



RACE REPORT – 24th July 2011

GIOVANARDI WINS THIRD EUROPEAN CUP FOR HARTMANN RACING

Fabrizio Giovanardi has crowned with another FIA European title his comeback to international touring car racing.

Ten years after winning the European Touring Car Championship twice for Alfa Romeo (in 2001 and 2002) and having added two British Touring Car Championship titles in the meantime, the Italian driver proved that at the age of 45 he is still a winner. At the wheel of a Honda Accord car he won the Super 2000 cup at the Austrian Salzburgring, beating Pepe Oriola (28 years junior!) by one mere point and giving the Danish Hartmann Motorsport their third consecutive title after those won in 2009 and 2010 by James Thompson.

The 17-year old Spaniard Oriola was equally impressive, and showed that his first year in the WTCC is bringing him to maturity very quickly. Just like a veteran he fought with Giovanardi with no awes, and even managed to win the second race, clinching the last international victory for the glorious SEAT León TDi.

Tomas Engström confirmed his consistency and finished third, his fourth podium result in the Euro Cup. Michel Nykjær had less luck, as his hopes to win a third European title were swept away by unexpected engine problems that plagued his Chevrolet Cruze in the qualifying and the races.

The Super Production title went to Serbian racer Aleksandar Tošić, at the wheel of the very same Honda Civic car driven by his fellow countryman Vojislav Lekić to become champion in 2010.

Thomas Mühlenz scored a double victory and clinched the S1600 crown; an historical success as it was achieved at the wheel an LPG-powered Ford Fiesta.

RACE 1 – GIOVANARDI WINS WET DUEL WITH ORIOLA

Fabrizio Giovanardi had to sweat his way to victory in the first race, beating Pepe Oriola by inches after a race-long duel on the flooded tarmac of the Salzburgring.

For the whole race the Italian and his Honda Accord led the field but never managed to get rid of Oriola's SEAT León TDi.

From the early laps Giovanardi lost the windscreen wiper and had gearbox problems, while the young Spaniard remained glued to the tail of his car; a couple of times Oriola was even in the position to try an overtaking manoeuvre and only a small mistake in the final stages prevented him to make a ultimate attempt.

Tomas Engström claimed a brilliant third position, close behind the two leaders, while the fight for fourth position between Mehdi Bennani and Ibrahim Okyay was decided by an alternator failure on the Turkish driver's car that resulted in a intermittent functioning of the the power steering.

Pole position sitters Thomas Mühlenz and Aleksandar Tošić easily won the S1600 and Super Production categories.

Peter Rikli will start on pole position on the top-eight reverse grid for Race 2, with Jens-Guido Weimann alongside him.

Key moments

Start – the field starts behind the safety car, Nykjær's Chevrolet is still in the garage

Lap 2 – the safety car enters the pit lane

Lap 3 – Fischer hits Skuz at the first Chicane; Fischer pulls out with a broken suspension; Skuz is black-flagged for rejoining after being towed out of the gravel trap

Lap 4 – Oriola tries to overtake Giovanardi who defends his leadership

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Lap 5 – the wiper on Giovanardi's car stops working
Lap 6 – Lukas overtakes Bingler for third in S1600
Lap 7 – Okyay overtakes Tremel for fifth
Lap 9 – Oriola and Engström close in on Giovanardi; Fischer rejoins after repairs
Lap 10 – Giovanardi sets a new fastest lap and re-creates a gap; Nykjær joins the race
Lap 11 – Oriola sets a new fastest lap and closes in again
Lap 12 – Oriola drives wide at the exit of the first Chicane and loses contact
Lap 13 – Okyay chases Bennani who defends fourth position
Lap 14 – Giovanardi wins from Oriola and Engström; Mühlentz and Tošić win S1600 and Super Production respectively

Withdrawals

N. Oude Luttikhuis: DNS, engine; Nykjær: DNC, starter; C. Fischer: DNC, race incident; I. Skuz: DSQ, black flag.

RACE 2 – ORIOLA WINS RACE AND GIOVANARDI THE TITLE

Pepe Oriola mastered difficult weather conditions to claim his first victory in a Super 2000 touring car, beating the strong opposition from two experienced drivers like Fabrizio Giovanardi and Tomas Engström.

