



ROUNDS 19 & 20 TESTING REPORT AND QUOTES

Weather: overcast, with a dry track.

LARINI TOPS TEST SESSION IN MACAU

The opening test session of the final event on the WTCC calendar revealed Nicola Larini as fastest. At the wheel of his Chevrolet Lacetti the Italian completed a lap through the streets of Macau in 2:34.912. The second fastest, also a Chevrolet driver, was Alain Menu. Menu's time was 0.119 of a second slower than that of his team-mate.

Rickard Rydell was the best of the SEAT Sport drivers setting the third best time overall – 2:35.360. Behind him on the timesheet was BMW man and reigning champion Andy Priaulx who clocked his best time of 2:35.540 on his final lap. Yvan Muller rounded off the top five, 0.952 of a second off the top pace.

Augusto Farfus, the championship leader was 14th fastest and the best of the N.technology Alfa Romeo trio, his car carrying the maximum 80kg handicap weight.

The other title claimants besides Farfus, Rydell, Muller and Priaulx occupied the following positions at the end of today's session: James Thompson 7th, Jörg Müller 11th, Gabriele Tarquini 14th, Peter Terting 15th and Dirk Müller 16th.

Local drivers André Couto (SEAT León) and Ao Chi Hong (BMW 320i) set the 12th and 24th best lap respectively, while the third newcomer to the championship, Jan Magnussen, was 21st fastest in his BMW UK car.

Tom Coronel, who has already claimed the Independents' Trophy was 17th quickest overall and best independent behind the wheel of his GR Asia SEAT León.

Two independent drivers suffered crashes. On his first flying lap Stefano D'Aste was entering the Lisboa bend when his front right tyre came flying off and he went straight down the run off area, spinning and hitting the barriers. Later in the session Diego Romanini went wide at the 'R' bend and strayed into the barrier badly damaging his Wiechers-Sport BMW 320i. As a result the session was red-flagged but resumed shortly after.

The WTCC will resume tomorrow, Friday, with two free practice sessions (8.50 and 12.30 local time) and one qualifying session (16.25 local time).



WTCC Courtyard Guia Race of Macau – Circuito da Guia, Macau – 18 / 19 November 2006

www.fiawtcc.com – www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo

DRIVERS' QUOTES

Nicola LARINI – Chevrolet, fastest

“I am really happy being top in the test. I went out there focused and concentrated because this is the last race of the season. This is a drivers’ circuit, it doesn’t matter which car you are driving. I am pushing to be in the top times for the whole weekend.”

Rickard RYDELL – SEAT Sport Sverige, 3rd fastest

“The test session is just the beginning and everybody knows the key to doing well here is to get a good qualifying position because it is so difficult to pass in the race. The Chevrolets, BMWs and Alfas are fast on the straights whereas we are best at the back of the track which is where it is so difficult to pass. I really like the circuit and am looking forward to the rest of the weekend.”

Augusto FARFUS – N.technology, 14th fastest

“I am really excited to be here. You know, today was just a test and it’s too early to predict for the race. I am happy with things and used the test session to regain the feeling from last year. We are now working on the car to be faster and get in the top five for qualifying. I really am relaxed.”

Stefano D’ASTE – Proteam Motorsport, DNC

“What caused my wheel to come off was my brake disc exploding. I was driving at 240 km per hour on the main straight, so that’s why the tyre flew off so fast. Macau is a great circuit but its nice to race alone, when you are in a pack you are too dependent on the other drivers’ judgement.”

Diego ROMANINI – Wiechers-Sport, 25th fastest

“We lost pressure in the front left tyre which meant I lost the car and couldn’t do anything. I went into the wall but what was unlucky was that the barrier badly damaged the car. We are working to repair it now.”