

ROUNDS 21 & 22 – MACAU
RACE 1 & 2 REPORT

Weather: overcast, with a dry track

PRIAULX AND BMW CLAIM THIRD WTCC TITLE

For the third consecutive year Andy Priaulx and BMW emerged as the winners of the ultimate fight for the FIA World Touring Car Championship in Macau.

After two races full of drama in front of fully packed grandstands, Yvan Muller's and SEAT's hopes disappeared on the penultimate lap of the first race, when the diesel pump of the Frenchman's León TDI broke while he was leading.

From that moment on, everything turned in favour of Priaulx, who finished eighth gaining a one-point edge in the classification and the right to start the second race from pole position.

With Muller sidelined for good, only James Thompson was in a position to threaten the Guernseyman's attempt to retain the title. Thompson tried hard and with a fantastic start jumped Nicola Larini and chased Priaulx closely in the first laps. But as the race went on, Priaulx created a gap and eventually Thompson lost second place to Larini.

Priaulx's triumph and Muller's dismay meant that BMW also won the Manufacturers' Championship with only a 6-point margin ahead of SEAT. A close call which is testament to how competitive the championship season was, with BMW, SEAT, Chevrolet and Alfa Romeo all fighting on an equal level.

Alain Menu won the first race for Chevrolet, claiming his fifth victory of the season and the seventh for the GM Group's brand.

To complete BMW's lucky day, Stefano D'Aste claimed the Independents' Trophy – the second in three years for the team Wiechers-Sport, while his fellow competitor Luca Rangoni won both races in Macau, finishing runner up and giving Proteam Motorsport the Teams' Trophy.

The FIA WTCC faces a short break now, before the start of the 2008 season, on March 2 in Curitiba, Brazil.

RACE 1 – MENU WINS, PRIAULX LEADS

Alain Menu was the victor of race one for Chevrolet. Yvan Muller led the race after the first straight but on lap eight the SEAT Sport title contender suffered a technical problem – his engine died without warning – and had to stop on the track. With Andy Priaulx crossing the line eighth, he took the championship lead and invaluable pole position for Race 2.

Gabriele Tarquini came home second. He lost third position to Augusto Farfus on the first lap but persistently forced the BMW Team Germany driver



to defend. On the last lap Tarquini seized his opportunity at the exit of Lisboa and went through. Farfus spun, hit the barriers and did not finish.

Rob Huff got a good start and promoted himself from seventh to fifth on the first lap. He eventually took third place. Behind the Briton finished Jordi Gené for SEAT Sport. James Thompson claimed a solid fifth place, which equated to third in the title fight. Thompson's team-mate André Couto withdrew from the meeting after damage to his Alfa Romeo obtained during yesterday's qualifying could not be repaired by the N.technology team.

Tiago Monteiro and Nicola Larini crossed the chequered flag in sixth and seventh positions and Priaulx claimed eighth spot on the final lap.

The championship fight was then restricted to Priaulx (82 pts), Yvan Muller (81) and Thompson (73).

Pierre-Yves Corthals suffered damage to his car at the start, when he hit the wall at the first corner and therefore was out of contention for the independent fight. Luca Rangoni was the best independent finisher in 17th position. Stefano D'Aste ended the race in second, just ahead of Franz Engstler.

RACE 2 - PRIAULX WINS RACE AND CHAMPIONSHIP

Andy Priaulx remains world champion. The BMW Team UK driver led the final race of the season from lights to flag to claim his third consecutive world title. BMW have double reason to celebrate as they also took the Manufacturers' Championship for the third year.

Yvan Muller and Augusto Farfus did not take the start because their cars were not repairable after the problems (fuel pump failure for Muller and a collision with Tarquini for Farfus) they had in the first race.

