

65 GRAND PRIX MACAU

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Times

SUPPLEMENT

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RENATO MARQUES



**YOUNG STARS SEEKING
BRIGHTER LIGHT ON
GUIA CIRCUIT**



PREVIEW

Young stars seeking a brighter light on C

Renato Marques

WITH the return of the “Queen” of Macau races, and to a format closer to the former Formula 3 Intercontinental Cup held at Guia Circuit until 2015, this year’s edition of the FIA F3 World Cup will gather the best drivers of the year from the FIA Formula 3 championships of Europe and Japan.

Topping the entry list are names like Mick Schumacher, son of the seven-time F1 World Champion Michael Schumacher, who on his second attempt in the F3 European Championship won the title.

In fact, the Macau Grand Prix grid for this year features a total of 16 FIA Formula 3 European Championship drivers.

The race will pit them against each other, such as last year’s winner Daniel Ticktum and this year’s Formula 3 European Vice-Champion, Mick Schumacher.

Paring with Ticktum on the Motorpark Academy team is a great set of drivers and well-known names from the Guia Circuit.

Joel Eriksson, Ferdinand Habsburg and Marino Sato will all be racing with Dallara-Volkswagen of Motorpark. The team also includes rookie Juri Vips, a first-timer in Macau who has already showed his talent this year, winning a street-circuit at Norisring.

Ticktum aside, Schumacher will also be well-supported in the field by the SJM Theodore Racing – Prema team. The team’s Dallara-Mercedes cars will be in the hands of names like Guan Yu Zhou Ralf Aron, Marcus Armstrong and Robert Schwartzman.

And if you think the list of highlighted contenders ends here, you could not be more wrong, as Carlin’s four-car field is sending an army composed of Jehan Daruvala, Callum Iott, Sacha Fenestraz and Japan’s Yoshiaki Katayama.

With only a two-car field, TOM’s brings All-Japan Formula 3 Championship title winner Sho Tsuboi and Ritomo Miyata to drive their Dallara-Toyota.

Although Schumacher and Ticktum are considered “natural” candidates for the title, there are many names that could easily interfere with their “tango” through the streets of Macau, as the 28-car field is laden with young talent.

But this is nothing more than theory. The real deal gets underway with free practice and qualifying on November 15 and 16, followed by the Qualification Race on Saturday which sets the grid for the race, to be held on November 17. Sunday is reserved for the Grand Prix, when the final will be held and Ticktum’s successor to the Macau title will be decided.



The Formula 3 pits

On a last note, we could not refrain from noting two facts: the first being a rare female participant in these open-wheel championships in Macau – this time Dutch team

Van Amersfoort Racing has assigned one of its cars to German driver Sophia Florsch. She will be the only female on track. Secondly, the rare participation of a local racer

in this category. Macau’s Charles Leong will assume one of the cars from Hitech GP, with the participation of Jake Hughes.

Leong managed to win both the

PREVIEW

The most ‘local’ of all GP races

Renato Marques

THOUGH out of the spotlight it once was in, year after year the Macau Touring Car Cup continues to be the most local of all Grand Prix (GP) racing events.

Believe it or not, for local fans this is still one of the most anticipated races. Maybe not exactly because of its magnificence, but for the fact that a large majority of its participants are Macau and Hong Kong amateur racers, people that you know from your daily life, faces that you see in the office or in public service.

This is the race of local and regional champions; amateur drivers that race above all, for the passion to participate in the event, as

some have been doing for several decades already.

For these racers, this is their only chance to share the 6.2 kilometer Guia Circuit with some of their idols, or at least prominent figures in the sport. To reach this moment in the season, they had to first pass selection in early spring. It takes several rounds of competition to select the year’s best competitors for a final race as an award for their effort.

Similar to what was enforced in last year’s edition of the GP, this race will feature cars in two different categories, bringing together racing cars with two different specifications, the 1.6 and 2.0-liter turbocharged engines.

This year, and contrary to what happened

on the trial run of this competition, the event has been completely merged into only one event, with both the race and the qualifying and practice sessions to include all the cars listed in this category.

To recall, last year, the two different car specifications were only merged in the actual race, while qualifying and practice sessions were done separately.

For this year’s entry list, the 36 pre-qualified drivers will have the chance to fight for the laurels of champion.

As for the favorites to win the finals – and like in the last event – this race has a record of being affected by mishaps that often lead to interruptions or even a shortening

of the race – like last year, when it rained. The race began behind the safety car for the first three laps and was shortened, finishing four laps later when a multi-car incident occurred at the Dona Maria bend which brought out the red flags and the winners were announced early.

