



ROUNDS 1 & 2 – BRAGA, PORTUGAL RACE REPORT

THOMPSON AND LÖHNIG FINISH ON TOP IN BRAGA

Reigning FIA European Super 2000 Cup champion James Thompson emerged on top after 2010 opening event in Braga today. At the wheel of his Hartmann Racing Honda Accord, the Briton won the first race and grabbed a podium result in the second one to take a slim lead in the series classification.

Thompson had to work hard to defend himself from BMW drivers César Campaniço – who scored a dominant victory in Race 2 – and Kristian Poulsen.

Competition was close on the Portuguese racetrack, with all the drivers offering a number of exciting fights, even for the midfield positions.

Jens Löhnig from Germany won both the Super 1600 races in his ATM Racing Ford Fiesta, beating the reigning champion Carsten Seifert twice.

The Nations' Cup was presented to Great Britain thanks to Thompson's results.

The European Touring Car Cup will resume on July 25th at the Austrian Salzburgring for rounds 3 and 4.

RACE 1 – THOMPSON LEADS HONDA 1-2

Hartmann Honda Racing's James Thompson and Tomas Engström claimed a 1-2 finish in the first race at Braga at the end of an exciting four-car battle for the lead.

Thompson took command at the start from Campaniço and Poulsen. On lap 3, Okyay and Čolak made contact while fighting for sixth and the latter dropped by two places. On lap 5 Engström took fourth from Rossi.

Thompson was closely chased by Campaniço and Poulsen; the latter benefited from Campaniço's failed attempt to take the lead and overtook the Portuguese driver. In the following laps Thompson had serious problems in keeping his chasers at bay, while Engström was able to fill the gap and joined the leading trio.

On lap 12 Okyay overtook Rossi for fifth, while Sadredinov and Y. Protasov were fighting over eighth position.

The last five laps were full of action for the leaders. On lap 13 Campaniço overtook Poulsen, nearly punting Thompson off. The Briton managed to stay on the track, while Engström benefited from the chaos and climbed to second. Poulsen passed Campaniço for third and in the final moments tried in vain to move ahead of Engström.

Y. Protasov finished eighth and won pole position on the reverse grid for Race 2.

In the S1600 class, Löhnig claimed a comfortable victory after taking the lead from Seifert on lap 7. In the Super Production class Birkens retired with engine problems while he was in 10th position overall.

RACE 2 – HOME VICTORY FOR CAMPANIÇO

Local hero César Campaniço drove his Novadrivier BMW 320si to a home victory. The Portuguese driver took the lead in the first part of the race jumping his fellow BMW competitors Kristian Poulsen and Ibrahim Okyay. The Dane finished as runner up, while the Turkish racer was forced to hand third place to a recovering James Thompson.

From pole position Y. Protasov made a good start, but he lost the lead to Okyay braking into the first corner. Rossi and Engström clashed at Turn 1; the former went off and retired, the latter rejoined at the back. By the end of lap 1 Poulsen and Campaniço were biting at Okyay's tail, while Thompson moved up to fourth overtaking Y. Protasov and Čolak in the same manoeuvre.

Braga Circuito Vasco Sameiro, Portugal – 27th / 28th March 2010

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On lap 3 Campaniço made his move, overtaking Poulsen and Okay one after the other to take the lead. Immediately afterwards Poulsen took second from Okay. On lap 4, while fighting over sixth position, Sadredinov and Engström made contact at Turn 1, the Swede collected Y. Protasov who spun.

Campaniço built a comfortable lead over Poulsen; on lap 6 Thompson stole third from Okay, which secured him the points lead in the S2000 Cup.

The final laps were enlivened by the battle for fifth position between Čolak and Sadredinov; the Russian youngster was eventually able to overtake his Croatian competitor on the penultimate lap.

In the S1600 class, Löhnig encored the first race, chasing Seifert in the early stages, overtaking him on lap 6 and claiming his second victory of the day.

Birkens – the only competitor in the Super Production class – did not take the start due to the engine failure that stopped hi Honda Civic car in the first race.

WINNING DRIVERS' QUOTES

James THOMPSON (Honda Accord) – 1st in Super 2000

"I'm very pleased with this win that came mainly from yesterday's pole position. Our car is 30 kilos heavier than the BMWs and this is a big gap. I believe the second race showed what the real positions at the moment are. This was a perfect weekend for us and we have done everything right to take the most out of it using the package that we have. The first race was especially difficult, because from the start I had to defend my position and as the race progressed the BMWs were closer and closer while my car was having more and more problems with the front tyres."

César CAMPANIÇO (BMW 320si) – 2nd in Super 2000

"We have achieved a very good result today in front of our home crowd. And honestly it could have even been a better one, should I have not made a mistake in the first race that cost me the second position. But in the end, finishing second in the event only one point behind Thompson is a big boost for us for the next races!"

Kristian POULSEN (BMW 320si) – 3rd in Super 2000

"We had a lot of fun today with a number of close fights between James, César, Tomas Engström and me. I also have to blame myself for a mistake that enabled Campaniço through. But all in all I'm quite happy with this third place in the first time I was back racing with my own team. I have a 2-point gap from the lead and I'm confident in looking forward to the rest of the season."

Jens LÖHNIG (Ford Fiesta) – 1st in Super 1600

"There are racing weekends when everything comes together and this was one of those for me. My car was definitely the best today, fast and consistent, so it was not too difficult to win both races. I only had to regain the lead after I had slept a bit at the start in both races..."