Off the line James Thompson got a fantastic start to jump from fourth to second. He continued his rapid speed and overtook Nicola Larini for second at the Lisboa corner. As the pack took the same corner Gabriele Tarquini, Rob Huff and Alessandro Zanardi were casualties. Zanardi and Huff did not rejoin while Tarquini finished 14th.

Over the next couple of laps Thompson was closely chasing Priaulx and Larini was also keeping tabs on the pair. Lap four saw Priaulx edge away while Larini and Thompson were nose to tail. On lap seven Larini made a stunning move at the exit of the Mandarin corner to demote Thompson to third.

In the latest laps Larini closed the gap on Priaulx, but not enough to try an overtaking manoeuvre, while Thompson had to fight hard to defend his third position – that also meant third place in the championship – from the assaults of Tiago Monteiro.

The battle for the points in the final laps saw Jörg Müller and Jordi Gené dropping down and handing the 5th place to Tom Coronel who finished ahead of Rickard Rydell, Félix Porteiro, Colin Turkington and Fredrik Ekblom who scored the last point as Turkington was not eligible to do so.

The independent race was won by Luca Rangoni after a tough battle with Stefano D'Aste and Carl Rosenblad. His victory was not enough however as D'Aste emerged as the Independents' Trophy winner by two points.

THEY SAID, THEY SAID...

Andy PRIAULX

"I can't believe it. I have never given up but I knew I needed something special this season. I am proud that I got to the last round with a chance. Yes, you need luck to win the championship but you also need to be there to take the luck. Today was my lucky day. I had a bad day yesterday and I need to thank my team for giving me the motivation for today. My car and team have always been reliable and that is a key factor in winning the championship."

Mario THEISSEN

"It has certainly been the most competitive season so far. We were in a difficult situation when we arrived here because we had to be defensive. This was confirmed with our qualifying results. However, Macau always brings something special and we pushed until the chequered flag. Nobody could have expected what happened but our drivers took all the chances and it paid off."

Alain MENU

"I am happy and proud of what we have achieved this season. This weekend has been fantastic although I made my only mistake of the season in race two. After five race wins I feel that the next thing I need is to be the world champion."

Yvan MULLER

"With one lap to go in the first race my diesel pump failed. It was the first time it had happened and it cost us the championship. It is very disappointing for all the team but we can be proud of our achievement of second place."

Gabriele TARQUINI

"It has been a very good season for SEAT but in the last event something happened and Yvan's engine stopped. For me, it was the first time I made it to the podium in Macau which I am pleased about, but it is unfortunate that we lost both the Drivers' and Manufacturers' championships."

Nicola LARINI

"Five times I have got second place but still no win. I thought today would be the day for me to get my win but I got a bad start with clutch problems. James (Thompson) got a great start. Monteiro was getting close to me so thought it was now or never to overtake James at the Mandarin corner. It was a dangerous but fair move. I tried to catch Andy (Priaulx) but it was too late in the race."

James THOMPSON

"People know that our chassis is three years old and I haven't driven the car since Monza so a lot of credit has to go to the team. This season I have driven with passion and the boys have worked with passion; our achievement should not be underestimated."

Robert HUFF

"The first race was really good. I saw how close Augusto Farfus and Gabriele Tarquini were and held back in case something happened. I bided my time and when Farfus spun across the track I managed to narrowly avoid him; I nearly had to come to a complete stand still."

Stefano D'ASTE

"I am more than happy because it was a very difficult year for me with a new car and a new team. At the start of the season we had a lot of problems understanding the car and the right way of getting the best out of it. From the third race things changed and we improved race by race."

Luca RANGONI

"This season has been a fantastic experience even though it did not bring us a happy ending. We have proved we are a competitive team and I am happy I was fighting until the end."