Last year’s winners are back again this year. Among the most notorious names are Macau driver Leong Ian Veng in a Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution 7 and Japan’s Mitsuhiro Kinoshita in a Nissan GTR R34.

For the smaller engine capacity category, local Jeronimo Badaraco will be in a Chevrolet Cruze and Hong Kong’s Paul Poon will be in a Peugeot RCZ, and they will prove to



Jeronimo Badaraco



Leong Ian Veng

Guia Circuit



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Mick Schumacher



Daniel Tickum

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Chinese Formula 4 and Asian Formula Renault championship titles last year, and he has been strong this year in his first ever F3 Asian Championship Certified by FIA.

Leong will be paired with Hughes, another driver that has been achieving results in F3 Asian Championship and known to be capable of a little surprise, if the chance arises.

FIRST PERSON

Local WTCR participants acknowledge difficulties and opportunities

Renato Marques

RUNNING for the first time as FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) and with a season finale in Macau, the FIA, together with local organizers, has decided to grant the opportunity to six local racers to enter the Macau WTCR race as "wildcard" entries.

The event will therefore see a record 31 cars on track, enriching the grid with some local experience.

The Times interviewed two of these racers to learn about their feelings and ambitions ahead of Guia Race.



Kevin Tse's car

KEVIN TSE

I am very excited and honored to be representing Macau in the upcoming WTCR race. Racing against the world-best touring car drivers is a dream come true and I really appreciate the support that the Macau government, Sports Bureau and AAMC have given me.

As for the race, it will be a very tough challenge. World-class drivers and teams have been racing for the

whole year and therefore they have tons of knowledge and setup reference for their cars and Yokohama tires.

There is lot of catching-up for me to do. We will have a few days of testing to hopefully gain as much setup knowledge [as possible] before heading to Macau. Making the 105 percent qualifying-cut is our first objective and then hopefully we will finish well in the three races.

RUI VALENTE

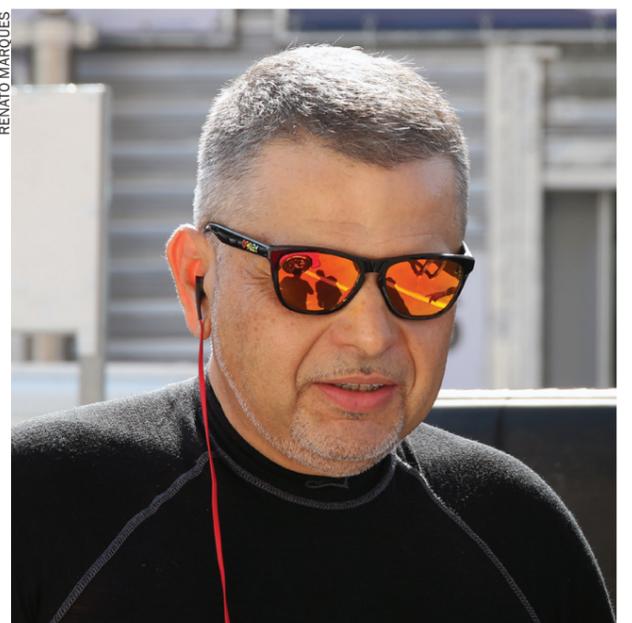
Well, [to participate in the WTCR race] for me, it was a possible solution after being just one spot away to qualify for the [Food4You Race] where I've [been] racing for many years.

Since I couldn't achieve that, I tried to [determine] the possible options to race and the WTCR seemed to be the only reasonable one.

It's of course a very complex race with a lot of top world drivers that are doing the World Championship and those are [theoretically] out of our reach.

I would say there are about seven candidates for the World Title and I am sure they will race to their full to achieve that.

In my particular case, firstly there is the need to classify for the race but I think it is possible; the car is good and I know the circuit very well. I think it is definitely possible to qualify



Rui Valente

for the race and then to be calm and try to take the opportunities that will for sure arise. The front-runners will be racing hard and in Macau that means crashing hard too.

It's important to be patient and [not] get too excited and take the opportunities from pos-

sible crashes of drivers, that are theoretically faster, to gain positions.

In addition we also have in this championship a good group of at least eight or nine drivers [who] will be racing on the Guia circuit for the first time and our experience as local drivers can come [in] handy.