Despite the young Spaniard's triumph, the second place was enough for Giovanardi to claim the European Touring Car Cup in the S2000 class, with a margin of only one point ahead of Oriola.

With the rain still pouring on the Austrian track, the first laps of the race were full of drama, with Jens-Guido Weimann's BMW stalled at the start on the second spot of the grid. Something that spoiled the race the drivers who lined up behind the German.

Peter Rikli and Wolfgang Tremel fought for the lead in the early stages, but during the second lap Oriola, Giovanardi and Engström took command and pulled out for good. Thomas Mühlentz and Aleksandar Tošić encored their first race victories and claimed the European Cups in the S1600 and Super Production categories respectively.

Key moments

Start – Weimann's stalls and cause panic behind him; Nykjær starts from the pit lane
Lap 1 – Rikli takes the lead from Tremel; Okyay goes off and remain stranded into the gravel
Lap 1 – Engström and Oriola overtakes Bennani for third and fourth
Lap 1 – Tremel steals the lead from Rikli
Lap 2 – Weimann spins at the first chicane and is black-flagged for being towed off
Lap 2 – Oriola overtakes Tremel for the lead; Giovanardi overtakes Engström for third
Lap 3 – Giovanardi overtakes Tremel for second
Lap 3 – Krafft spins at the first chicane and loses second position in S1600 to Skuz
Lap 5 – Engström sets the fastest lap and closes in on Giovanardi
Lap 6 – Giovanardi catches up Oriola very closely
Lap 7 – Bennani observes a drive-through due to a grid infringement
Lap 9 – after recovering to 8th, Nykjær retires because of a technical failure
Lap 10 – Oriola increases his leading gap
Lap 11 – Giovanardi brushes the tyres at the first chicane
Lap 13 – Skuz drives wide and hands the second place in S1600 back to Krafft
Lap 14 – Oriola wins from Oriola and Engström; Mühlentz and Tošić win S1600 and Super Production respectively.

Withdrawals

J-G. Weimann: DSQ, black flag; I. Okyay: race incident; M. Nykjær: engine.

WINNING DRIVERS' QUOTES

Fabrizio GIOVANARDI (Honda Accord) – Winner in Super 2000

"It's nice to come back to touring cars with a victory. I was fancying it and I thank Hans Hartmann for giving me this opportunity. I said myself: these can be a good car and a good team for claiming a good result. And the result came. It was not easy though, as Oriola made my life very hard, especially in the first race. In the second race I focused on following him, as I knew that finishing immediately behind would be enough for the title. Then he looked in troubles and I tried to catch up, also because Engström was on my tail, but after overtaking a slow car Oriola pulled out again and I decided to avoid risks and settle in second."

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

"Unfortunately the title fight was decided by qualifying points. Yesterday's qualifying was a bit crazy with all those weather changes. Who knows, maybe in a different situation I could have won that point that made the difference. Anyway, the second place behind Giovanardi was a great result for me and the team. I did my best to follow him in the first race and pushed at the maximum in the second one. I am also very proud to be the driver who gave the SEAT TDi its last victory."

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

"We walk away with another podium and this is not a bad result. We must be happy. For sure we came here to try to win the title, and we had a fantastic car, very well balanced. I had avoided to take risks in the first race with the aim to play all my cards in the second one. Unfortunately when Weimann stalled at the start, I lost the opportunity to stay in front of Oriola during the first lap."

Aleksandar TOŠIĆ (Honda Civic Type-R) – Winner in Super Production

"Our target was to claim a second consecutive European Cup for the ASK Vitro Racing. And I'm very happy we managed to do it. The car was very good and we had no problems whatsoever during the whole weekend. It's just a shame that we did not find a strong opposition. It was not even the case to show the real potential of our car as I just had to cruise to the end, trying to stay off the troubles and not to cause any to the faster drivers."