BULLETIN 122

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	23:10.276	9		142.62	2:33.253
2	11		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	23:12.950	9	2.674	142.35	2:32.517
3	6		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	23:14.694	9	4.418	142.17	2:33.015
4	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	23:21.601	9	11.325	141.47	2:33.597
5	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Alfa Romeo 156	23:24.035	9	13.759	141.22	2:33.657
6	18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon	23:24.334	9	14.058	141.19	2:33.307
7	7		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	23:24.774	9	14.498	141.15	2:33.366
8	1		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	23:25.485	9	15.209	141.08	2:33.336
9	25		Duncan HUISMAN	NED	BMW 320si	23:25.808	9	15.532	141.04	2:33.409
10	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	23:26.125	9	15.849	141.01	2:33.264
11	88		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon	23:26.942	9	16.666	140.93	2:33.261
12	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	23:27.602	9	17.326	140.86	2:33.535
13	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	23:28.122	9	17.846	140.81	2:33.580
14	27		Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320si	23:28.695	9	18.419	140.76	2:33.757
15	20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	23:29.559	9	19.283	140.67	2:33.739
16	14		Fredrik EKBLOM	SWE	BMW 320si	23:30.144	9	19.868	140.61	2:33.892
17	30		Luca RANGONI	ITA	BMW 320si	23:32.256	9	21.980	140.40	2:34.137
18	26		Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	23:34.918	9	24.642	140.14	2:34.618
19	43		Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320i	23:35.685	9	25.409	140.06	2:34.202
20	28		Carl ROSENBLAD	SWE	BMW 320si	23:37.282	9	27.006	139.90	2:34.252
21	31		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	23:38.724	9	28.448	139.76	2:34.492
22	22		Maurizio CERESOLI	ITA	SEAT Leon	24:01.209	9	50.933	137.58	2:36.196
23	33		Miguel FREITAS	POR	Alfa Romeo 156	24:02.778	9	52.502	137.43	2:37.051
24	44		Andrey ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320i	25:26.678	9	2:16.402	129.88	2:41.707
25	46		David LOUIE	HKG	BMW 320i	25:41.571	9	2:31.295	128.62	2:43.231
26	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	20:36.784	8	1 LAP	142.51	2:32.576
27	12		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	17:59.097	7	2 LAPS	142.91	2:33.181

NOT CLASSIFIED

23		Pierre-Yves CORTHALS	BEL	SEAT Leon	16:12.988	2	D.N.F.	45.28		
63		Henry LEE jr	HKG	BMW 320i	2:56.183	1	D.N.F.	125.05	2:56.183	

FASTEST LAP

11		Gabriele TARQUINI		SEAT Leon TDI	2:32.517	4	144.45kph	89.76mph		
30		Luca RANGONI		BMW 320si	2:34.137	6	142.93kph	88.81mph		

Weather/Track: Bright 23°/Dry 27°

Circuito Da Guia
Circuit Length = 6.1200 km.
Start: 11:58 End: 12:22

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:
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BULLETIN 128

2007 FIA World Touring Car Championship RACE CLASSIFICATION - RACE 2

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	1		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	23:19.249	9		141.71	2:33.977
2	7		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	23:20.091	9	0.842	141.62	2:33.951
3	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Alfa Romeo 156	23:25.135	9	5.886	141.11	2:34.353
4	18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon	23:25.318	9	6.069	141.09	2:33.559
5	20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	23:29.883	9	10.634	140.64	2:33.299
6	88		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon	23:30.980	9	11.731	140.53	2:33.715
7	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	23:32.474	9	13.225	140.38	2:33.266
8	27		Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320si	23:33.072	9	13.823	140.32	2:34.401
9	14		Fredrik EKBLUM	SWE	BMW 320si	23:33.863	9	14.614	140.24	2:33.927
10	30	I	Luca RANGONI	ITA	BMW 320si	23:41.529	9	22.280	139.48	2:33.624
11	25		Duncan HUISMAN	NED	BMW 320si	23:41.956	9	22.707	139.44	2:33.985
12	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	23:43.042	9	23.793	139.34	2:34.791
13	23	I	Pierre-Yves CORTHALS	BEL	SEAT Leon	23:44.911	9	25.662	139.15	2:34.666
14	11		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	23:45.618	9	26.369	139.08	2:32.840
15	31	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	23:46.716	9	27.467	138.98	2:34.815
16	43	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320i	23:50.092	9	30.843	138.65	2:35.364
17	28	I	Carl ROSENBLAD	SWE	BMW 320si	23:55.754	9	36.505	138.10	2:34.369
18	22	I	Maurizio CERESOLI	ITA	SEAT Leon	23:56.341	9	37.092	138.05	2:35.448
19	33	I	Miguel FREITAS	POR	Alfa Romeo 156	24:01.963	9	42.714	137.51	2:36.842
20	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	20:52.289	8	1 LAP	140.74	2:33.389
21	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	18:16.558	7	2 LAPS	140.64	2:33.339
22	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	15:42.001	6	3 LAPS	140.33	2:33.433

