

65 GRAND PRIX MACAU

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RACE OF **MACAU**
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Tarquini crowned WTCR Champion



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WTCR
FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CUP



OSCARO

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Ticktum takes victory lane for the second-time in Macau

Renato Marques

DANIEL Ticktum won the FIA F3 World Cup in Macau for the second-time in a row yesterday, becoming the third driver to achieve two Formula 3 victories in Guia Circuit, after Edoardo Mortara and Felix Rosenqvist. The British driver completed a perfect weekend after winning the Qualification Race on Saturday, which granted him the pole position to defend his title.

The Motopark Academy driver and RedBull Junior Team driver retained the title achieved in 2017 and scored precious points on the way to the Super License that opens the Formula 1 gates.

In a race he dominated back-to-back by Ticktum, he never left the front running position during the entire course of the race. The race was marked by a forced stop on lap 3 after a restart over a Safety Car period due to a crash at Lisboa involving four drivers. The German driver Sophia Flörsch was involved in a high-speed crash at the very same spot, with her car flying over Japanese driver Sho Tsuboi before crash-landing against the photographers' bunker located on the Lisboa bend; a structure which also sustained several damages.

According to the latest information made available by both the FIA and the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC), two drivers were injured (Flörsch included) along

PHOTOS BY RENATO MARQUES



Daniel Ticktum



Joel Eriksson



Sasha Fenestraz

with two photographers on duty in the interior of the bunker and one of the Lisboa bend race marshals, who was hit by the car after the safety barriers were torn away.

In the same statement, the MGPOC acknowledged that the five people injured in the acci-

dent were transported to the Conde de Sao Januario Hospital Center. "All were conscious and are receiving medical treatment," the statement says.

The red flag was out for over half an hour, with the drivers lined up in the pit lane awaiting news on a possible restart, which

eventually happened on time to give Ticktum his rightful title on track.

After the restart, Swede Joel Eriksson, who had lost second place earlier to the Frenchman Sasha Fenestraz, managed to recover and came second to Ticktum on the podium.

Fenestraz finished third. Taking fourth place was British racer Jack Hughes, who has been racing in the Asian Championships, in front of the 2018 European F3 Champion, Mick Schumacher, the best from the five-car field of Theodore Racing Team.

'It has been a pretty perfect weekend'

Paulo Barbosa

DANIEL Ticktum was overwhelmed with his second straight victory in the Macau Grand Prix. The British driver said the triumph was "less surprising but more enjoyable [than in 2017], because it's two in a row." During a press conference at the end of the race, Ticktum admitted his dominance in the F3 race during the weekend, which started with the best lap time during the qualifying sessions and continued on Saturday with victory in the qualification race.

"It has been a pretty perfect weekend from my

part and the team. I'm really happy, really ecstatic. [...] I can't remember a weekend where I performed so well," he said, adding that "the car was perfect."

Ticktum disclosed his racing plans for the next season, which should include the Japanese Super Formula championship. "It's not confirmed, but that is looking almost 100 percent. The driver also hopes to race in the F2 championship and is negotiating with teams to "find a reasonable deal."

"Obviously there's a lot of talk about me getting in an F1 car this year. I think if I keep performing well

I will have the chance to test, so I just need to keep going 100 percent all the time," the Macau GP winner said.

Front-row starter Joel Eriksson ended second and highlighted his "tight overtake" of Sacha Fenestraz at the Lisboa bend. "I was really in need of a chance to pass him [Fenestraz] early in the race to have a chance with Dan, because I know he was quick all weekend," he said. After overtaking Fenestraz, Eriksson tried to catch up with the leader, but he said that he was not fast during the restart after the crash involving Sophia Flörsch. "I was not

really on it in the restart. I missed a few minutes and I think that was the decisive moment for Dan. He had enough behind him to keep him away from him. It was super work from Dan and from the team this weekend."

Renault F1 junior Fenestraz completed the podium, running with a Carlin decorated with the colors of fictional racing hero Michel Vaillant. "It was a really good start, from fourth to second. Then it was a long race, with all the flags and safety cars," he said. "I wanted to win, but for my second time here, I think it was pretty good."

PAULO BARBOSA



Daniel Ticktum

Farfus wins GT World Cup in an emotional day for BMW Schnitzer

Renato Marques

THE Brazilian driver Augusto Farfus Jr took the victory yesterday during the FIA GT World Cup event, giving the manufacturers' title to BMW Schnitzer Team in the process.

Starting from the pole position after winning Saturday's Qualification Race, the BMW single-car field driver gave no chances to the AMG Mercedes field, even as they did everything possible to challenge the Brazilian's lead.

