



GRAND
PRIX
MACAU

62

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®
Times

SUPPLEMENT

MON 23.11.2015



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Rosenqvist wins GP for 2nd consecutive time

Comini crowned TCR International Series Champion



Stefano Comini

SWISS driver Stefano Comini has been crowned the first-ever TCR International Series champion after putting on an impressive performance throughout the weekend in Macau.

He had arrived at the Guia circuit with a mere two-point advantage over Pepe Oriola, and with the great handicap of having never raced on this particular track.

Comini managed to stay ahead of the Spaniard in both races, achieving precious advantage points and a growing psychological gain. The duel between the two was particularly fierce in Race 2, ending only when the Craft-Bamboo Lukoil driver Oriola retired with a pierced radiator, which occurred after he came into contact with the back of Comini while braking into the Lisboa bend.

With Oriola withdrawing, Comini could finally breathe, and he rounded things out with a superb maiden win at Macau. In his sixth win of the season, Comini crossed the line ahead of teammate Andrea Belicchi, a 1-2 finish that allowed Target Competition to claim the Teams' title as well.

The podium was completed with Mikhail Grachev of Liqui Moly Team Engstler taking third place in Race 2, his second podium finish of the season.

Another history-marker was Rob Huff, who took pole position and won Race 1 – his eighth personal victory on the Guia circuit. Jordi Gené and Comini completed the Race 1 podium.

Macau's tradition of early-race crashes was also respected, with both races seeing spectacular first-lap crashes triggering red flags.

As for Macau racer Rodolfo Ávila, he finished in 12th place in Race 1 and fifth in Race 2. This form comes after he obtained two straight victories in the TCR Asia Series. Hence, the teams title went to its Asia Racing Team.

Stefano Comini, the winner of Race 2 and TCR champion, said: "I have no words, it's a very special moment for me, winning at Macau and clinching the first TCR title... What can I say? Unbelievable... Both races were very tough. I knew that [coming] second in Race 2 was enough for me to claim the title, but I really wanted to win at Macau, and when I saw that Huff was out of the race at the start, I really thought I should have a go." **RM**

F3

Rosenqvist wins GP for 2nd consecutive year

FELIX Rosenqvist has become the second man to win the Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix in consecutive years, repeating Edoardo Mortara's feat with a dominant performance yesterday.

Having started from pole position, Rosenqvist got away to a good start, but front-row starter Charles Leclerc managed to drift past him on the run to Lisboa, pulling off a breathtaking move around the outside to

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CHARLES LECLERC

grab the lead.

Rosenqvist was back in the lead at the start of lap two though, when Leclerc lost momentum after making a mistake at the final corner. Leclerc then repeated his earlier move to get around Rosenqvist once again coming into Lisboa and set about trying to build a lead.

The race was red-flagged at that point after a huge crash involving Gustavo Menezes, Yu Kanamara, Mitsunori Takaboshi and Ryan Tveter left debris all over the track at Fishermen's Bend.

Leclerc led the way after the safety car restart, but the Van Amersfoort driver was swallowed up by both Rosenqvist and the third-placed Sam

PAULO BARBOSA



Felix Rosenqvist



Charles Leclerc

RENATO MARQUES



Rosenqvist leads the race

Mercedes driver Maro Engel grabs inaugural



Maro Engel

MARO Engel was one of the weekend's big winners, rising to victory in the Macau GT Cup – FIA GT World Cup, which took place yesterday. It was an eventful race, shortened after two laps due to an unusual crash during the safety car period, bringing the race to an early end. But the drama did not finish with the end of the race. Afterwards, the organizers decided to penalize Edoardo Mortara, who had finished second. He was given a 20-second penalty due to a "jump start" at the beginning of the race, which resulted in him moving down to sixth position.

Consecutive time

MacLeod on the run into Lisboa.

That moment gave Rosenqvist some breathing space at the front and he was able to edge himself clear over the next few laps. By the time Leclerc managed to overtake MacLeod, with another brilliant pass around the outside into Lisboa on lap seven, Rosenqvist was 2.5 seconds up the road.

Leclerc was able to cut Rosenqvist's advantage, but it wasn't quickly enough and the pair crossed the finish line 1.1 seconds apart.

"It feels even better to win it the second time," said a delighted Rosenqvist. "In the be-

ginning of the race, I felt confident with the car, so even though Charles got ahead of me on the first lap, I was sure I could get him back."

Despite being a rookie on the challenging Guia Circuit, Charles Leclerc finished second, showing a lot of potential. "I'm always disappointed when I'm not first. But it is still a good result," said the 18-year-old driver from Monaco, who was named the rookie of the year in the 2015 FIA Formula 3 European Championship. "We were quite fast at the beginning, but Felix looked a bit faster and then the safety entered and I couldn't do anything," he said, admitting that the winner, Rosenqvist, was "really fast" during yesterday's race.

MacLeod's hopes of a podium finish were dashed on lap eight when he brushed the wall at Police, which allowed Alexander Sims to grab a top-three place. "To start on the second row,

It feels even better to win it the second time.

FELIX ROSENQVIST

you probably hope that you will get a chance to win. The race went well today. (...) I'm really happy to get on the podium today," Sims said.

Antonio Giovinazzi made a brilliant recovery from his tenth-place start to finish fourth, with Markus Pommer fifth, ahead of Santino Ferrucci and Alessio Lorandi.