NOT CLASSIFIED

46			David LOUIE	HKG	BMW 320i	14:04.496	5	D.N.F.	130.44	2:43.851
4			Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	9:30.561	3	D.N.F.	115.84	2:34.048
44	I		Andrey ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320i	3:36.607	1	D.N.F.	101.71	
6			Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	4:04.801	1	D.N.F.	90.00	

FASTEST LAP

11			Gabriele TARQUINI		SEAT Leon TDI	2:32.840	6	144.15kph	89.57mph	
30	I		Luca RANGONI		BMW 320si	2:33.624	6	143.41kph	89.11mph	

Weather/Track: Sun 23°/Dry 26°

Circuito Da Guia
Circuit Length = 6.1200 km.
Start: 13:15 End: 13:38

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	0	1	10	92
2	12 - Yvan MULLER (FRA)	1	5	0	0	6	5	8	3	3	0	4	4	3	0	10	4	6	5	10	4	0	0	81
3	15 - James THOMPSON (GBR)	0	0	0	0	10	10	0	2	0	4	0	0	6	4	6	5	8	2	6	6	4	6	79
4	3 - Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	6	10	4	8	0	0	2	10	5	8	0	3	0	1	2	10	0	0	2	0	0	0	71
5	7 - Nicola LARINI (ITA)	0	0	8	5	8	4	0	0	4	3	6	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	5	8	2	8	71
6	8 - Alain MENU (SUI)	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	1	1	0	10	6	1	6	0	0	10	0	4	0	10	0	69
7	2 - Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	10	6	0	6	1	8	0	0	8	10	1	8	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	66
8	11 - Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	5	4	2	10	0	0	0	0	2	5	5	2	4	2	8	2	0	0	3	0	8	0	62
9	6 - Robert HUFF (GBR)	4	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	8	0	10	0	0	3	4	6	1	5	6	0	57
10	9 - Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	0	0	0	0	5	3	1	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	6	5	4	8	10	5	0	55
11	18 - Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	-	-	5	0	0	0	6	6	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	3	5	38
12	5 - Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	10	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	0	2	32
13	20 - Tom CORONEL (NED)	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	5	5	5	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	4	29
14	30 - Luca RANGONI (ITA)	0	2	6	3	2	2	0	0	0	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	3	0	0	14
16	88 - Rickard RYDELL (SWE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3	13
17	19 - Roberto COLCIAGO (ITA)	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	1	0	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	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	0	0	0	3
20	14 - Fredrik EKBLÖM (SWE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	1
20	31 - Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	0	-	-	0	1	0	0	-	-	0	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	5	5	13	255
2	SEAT	10	11	8	14	11	8	14	10	9	9	11	9	13	10	18	10	11	9	18	14	13	9	249
3	CHEVROLET	5	4	18	8	10	5	15	7	9	4	18	8	14	18	2	5	14	8	9	13	16	8	218
4	ALFA ROMEO	0	5	3	3	11	12	3	4	3	7	3	3	7	6	9	5	9	4	7	7	5	8	124