This was a particularly emotional victory for the team, as it was the last time that the team was oriented by Charly Lamm, who had previously announced his departure from the team due to retirement.

Farfus dominated from the very start and did not commit any mistakes. It was in the last three laps that the race recorded some of its best moments, with the leading group of four cars including Farfus, the German Maro Engel and the Swiss Edoardo Mortara (in the AMG Mercedes), as well as New Zealand's Earl Bamber in the Porsche.

With only two laps to go, En-



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Augusto Farfus

gel, while trying to put pressure on Farfus, made a mistake braking for the hairpin turn, contributing to Farfus' extended lead until the checkered-flag.

This was Farfus's fourth win in Macau and a special one as he noted, thanking the many years of support from Lamm.

Although there was almost no overtaking over the course

of the race, the event was still exhilarating to watch.

After the race, Lamm said emotionally, "It is the last race in my time with Schnitzer. I thank Augusto [Farfus]

for performing so well and although there wasn't any passing, every second [was required] to be spot-on without the slightest mistake," he said, noting, "It was a very good moment and I had many of them [in my career] but this was one."

As for Farfus, he said, "I'm a bit speechless. It has been a long year and a difficult one but we made it," adding, "[I felt] a lot of pressure [from behind] because the guys were fast and today I didn't manage to make the tires work [as well as] yesterday so I did the whole race on the limit and I even clipped the wall trying to squeeze everything but the car was great and we had a great team thanks to BMW, to Team Schnitzer, to Charly [Lamm] and to my family at home. It is a beautiful way to finish the year. We are World Champions!"

As it had happened during Saturday's Qualification Race, Robin Frijns was the best of the Audis, finishing fifth, followed by the Audi of Christopher Haase.

Despite the great rivalry existing between the two German manufacturers (BMW and Mercedes-Benz), Lamm was widely congratulated and applauded by rivals on the podium, finishing the FIA World GT Cup in Macau in a spirit of sportsmanship and fair play.

Tarquini crowned with WTCR title in Macau's Season Finale

Renato Marques

THE Italian driver and legend of touring car racing, Gabriele Tarquini, has won the 2018 FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) in Macau after finishing in 10th place; the last of the three races of the weekend.

Starting with a 39-point lead for the last racing weekend of the season, Tarquini managed to collect just enough points (15) to obtain a three point lead and be crowned as the first-ever WTCR champion.

As the point difference at the end might indicate, title rival Yvan Muller was not willing to concede the title away easily, collecting a total of 51 points over the three races of the weekend, including 20 on the first one.

Finishing fourth in Race 3 yesterday was not enough to beat Tarquini, who, at 56 years old, has once again emerged top in the world of touring cars.

Muller's points ended up being more useful to give MRacing - YMR the team



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title, coincidentally with the same three point difference over the Tarquini's BRC Racing Team.

Starting from a good position in the last race, Esteban Guerrieri, who was in the Honda Civic made a steady race, starting better than Rob Huff in the Volkswagen and taking the lead from the last, right from the first meters.

Trying to protect his advantage as much as possible, Tarquini managed to overtake the Hyundai of Thed Bjork and climbed one position to ninth place. The move added pressure

on Muller, meaning that he needed to finish in the top two to win the championship.

Such hopes were almost put aside when, on lap three, Aurelien Panis crashed out, forcing the entry of the safety car. Although when the race restarted, Bjork quickly moved past Tarquini to the original position, that was more than enough as there was no way for Muller to move up further.

The race then turned into a three-car battle between Guerrieri, Huff and Audi's Jean-Karl Vernay for the win, with Vernay keeping

Huff away from the possibility to attack Guerrieri, even if the first was clearly faster on lap times than the Honda of Guerrieri.

On lap 11, Vernay made a mistake in Lisboa and crashed into the wall, handing the third position of the championship to Guerrieri.

With only two laps to go, the safety car was once again deployed as Zsolt Szabo crashed out at Fisherman's Bend, with no time left to restart the race. The race came to an end with Guerrieri winning ahead of Huff and Norbert Michelisz.

Macau racer wins first ever 'Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup'



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MACAU driver Kong Kin Chong conquered the first of the newly established "Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup," on Sunday morning. Racing a Lotus Exige, the local driver set a good pace during the 12-lap race, finishing with an almost 1 second gap over the first-runner up, Hong Kong's Lo Ka Fai, who eventually clocked the best lap around the Guia Circuit in 2:44.865.

In third place of the podium was the man who started from the pole position. Macau's Mak Ka Lok, who could not keep up with the stronger pace set by the first two racers. Kong and Lo showed some good performance over the race, taking almost 2 seconds on the time per lap when compared to the times clocked during the qualifying session on Saturday.