Thomas MÜHLENZ (Ford Fiesta) – Winner in Super 1600

"It was a perfect weekend for me after two years without racing. Pole position, two race victories and the European title; I could not ask for more. It was also a reward for us after we had bet on the LPG technology, as we have proved that this kind of cars can compete on equal footing with the normal petrol-powered cars."

2011 FIA European Touring Car Cup

RACE 1 RESULT

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	4	S20	Fabrizio GIOVANARDI	ITA	Honda Accord Euro R	25:45.475	14		138.30	1:39.500
2	6	S20	Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI	25:46.305	14	0.830	138.23	1:39.258
3	17	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord Euro R	25:47.632	14	2.157	138.11	1:39.103
4	11	S20	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	26:15.007	14	29.532	135.71	1:41.882
5	13	S20	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	26:15.840	14	30.365	135.64	1:40.989
6	5	S20	Wolfgang TREML	AUT	Honda Accord Euro R	26:25.756	14	40.281	134.79	1:42.876
7	14	S20	Jens-Guido WEIMANN	DEU	BMW 320si	26:41.880	14	56.405	133.43	1:43.640
8	8	S20	Peter RIKLI	CHE	Honda Civic FD	26:42.139	14	56.664	133.41	1:43.682
9	15	S20	Andreas KAST	DEU	Audi A4	27:08.677	14	1:23.202	131.23	1:45.168
10	37	S16	Thomas MUHLENZ	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST (LPG)	26:24.251	13	1 LAP	125.28	1:51.473
11	23	SP	Aleksandar TOSIC	SRB	Honda Civic Type-R	26:46.090	13	1 LAP	123.57	1:51.497
12	32	S16	Ulrike KRAFFT	DEU	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	26:46.552	13	1 LAP	123.54	1:53.424
13	35	S16	Erwin LUKAS	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST	26:50.864	13	1 LAP	123.21	1:52.638
14	33	S16	Klaus BINGLER	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST	27:29.363	13	1 LAP	120.33	1:54.516
15	22	SP	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320i E46	25:51.452	12	2 LAPS	118.09	1:55.537

NOT CLASSIFIED

34	S16	Igor SKUZ	UKR	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	14:54.124	6	D.N.F.	102.45	1:55.122
9	S20	Christian FISCHER	CHE	Honda Accord Euro R	8:33.639	3	D.N.F.	89.17	2:29.215
2	S20	Michel NYKJAER	DNK	Chevrolet Cruze LT	24:12.611	1	D.N.F.	10.51	

FASTEST LAP

17	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM		Honda Accord Euro R	1:39.103	13	154.05kph	95.72mph
37	S16	Thomas MUHLENZ		Ford Fiesta ST (LPG)	1:51.473	10	136.96kph	85.10mph
23	SP	Aleksandar TOSIC		Honda Civic Type-R	1:51.497	7	136.93kph	85.08mph

Weather/Track: Rain/Wet

Salzburgring
Circuit Length = 4.2410 km.
Start: 11:05 End: 11:31

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2011 FIA European Touring Car Cup

