Jörg Müller also had problems there and dropped down after clashing with other cars.

Lap 2 was the beginning of Thompson's charge from eighth on the grid. The Briton closed in on Chevrolet's Nicola Larini who was lying fourth. At the Curva Parabolica Thompson overtook on the inside line to claim the position. The two then proceeded to chase down third placed Gabriele Tarquini before overtaking him at Roggia on lap 8.

Alain Menu from Chevrolet also overtook Tarquini on the same lap. The Italian finished sixth, followed by Augusto Farfus who was the best BMW.

There was a final flurry of action between Larini and Thompson on the last lap. They made contact and Thompson was forced to cut through the Roggia chicane but rejoined in the same position. While Larini and Menu finished fourth and fifth respectively, fellow Chevrolet driver Rob Huff passed the chequered flag eighth and claimed pole for race two. Coronel was classified ninth after a brilliant recovery.

Luca Rangoni won the independent category and came home tenth overall after resisting strong pressure from Pierre-Yves Corthals.

BULLET NEWS

SEAT EURO CUP TO SUPPORT WTCC IN 2008

Next year will see a new support series for the FIA WTCC. The SEAT León EuroCup is a new championship born from the Supercopa SEAT León and will join the WTCC for six meetings in 2008, in Spain, France, Portugal, Germany, UK and Italy. It was announced yesterday in a press conference at Monza. The best classified drivers will be rewarded with participation in the 2009 FIA WTCC season at the wheel of SEAT León cars.



BIKE CHAMPION VISITS D'ASTE

Moto GP 250cc rider Roberto Locatelli visited his great friend Stefano D'Aste of Wiechers-Sport in his garage today. D'Aste and the 2000 World Champion (125cc class) were fellow riders in the 1994 season. D'Aste showed off his BMW 320si to Roberto who was impressed with the advanced technical workings of the car. Later Locatelli joined D'Aste on the starting grid.

THEY SAID, THEY SAID...

Yvan MULLER

"Today was always going to be difficult because I was worried about the weight of my car affecting the front tyres and brakes. It was confirmed during the race that the car was on the limits with the brakes and one tyre blew on my in-lap. Of course, it was a less difficult race because my team-mate was behind me but it was still important to push. I didn't expect to be in championship contention at this stage but I hoped I would be. It means I will take fewer risks on the track but my work ethic will stay the same."

Jordi GENÉ

"I'm happy for the fact that I came second and Yvan won. If I can't win the drivers' championship I am happy for SEAT and Yvan if he can, so I will help. Things got more stressful in the final lap, as I saw Thompson's Alfa Romeo coming closer and closer but it went well in the end. I think my tyres lasted longer than Yvan's because I took it easier on the first few laps."

James THOMPSON

"I knew our car was fast and thought if I got a good start and kept out of trouble I could work through the pack. I am happy with the car and the result. In theory I could be in with a chance at the title when we go to Macau and that is giving myself and the team a bit of a sparkle at the moment."

Luca RANGONI

"It was a much tougher race than I expected. I had a big problem with understeering. This result was important for me because I have closed the gap between myself and Cortals. I hope we can fight for the championship in Macau."