In the end, Kong celebrated the first win of a new trophy that is expected to become a permanent part of the programme of the Macau Grand Prix. **RM**

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Renato Marques

BRITON Peter Hickman won the 52nd Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix race on Saturday afternoon.

Starting from pole position, Hickman saw his teammate and Macau's most successful motorcycle racer, Michael Rutter, take the lead with a brilliant start. However, Hickman did not let Rutter get away and pursued him until the fourth lap when, on the braking into Lisboa, Hickman took the lead and did not let it go.

Controlling the race pace, Hickman saw Rutter reducing the gap between the front-runners in the following laps but he was always in control of the situation.

Further back, the battle for third and fourth position was the most interesting one to follow, with Martin Jessopp, Danny Webb and Gary Johnson fighting for the best possible position. In the end, it was Jessopp in the Ducati who climbed once more to the lower step of the podium in Macau.

The fourth position was occupied by Webb who had an impressive performance throughout the weekend and was always a contender for the top positions. The best result from Webb was last year's 10th position.

With three laps to go, an accident at the Fishermen's bend involving two riders eventually led the race to a stop and early finish as organizers decided for a non-restart.

The incident involved Bimota's Ben Wylie and Handtrans JCR Racing Phillip Crowe. According to information made available by the Grand Prix Organizing Committee, Crowe was unharmed and did not need any medical assistance. As for Wylie, he was transported to the hospital where he is under

Hickman wins for the third time, Aspire-Ho makes it 1-2



medical observation, with the organizing committee noting that he was conscious, and his medical status was stable and not in a life-threatening condition.

After the race, Hickman said, "On the third lap I thought, I'll get my head down a bit and see if I can break in just a little bit, get a little bit of a gap and see if I can manage it, which was basically what I did. After half distance, I thought I'll get my head back down again and did

a low 24, which pulled the gap back out again. It's fantastic for me. For Aspire-Ho and Bathams, a win here is absolutely brilliant."

As for the first runner-up, Rutter said, "The bike went off the line absolutely perfectly and I just got in front of Pete [Hickman] into turn 1. I thought, this is not right, it's not happening! I just got my head down. When he came flying past and I thought I'd stay on the back of him but he pulled so much

on me in just one lap, I thought this is just embarrassing, I'll have to get my head down," he said. "I started matching him and I felt comfortable. I could see a bit of wear on his Dunlop's rear [tire] and I thought, that's not going to last, but he seemed to be keeping the same pace. To be fair to Pete, he was on rails!"

Taking his sixth podium in 10 participations, Jessopp noted, "I didn't really panic about the start though. We were all in one group, and I thought it's not a

problem if you can pick off a few guys. But I'm so new to the bike. I've been on the same bike for six years and never won, so why not try something different? I've been riding the bike around here for a couple of days with a lot of respect for the bike and for the circuit, and I've not tried to rush anything. It was always going to be difficult against the competition I'm sat next to. As crazy as it sounds, I'd love another race tomorrow!"

Sunny Wong wins 'little taste' Macau Touring Car Cup

Renato Marques

HONG Kong driver Sunny Wong took his Subaru Impreza WRX to a pole-to-flag win in the FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup on Saturday, crossing the finish line in front of Japan's Mitsuhiro Kinoshita in a Nissan GTR-34 and also Hong Kong's Paul Poon in a Peugeot RCZ.

The dramatic race was, in fact, the poorest of all the racing events over the week, mostly due the unsportsmanlike conduct of the drivers - in this case, Macau's Lei Kit Meng driving a Nissan GTR-34. Since last year, the race has combined the 1600cc Turbo and the Over 1950cc classes.

This year it saw a great start by the two front-row sitters, with Wong and Kinoshita battling their way through the first section of the circuit followed closely behind by Poon.

After only a single lap was completed, the safety car had to be deployed after Lei hit the barrier at Mandarin bend. A few seconds later, Kevin Leong put an end to his race by doing the same at Maternity Bend. Worst still, Lei, although now driving a very damaged car, did not stop on the first possible opportunity to make it easy for the race to restart. Instead, he drove along the circuit for over one lap until the race direction showed him the black flag

to disqualify him and order his immediate return to the pits.

The incident caused over 15 minutes of suspense, since while riding along the track, Lei's car spilled oil and other fluids on the surface that had to be covered by the track staff.

The field was then led back out on track behind the safety car with just eight minutes to go, and the race was called to an end only after seven laps, of which five were completed behind the safety car.

Wong's victory was without the flavour he had wanted and deserved, even as he was clearly the fastest driver on track over the racing weekend.