RACE 2 - RESULT

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	6	S20	Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	SEAT Leon 2.0 TDI	20:15.295	12		150.75	1:39.294
2	4	S20	Fabrizio GIOVANARDI	ITA	Honda Accord Euro R	20:17.671	12	2.376	150.46	1:39.409
3	17	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM	SWE	Honda Accord Euro R	20:18.642	12	3.347	150.34	1:39.277
4	5	S20	Wolfgang TREML	AUT	Honda Accord Euro R	20:51.073	12	35.778	146.44	1:42.480
5	8	S20	Peter RIKLI	CHE	Honda Civic FD	21:01.399	12	46.104	145.24	1:43.088
6	15	S20	Andreas KAST	DEU	Audi A4	21:16.367	12	1:01.072	143.54	1:44.243
7	9	S20	Christian FISCHER	CHE	Honda Accord Euro R	21:17.052	12	1:01.757	143.46	1:43.133
8	23	SP	Aleksandar TOSIC	SRB	Honda Civic Type-R	20:42.310	11	1 LAP	135.18	1:50.164
9	37	S16	Thomas MUHLENZ	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST (LPG)	20:55.080	11	1 LAP	133.81	1:51.132
10	32	S16	Ulrike KRAFFT	DEU	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	21:02.846	11	1 LAP	132.98	1:52.126
11	34	S16	Igor SKUZ	UKR	Ford Fiesta 1.6 16V	21:04.919	11	1 LAP	132.77	1:51.312
12	35	S16	Erwin LUKAS	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST	21:11.634	11	1 LAP	132.06	1:52.522
13	33	S16	Klaus BINGLER	DEU	Ford Fiesta ST	21:51.950	11	1 LAP	128.01	1:55.517
14	22	SP	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320i E46	20:17.153	10	2 LAPS	125.43	1:57.189
15	11	S20	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	21:58.263	9	3 LAPS	104.23	1:42.472

NOT CLASSIFIED

2	S20	Michel NYKJAER	DNK	Chevrolet Cruze LT	12:48.426	7	D.N.F.	139.08	1:40.187
14	S20	Jens-Guido WEIMANN	DEU	BMW 320si	3:44.348	1	D.N.F.	68.05	
13	S20	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si		0	D.N.F.	N/A	

FASTEST LAP

17	S20	Tomas ENGSTROM		Honda Accord Euro R	1:39.277	6	153.78kph	95.56mph
23	SP	Aleksandar TOSIC		Honda Civic Type-R	1:50.164	6	138.59kph	86.11mph
37	S16	Thomas MUHLENZ		Ford Fiesta ST (LPG)	1:51.132	7	137.38kph	85.36mph

Weather/Track: Rain/Wet

Salzburgring
Circuit Length = 4.2410 km.
Start: 14:33 End: 14:53

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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2011 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP



SALZBURGRING, JULY 24th FINAL CLASSIFICATIONS

SUPER 2000 DRIVERS

pos	driver	car	Qualif	Race 1	Race 2	Total
1	Fabrizio GIOVANARDI (ITA)	Honda Accord Euro R	3	10	8	21
2	Pepe ORIOLA (ESP)	SEAT León TDI	2	8	10	20
3	Tomas ENGSTRÖM (SWE)	Honda Accord Euro R	1	6	6	13
4	Wolfgang TREML (AUT)	Honda Accord Euro R	0	3	5	8
5	Mehdi BENNANI (MAR)	BMW 320si	0	5	1	6
6	Peter RIKLI (CHE)	Honda Civic FD	0	1	4	5
7	Ibrahim OKYAY (TUR)	BMW 320si	0	4	0	4
8	Andreas KAST (DEU)	Audi A4	0	0	3	3
9	Jens-Guido WEIMANN (DEU)	BMW 320si	0	2	0	2
9	Christian FISCHER (CHE)	Honda Accord Euro R	0	0	2	2

SUPER PRODUCTION DRIVERS

pos	driver	car	Qualif	Race 1	Race 2	Total
1	Aleksandar TOŠIĆ (SRB)	Honda Civic Type-R	3	10	10	23
2	Fabio FABIANI	BMW 320i	0	8	8	16

SUPER 1600 DRIVERS

pos	driver	car	Qualif	Race 1	Race 2	Total
1	Thomas MÜHLENZ (DEU)	Ford Fiesta ST	3	10	10	23
2	Ulrike KRAFFT (DEU)	Ford Fiesta 16V	2	8	8	18
3	Erwin LUKAS (DEU)	Ford Fiesta ST	0	6	5	11
4	Klaus BINGLER (DEU)	Ford Fiesta ST	0	5	4	9
5	Igor SKUZ (UKR)	Ford Fiesta 16V	1	0	6	7