2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP RACE 1 RESULT

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	1	S20	James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	25:04.949	17		122.81	1:24.326
2	2	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord Euro R	25:05.628	17	0.679	122.75	1:24.259
3	11	S20	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	25:05.838	17	0.889	122.73	1:24.379
4	9	S20	Cesar CAMPANICO	POR	BMW 320si	25:06.052	17	1.103	122.72	1:24.334
5	13	S20	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	25:15.731	17	10.782	121.93	1:24.999
6	12	S20	Michael ROSSI	FRA	SEAT Leon TFSI	25:21.555	17	16.606	121.47	1:24.860
7	3	S20	Marin COLAK	CRO	SEAT Leon 2.0 TFSI	25:24.486	17	19.537	121.23	1:25.144
8	6	S20	Yuriy YPROTASOV	UKR	BMW 320i	25:37.737	17	32.788	120.19	1:25.925
9	8	S20	Timur SADREDINOV	RUS	SEAT Leon 2.0 TFSI	25:46.611	17	41.662	119.50	1:26.002
10	7	S20	Leonid LPROTASOV	UKR	BMW 320i	26:34.801	17	1:29.852	115.89	1:29.505
11	72	S16	Jens LOEHNIG	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	25:08.753	16	1 LAP	115.29	1:30.302
12	5	S20	Iryna PROTASOVA	UKR	BMW 320i	25:19.845	16	1 LAP	114.45	1:29.695
13	71	S16	Carsten SEIFERT	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	25:35.755	16	1 LAP	113.26	1:31.341
14	73	S16	Florian HEITMEIER	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	25:41.726	16	1 LAP	112.82	1:32.041

NOT CLASSIFIED

51	SP	Marcis BIRKENS	LAT	Honda Civic Type-R	8:22.163	5	D.N.F.	108.25	1:29.664
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FASTEST LAP

2	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM		Honda Accord Euro R	1:24.259	6	129.03kph	80.17mph
51	SP	Marcis BIRKENS		Honda Civic Type-R	1:29.664	3	121.25kph	75.34mph
72	S16	Jens LOEHNIG		Ford Fiesta ST	1:30.302	6	120.39kph	74.81mph

Braga
Circuit Length = 3.0200 km.
Start: 11:17 End: 11:42

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP RACE 2 RESULT

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	9	S20	Cesar CAMPANICO	POR	BMW 320si	24:05.156	17		127.89	1:23.777
2	11	S20	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	24:07.334	17	2.178	127.70	1:23.954
3	1	S20	James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	24:21.511	17	16.355	126.46	1:24.022
4	13	S20	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	24:24.423	17	19.267	126.20	1:24.454
5	8	S20	Timur SADREDINOV	RUS	SEAT Leon 2.0 TFSI	24:52.035	17	46.879	123.87	1:25.525
6	3	S20	Marin COLAK	CRO	SEAT Leon 2.0 TFSI	25:00.392	17	55.236	123.18	1:25.115
7	2	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord Euro R	25:11.821	17	1:06.665	122.25	1:25.357
8	6	S20	Yuriy YPROTASOV	UKR	BMW 320i	25:20.565	17	1:15.409	121.55	1:26.154
9	7	S20	Leonid LPROTASOV	UKR	BMW 320i	24:46.821	16	1 LAP	116.99	1:30.286
10	72	S16	Jens LOEHNIG	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	24:47.475	16	1 LAP	116.94	1:30.619
11	71	S16	Carsten SEIFERT	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	25:14.425	16	1 LAP	114.86	1:31.776
12	5	S20	Iryna PROTASOVA	UKR	BMW 320i	25:20.658	16	1 LAP	114.39	1:30.144
13	73	S16	Florian HEITMEIER	GER	Ford Fiesta ST	25:23.539	16	1 LAP	114.17	1:32.547

NOT CLASSIFIED

12	S20	Michael ROSSI	FRA	SEAT Leon TFSI		0	D.N.F.	N/A
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FASTEST LAP

9	S20	Cesar CAMPANICO		BMW 320si	1:23.777	2	129.77kph	80.63mph
72	S16	Jens LOEHNIG		Ford Fiesta ST	1:30.619	4	119.97kph	74.54mph

Braga
Circuit Length = 3.0200 km.
Start: 12:32 End: 12:56

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP - SUPER 2000

position	driver	Braga (POR)		Salzburging (AUT)		Franciacorta (ITA)		TOTAL
		28 March		25 July		17 October		
1	James THOMPSON (GBR)	10	6					16
2	César CAMPANIÇO (POR)	5	10					15
3	Kristian POULSEN (DEN)	6	8					14
4	Tomas ENGSTRÖM (SWE)	8	2					10
5	Ibrahim OKYAY (TUR)	4	5					9
6	Marin ČOLAK (CRO)	2	3					5
7	Timur SADREDINOV (RUS)	0	4					4
8	Michaël ROSSI (FRA)	3	0					3
9	Yuriy PROTASOV (UKR)	1	2					3

2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP - SUPER 1600

position	driver	Braga (POR)		Salzburging (AUT)		Franciacorta (ITA)		TOTAL
		28 March		25 July		17 October		
1	Jens LÖHNIG (GER)	10	10					20
2	Carsten SEIFERT (GER)	8	8					16
3	Florian HEITMEIER (GER)	6	6					12