RENATO MARQUES



SÉRGIO ALMEIDA CORREIA



Inaugural GT World Cup

The person who benefited most from all this was Mortara's teammate René Rast, who saw his position upgraded from third to second, while Stefan Mücke from the Craft Bamboo Aston Martin moved up to third position on the podium. Mercedes-Benz was awarded the manufacturers' cup. "It is so, so wonderful, and I'm so, so proud," said Engel, commenting on the fact that this victory is his second win in a row on the Guia street circuit and the inaugural FIA GT World Cup Drivers' title.

"I made a big mistake in qua-

lifying, and I thought right there standing by the wall that my weekend might be over and I'd blown the opportunity we had. To win this race today is amazing. I just love this place, I love this track," Engel said.

For his part, René Rast was pleased with his result in his first event on a circuit that is known as one of the world's most challenging tracks.

"I felt more comfortable from session to session. I think we had a good pace today. It's not easy as a rookie, so I'm pretty happy to be here on the podium with these experienced guys," Rast said. **RM**



MOTORCYCLE GP

Hickman's surprising first-time win

Renato Marques

PETER Hickman was the overall winner of the 49th edition of the Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, which took place on Saturday afternoon at the Guia Circuit.

The British rider had already performed well during the qualifying sessions on both Thursday and Friday. He started to take control on lap nine after starting from third position on the grid, making his way up the ranks with a steady and powerful performance.

Hickman made his move to pass Martin Jessopp, the leader at the time, while braking for the Lisboa Bend. From that moment onwards, Jessopp was unable to keep up with the new leader's pace, although he would persist in attempting to overtake Hickman until the chequered flag.

Hickman's first-time win on the Guia Circuit sets two new records: being the first rider to win on only his second run and also being the first ever BMW motorcycle to win the Grand Prix.

Martin Jessopp, who started from pole and dominated the first two-thirds of the race, had to settle for second place in a year where things were finally looking bright for him to achieve his goal and take one step higher up the podium – something that he has come close to many times before. However, it was still not his time, and he had to content himself with se-



Peter Hickman



Eight time winner Michael Rutter

cond place.

Third place went to Michael Rutter, the historic record holder for number of wins in Macau. Although he finished third, this was still an achievement that did not come easy. In a lively battle, Rutter was under constant attack from John McGuinness, Gary Johnson and Ian Hutchinson.

These results also show, for the first time, not only a BMW winning the race but a full podium composed of riders for the German manufacturer.

"It feels absolutely fantastic! This is only my second time in Macau. I've not been doing the road racing scene for very

long, but my British Superbike championships have been pretty strong the last couple of years. It's fantastic to be able to transfer between the two," Hickman said.

"I was on the Dunlop tyres and [Jessopp and Rutter] were on different, so we knew that we were going to be strong for the second half of the race, and I figured that Martin was going to pull away in the first five or six laps and then hopefully we'd come back to him. Fortunately, the plan worked," he added.

As for the performance of McGuinness, the rider who is considered to be the most successful road racer of his generation,

he provided some great final thrills. After time away from the spotlight in Macau since his last win back in 2002, he overtook Gary Johnson on the

outside of the tarmac at Dona Maria in a move that completed his weekend of exceptional racing and won him the fourth position.

TOP 10

1.	Peter Hickman (BMW)	29:22.021
2.	Martin Jessopp (BMW)	+ 6,267s
3.	Michael Rutter (BMW)	+ 15,600s
4.	John McGuinness (Honda)	+ 17,711s
5.	Gary Johnson (BMW)	+ 18,807s
6.	Ian Hutchinson (Kawasaki)	+ 19,279s
7.	Conor Cummins (Honda)	+ 19,990s
8.	Horst Saiger (Kawasaki)	+ 28,280s
9.	Lee Johnston (BMW)	+ 49,604s
10.	David Johnson (BMW)	+ 53,864s

Paul Poon dominates CTM Macau Touring Car Cup



HONG Kong driver Paul Poon took his Peugeot RCZ to victory yesterday in the CTM Macau Touring Car Cup, the win completing a perfect weekend.

Starting from pole position, Poon led from start

to finish and never seemed to be at risk of losing. Second on the podium was fellow Hong Kong driver Samson Fung, with Macau's Chou Keng Kuan taking third place.

Between the three of them, the podium was

completely dominated by Peugeot RCZ cars.

Poon led the field from the start, with third-on-the-grid Andy Yan passing Fung, who had started alongside Poon in the front row. As Yan edged closer and began to apply pressure on Poon, Yan hit the barrier, ending his race and bringing out the safety car.

As the race resumed two laps later, Poon continued in the lead, with Fung behind him looking happy with his result and not wanting to take as many risks as Yan had before. Poon eventually spent the remainder of the race building on his lead until the chequered flag came. **RM**

Leong Ian Veng triumphs in Road Sport Challenge



MACAU'S Leong Ian Veng, driving a Mitsubishi Lancer EVO 9, won the race for modified road cars on Saturday.

Leong, starting from the pole position, never looked back. After an initial incident that led to a safety car right from the start, he remained in the lead until the chequered flag.

His closest rival was Japanese driver Mitsuhiro Kinoshita, driving a Nissan GTR34, who managed to present a good challenge to the Mitsubishi racer, reducing the gap at the finish line to less than one second.

Macau racer Billy Lo, driving a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution VII, came in third place on the podium.

Once more, this race was eventful right from the start with incidents affecting several drivers, some of whom were forced to pull out of the race right before the first turn. This triggered a safety car, which was active for five laps, reducing the event to only four laps of racing.

Wong Ka Hong, in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X, and Lei Kit Meng, driving his Nissan GTR34, closed out the top five. **RM**