



QUALIFYING REPORT – 23rd July 2011

GIOVANARDI CLAIMS POLE POSITION AT THE SALZBURGRING

Fabrizio Giovanardi crowned his comeback to international racing by claiming pole position for the FIA European Touring Car Cup at the Austrian Salzburgring. The Italian driver and his Hartmann Racing Honda Accord took the most out of a qualifying session full of drama and managed to beat 17-year old WTCC driver Pepe Oriola's SEAT León TDi by only one tenth of a second.

Michel Nykjær was then great disappointed of the day, as he had to sit into the garage for most of the session while the team crew was working to replace the starter on his Chevrolet Cruze car; unfortunately for him, once he was finally ready to join a red flag and the rain swept his hopes away.

Once again changeable track conditions had an influence on the session's result, as the tarmac was damp in the early stages and then began to dry up. However, after the session was disrupted by the red flag with eight minutes left on the clock because Aleksandar Tošić's Honda Civic spun at the first chicane and hit a pile of tyres, a shower hit the circuit and definitely spoiled Michel Nykjær's hopes.

Fabrizio Giovanardi and Pepe Oriola took turns on top of the time sheet throughout the first half of the session.

With 15 minutes left the Italian racer set a provisional pole position of 1:31.627 that he improved on the following laps to 1:30.612. It was the winning move, because immediately afterwards Oriola responded with a 1:30.716 that was too slow by only one tenth. Then the rain came and froze the situation, with Tomas Engström in third (1:31.538) and Ibrahim Okyay in fourth (1:33.307).

As for Nykjær, he was forced to qualify in very wet conditions and still managed to clock a lap of 1:40.862 that was worth the 11th position ahead of the Super Production and S1600 cars.

Despite his accident Aleksandar Tošić set the Super Production pole position, while Thomas Mühlentz was the fastest in the S1600 class; the German driver and his LPG-powered Ford Fiesta ST ousted Ulrike Krafft from the first place just before the red flag was waved.

Niek Oude Luttikhuis was the only driver not to take part in the qualifying, as his team are still working to solve the engine problems on his Super Production Mitsubishi Carisma car.

The 2011 FIA European Super Touring Cups will be awarded tomorrow after two 12-lap races that will be aired live on Eurosport 2 at 11.00 and 14.30 Central European Time.

DRIVERS' QUALIFYING QUOTES

Fabrizio GIOVANARDI (Honda Accord) – Pole position in Super 2000

"It was not an easy situation, with the weather changing so quickly it was a matter of choosing the right tyres at the right moment. We managed to do it in the best way and we also had a few new tyres left to use in case the track had dried up completely. With this weather tomorrow's races will be interesting. Especially because I have seen that there are some competitive guys here."

Pepe ORIOLA (SEAT León TDi) – 2nd in Super 2000

"I am very happy with my second place, because it was achieved in such a difficult situation. Our car was very good to drive and I hope that tomorrow will be wet again, because I think we hold all the cards to win the European title."

Salzburgring, Austria – 23rd / 24th July 2011

www.fiaetcc.com – www.salzburgring.com

Tomas ENGSTRÖM (Honda Accord) – 3rd in Super 2000

“I went on the track a little bit too late on the dry with slick tyres, and on my flying lap I found traffic that spoiled my attempt. All this considered, to be third was not a bad result, especially because we are happy with the race pace of our car.”

Aleksandar TOŠIĆ (Honda Civic) – Pole position in Super Production

“Obviously I’m pleased to be on pole, although today we did not show the actual potential of our car. I’m confident that tomorrow I will be able to go faster. To speak about my incident, I was following an S2000 BMW that went straight at the chicane. While trying to avoid it I drove on a puddle and lost the car.”

Thomas MÜHLENZ (Ford Fiesta ST) – Pole position Super 1600

“This is a special pole position for me, because this is my comeback to racing after two years. And also setting pole with an LPG-powered car marks an historical moment for an FIA series. I had a bit of luck today, because on my best lap a S2000 BMW overtook me on the straight and gave me some good slipstreaming.”

2011 FIA European Touring Car Cup QUALIFYING RESULT - S2000 CLASS

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	4	S20	Fabrizio GIOVANARDI	ITA	Honda Accord Euro R	1:30.612	11		168.49
2	6	S20	Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI	1:30.716	8	0.104	168.30
3	17	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord Euro R	1:31.538	9	0.926	166.79
4	13	S20	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	1:33.307	10	2.695	163.62
5	11	S20	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	1:33.420	11	2.808	163.43
6	5	S20	Wolfgang TREML	AUT	Honda Accord Euro R	1:33.849	10	3.237	162.68
7	14	S20	Jens-Guido WEIMANN	DEU	BMW 320si	1:34.917	6	4.305	160.85
8	8	S20	Peter RIKLI	CHE	Honda Civic FD	1:36.270	9	5.658	158.59
QUALIFICATION MAXIMA						1:36.954			
15	S20	Andreas KAST	DEU	Audi A4	1:38.105	9	7.493	155.62	
9	S20	Christian FISCHER	CHE	Honda Accord Euro R	1:38.931	8	8.319	154.32	
2	S20	Michel NYKJAER	DNK	Chevrolet Cruze LT	1:40.862	5	10.250	151.37	

Weather/Track: Drizzle/Wet

Salzburgring
Circuit Length = 4.2410 km.
Start: 15:00 End: 15:41

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2011 FIA European Touring Car Cup QUALIFYING RESULT - SUPER PRODUCTION CLASS

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	23	SP	Aleksandar TOSIC	SRB	Honda Civic Type-R	1:44.592	8		145.97
						QUALIFICATION MAXIMA	1:51.913		
22	SP	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320i E46		1:55.261	10	10.669	132.46

Weather/Track: Drizzle/Wet

Salzburgring
Circuit Length = 4.2410 km.
Start: 15:00 End: 15:41

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2011 FIA European Touring Car Cup QUALIFYING RESULT - S1600 CLASS

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	37	S16	Thomas MUHLENZ	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST (LPG)	1:44.213	8		146.50
2	32	S16	Ulrike KRAFFT	DEU	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	1:45.272	8	1.059	145.03
3	34	S16	Igor SKUZ	UKR	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	1:45.530	10	1.317	144.67
4	33	S16	Klaus BINGLER	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST	1:48.749	6	4.536	140.39
QUALIFICATION MAXIMA						1:51.507			
35	S16	Erwin LUKAS	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST		1:52.270	4	8.057	135.99

Weather/Track: Drizzle/Wet

Salzburgring
Circuit Length = 4.2410 km.
Start: 15:00 End: 15:41

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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