2007 FIA World Touring Car Championship

RACE CLASSIFICATION - RACE 1

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	12		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	18:19.438	9		169.70	2:00.940
2	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	18:19.639	9	0.201	169.67	2:00.864
3	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Alfa Romeo 156	18:20.305	9	0.867	169.57	2:01.026
4	7		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	18:20.634	9	1.196	169.52	2:01.104
5	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	18:21.854	9	2.416	169.33	2:01.256
6	11		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	18:22.446	9	3.008	169.24	2:01.047
7	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	18:23.490	9	4.052	169.08	2:01.666
8	6		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	18:24.128	9	4.690	168.98	2:01.136
9	20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	18:29.367	9	9.929	168.18	2:01.651
10	30		Luca RANGONI	ITA	BMW 320si	18:30.114	9	10.676	168.07	2:01.472
11	14		Fredrik EKBLÖM	SWE	BMW 320si	18:34.554	9	15.116	167.40	2:01.141
12	38		Oscar NOGUES	ESP	SEAT Leon	18:34.950	9	15.512	167.34	2:01.814
13	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	18:35.768	9	16.330	167.22	2:01.237
14	23		Pierre-Yves CORTHALS	BEL	SEAT Leon	18:35.969	9	16.531	167.19	2:01.701
15	10		Michel JOURDAIN	MEX	SEAT Leon	18:37.027	9	17.589	167.03	2:01.696
16	17		Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord-R	18:37.375	9	17.937	166.98	2:01.652
17	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	18:40.228	9	20.790	166.55	2:02.212
18	22		Maurizio CERESOLI	ITA	SEAT Leon	18:40.563	9	21.125	166.50	2:02.257
19	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	18:40.969	9	21.531	166.44	2:01.078
20	31		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	18:48.092	9	28.654	165.39	2:02.377
21	33		Miguel FREITAS	POR	Alfa Romeo 156	18:56.562	9	37.124	164.16	2:03.626
22	26		Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	18:26.668	8	1 LAP	149.75	2:01.769
23	19		Roberto COLCIAGO	ITA	SEAT Leon	15:14.678	7	2 LAPS	158.38	2:04.504

NOT CLASSIFIED

16	Olivier TIELEMANS	NED	Alfa Romeo 156	6:22.146	3	D.N.F.	160.80	2:05.067
1	Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	19:56.006	2	N.C.F.	33.94	3:31.177
18	Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon	3:49.281	1	D.N.F.	86.10	

FASTEST LAP

9	Jordi GENE		SEAT Leon TDI	2:00.864	4	172.54kph	107.21mph
30	Luca RANGONI		BMW 320si	2:01.472	4	171.68kph	106.68mph

Weather/Track: Sun 19°/Dry 22°

Monza
Circuit Length = 5.7930 km.
Start: 12:03 End: 12:22

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	10	0					81
2	12 - Yvan MULLER (FRA)	1	5	0	0	6	5	8	3	3	0	4	4	3	0	10	4	6	5	10					77
3	3 - Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	6	10	4	8	0	0	2	10	5	8	0	3	0	1	2	10	0	0	2					71
4	2 - Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	10	6	0	6	1	8	0	0	8	10	1	8	0	0	5	0	0	3	0					66
5	15 - James THOMPSON (GBR)	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	2	0	4	0	0	6	4	6	5	8	2	6					63
6	8 - Alain MENU (SUI)	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	1	1	0	10	6	1	6	0	0	10	0	4					59
7	11 - Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	5	4	2	10	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	2	4	2	8	2	0	0	3					54
8	7 - Nicola LARINI (ITA)	0	0	8	5	8	4	0	0	4	3	6	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	5					53
9	6 - Robert HUFF (GBR)	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	8	0	10	0	0	3	4	6	1					46
10	9 - Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	0	0	0	0	5	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	6	5	4	8					40
11	5 - Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0					30
12	18 - Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	-	-	5	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	1	0	0	0					29
13	20 - Tom CORONEL (NED)	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	5	5	0	0	0	1	0					23
14	30 - Luca RANGONI (ITA)	0	2	6	3	2	2	0	0	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	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	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	0	0					3
19	23 - Pierre-Yves CORTHALS (BEL)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0					3
20	31 - Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	0	-	-	0	1	0	0	-	-	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	18	5					232
2	SEAT	10	11	8	14	11	8	14	10	9	9	11	9	13	10	18	10	11	9	18					213
3	CHEVROLET	5	4	18	8	10	5	15	7	9	4	18	8	14	18	2	5	14	8	9					181
4	ALFA ROMEO	0	5	3	3	11	12	3	4	3	7	3	3	7	6	9	5	9	4	7					104