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Grand Prix week kicks off with Car and Bike Show

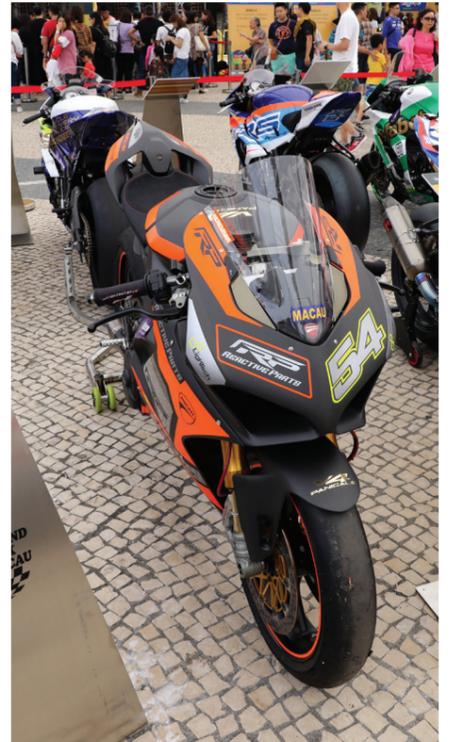
THE 65th Macau Grand Prix week was officially inaugurated last Saturday with the launch of the famous Car and Bike Show.

Located at Tap Seac Square, the event is a unique opportunity for the public to meet drivers and riders, as well as to tour the GT cars and motorcycles that will race in the streets of Macau later this week. At a ceremony attended by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, racers and organizers joined hands to kick off one of Macau's most adrenaline-filled weeks of the year.

"We welcome you all to the 65th running of the Macau Grand Prix and would like to thank everyone involved," said Tam, adding, "This year we have over 150 racers from 33 countries, and we all look forward to their amazing performances."

Several GT3 cars and GP motorcycles were on display in the square over the weekend, delighting visitors of all ages with the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of the world's most stunning racing machinery.

The exhibition also included giveaways, racing simulators and a chance for the enthusiastic crowds to grab selfies with their favorite drivers and riders.



"This particular exhibition has been running since 2011 and we are delighted to welcome you here at the official opening to this fantastic event. Families can

enjoy the entertainment that's available and you can even have your photo with your favorite racer. Enjoy the show and we look forward to next week's Macau

Grand Prix," concluded Tam. The pre-racing events will continue with a series of media and community meet-ups before practice commences on

Thursday. There will then be four days of thrilling action until the final races on Sunday where the winners will be crowned.

AD

NOVEMBER 15 - 18

15 November (Thursday)

- 06:30 ~ 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:30 ~ 08:30 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Free Practice
- 09:05 ~ 09:35 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Free Practice 1
- 09:55 ~ 10:35 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Free Practice 1
- 10:50 ~ 11:20 Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - Free Practice
- 11:35 ~ 12:05 FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - Free Practice
- 12:25 ~ 12:55 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Free Practice 1
- 13:30 ~ 14:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Free Practice 2
- 14:20 ~ 15:00 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying 1
- 16:00 ~ 16:45 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Qualifying

16 November (Friday)

- 06:30 ~ 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:30 ~ 08:15 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Qualifying
- 08:50 ~ 09:30 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Qualifying
- 09:50 ~ 10:20 Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - Qualifying
- 10:40 ~ 11:10 FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - Qualifying
- 11:30 ~ 12:10 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Free Practice 2
- 12:30 ~ 13:00 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Free Practice 2
- 13:35 ~ 14:50 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR - Q1, Q2, Q3
- 15:10 ~ 15:50 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying 2
- 16:10 ~ 16:40 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying

17 November (Saturday)

- 06:30 ~ 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:10 ~ 07:50 Safety, Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps
- 08:00 ~ 08:40 Special Event
- 09:00 ~ 10:00 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualification Race - 10 laps
- 10:25 ~ 11:25 FOOD4U Macau Touring Car Cup - 12 laps
- 11:50 ~ 12:10 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - Warm Up
- 13:05 ~ 14:05 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race - 12 laps
- 14:25 ~ 15:15 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 1 - 8 laps
- 15:55 ~ 16:55 Suncity Group Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 52nd Edition - 12 laps

18 November (Sunday)

- 06:30 ~ 07:00 Circuit Inspection
- 07:10 ~ 07:50 Safety Rescue and Extrication Cars - Testing laps
- 08:20 ~ 09:10 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 2 - 8 laps
- 09:35 ~ 10:35 Suncity Group Greater Bay Area Lotus Cup - 12 laps
- 11:00 ~ 12:00 Suncity Group Macau Guia Race - FIA WTCR Race 3 - 11 laps
- 12:25 ~ 13:40 SJM Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - 18 laps
- 14:00 ~ 14:35 Special Event
- 15:10 ~ 15:20 Lion Dance
- 15:30 ~ 16:30 Suncity Group Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - 15 laps