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Times

SUPPLEMENT

FRI 17.11.2023



WORLD CUPS
ARE BACK



MOTORCYCLE GP FHO WITH STRONG LINEUP TO STORM THE PODIUM

RENATO MARQUES

RRACING in Macau for the first time as FHO Racing, the team owned by Faye Ho, the granddaughter of late tycoon Stanley Ho, comes geared up to dominate this year's Motorcycle GP.

Besides the nine-time champion Michael Rutter and the three (and a half) time Macau winner Peter Hickman, the FHO squad is completed by Australian Josh Brookes.

Although Brookes is a newbie to Macau and will certainly need some adaptation, the 40-year-old has a vast amount of racing experience in several categories, especially in the World Superbike as well as the British Superbike Championships.

If all goes according to plan, Brookes will likely try to follow his teammates on track for the first few laps before launching himself in an attempt to outdo them.

Still, to have a one-two-three for FHO Racing at the end of the race would not be unheard of for anyone familiar with the skills of the three riders and the pristine machinery they will be riding around Guia Circuit.

Rutter, Hickman, and Brookes will be all riding identical M1000RR BMWs with some tweaks here and there, tailored to each rider's particular style



and taste.

With that said, you should certainly keep an eye out for numbers 8, 88, and 888 on track over the weekend as they are ready to put on a show.

If asked to pick a favorite we would certainly put our money on Hickman. He has proven to be the fastest rider currently around Guia and he is in great form, as he showed recently in June this year at Isle of Man TT,

when he set a new outright lap record on the Mountain course.

Potential contenders to this theoretical hegemony are last year's winner, Erno Kostamo, and runner-up, David Datzler, both also riding BMWs.

With the absence of some usual names from the race, there will be much interest in what other names can do, such as Manx Grand Prix winners Rob Hodson and Michael Evans and

the TT podium finisher, Paul Jordan.

Hodson will be riding a Honda CBR1000RR-R from SMT Racing, while Evans comes with the Suzuki GSXR1000 that he used in the RST Superbike, RL360 Superstock, and Milwaukee Senior races at the TT. Jordan will be in another BMW, but like Kostamo, in an S1000RR.

Returning to Macau also is the only female rider of last year,

Nadieh Schoots, who placed in 12th and last position last year. She returns with Basomba Racing Yamaha, riding an R1.

Another returning rider, the Swiss Lukas Maurer, who was one of the fast adapting and fast racers on his debut last year (finished 4th), may also bring about a surprise result.

Maurer will be riding the very same Kawasaki ZX10R as last year.



CTCC Macau racers bid to the podium

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau Touring Car Cup will be running this year with cars and drivers from the China Touring Car Championship (CTCC).

The entry list for this

race includes well-known local motorsport names such as André Couto and Filipe Souza who will certainly try to make their experience around the Guia Circuit count to achieve spots at the podium.

At the top of the favori-

tes will be Couto, who has been away from races for some time due to the pandemic restriction measures. Couto has used this time to prepare himself physically and mentally for the new challenges. The local racer looks in stronger shape than ever at the wheel of the very competitive and well-prepared Honda Civic FL5 TCR. He is a serious contender and may win first place.

Couto has defied any doubts with his podium finishes in Ningbo and Zhuzhou.

The championship is led by Couto's teammate Jack Young in another Honda Civic FL5 TCR who will certainly be determined to be crowned champion. His closest competitor, Cao Hongwei, is just 6 points down.

As usual, Cao will be racing the very competitive Hyundai Elantra N TCR.

Zhang Zhiqiang is another top competitor in one

of the Lynk & Co 03 TCR from Shell Teamwork Lynk & Co Racing.

Placing third in the championship, Zhang has a lot of Macau experience already and has proven very competitive. Teammate David Zhu is also competitive in another Lynk & Co 03 TCR.

As a bit of an outsider, Souza comes to this race to prove his worth once more. The local racer has scored some great results driving TCR cars around Guia and this year he re-

turns in a Comtoyout Racing Audi RS3 LMS TCR. His experience may prove to be decisive particularly on Race 2 on Sunday.

After the first day yesterday, dedicated to two Free Practice sessions, the CTCC cars will be ready to compete in the qualifying race today from 10:30 a.m.

Races will take place tomorrow and Sunday with the first happening at 10:05 a.m. on Saturday (9 laps) and another 9 laps for Race 2 at 8:20 a.m. early morning Sunday.

ROADSPORT CARS RETURN TO GUIA FOR THE ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE

ALREADY featured on the first weekend of the event, the Macau Roadsport Challenge cars will return to Guia Circuit this weekend for the 70th Anniversary Challenge race.

The Toyotas GR86 and Subarus BRZ will be back on track but with different racers from the first weekend as the

field was split into two for this celebratory event.

Two 8-lap races are to be raced on Saturday and Sunday with a field filled solely with Macau and Hong Kong racers, including local names such as Rui Valente, Mou Chi Fai, and Lei Kit Meng. **RM**

RENATO MARQUES

THE “Queen” of all Macau races, the Formula 3 (F3) World Cup is finally back in the GP program after three years of absence due to Covid-19 restrictions.

This year as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the race, the F3 continues its legacy of being the stepping stone for junior racers around the globe to launch themselves into higher challenges and, eventually, the Formula One.

With entries featuring some rising stars of the FIA F3 Championship, which ended back in September this year, as well as some already famous names of Guia Circuit who have been racing in other championships this year, the F3 World Cup aims to be more than an off-season test for drivers and teams, with Macau performances potentially opening some new doors into the sport.

The 70th anniversary of the event brings together nine teams from the FIA F3 Championship, with each entering three cars and, consequently, three drivers to the competition.

Back in 2019, Dutch Richard Verschoor won the first-ever Macau F3 race featuring what were new formula cars at the time.

Currently racing at the FIA Formula 2 Championship, where he occupies the ninth position of the standing with just one race to complete (at YAS Marina Circuit in UAE on the last weekend of November), Verschoor is returning to Macau to defend his title and attempt to follow in the footsteps of Edoardo Mortara, António Félix da Costa, Felix Rosenqvist and Dan Ticktum as a two-time F3 winner on the Guia Circuit.

This time the Dutchman will not be racing with MP Motorsport, but instead under the colors of Trident Motorsport.



F3 World Cup Top race returns looking to continue the legacy

Alongside Verschoor in Trident will be the Czech Roman Stank, who is also racing at the F2 Championship. Completing the Trident trio will be the young American talent Ugo Ugochukwu.

The 16-year-old is a protégé of the McLaren F1 team and has won a total of 11 races this season in the UAE, Italian, and Euro 4 Formula 4 championships. He also claimed victory in the Euro 4 championship with Prema Racing.

Although he is set to continue with Prema for 2024 to compete in the Formula Regional European Championship (regional F3 specifications), Ugochukwu will be in Macau racing for the first time in the International F3 car, after only post-season testing of the 2023 FIA Formula 3 Championship

with Rodin Carlin.

Also lining up to the Macau race will be Prema, an important name of all junior categories and particularly F3 but which somehow has not been able to win in Macau since Felix Rosenqvist took victory in 2015.

Representing the Theodore Prema alliance this year are Paul Aron, Dino Beganovic, and Gabriele Minì, who all starred in FIA F3 this year.

Estonian Aron is a junior driver for the Mercedes F1 team and is the younger brother of 2017 Formula 3 Macau Grand podium finisher Ralf Aron.

He finished third in the FIA F3 Championship this season and will be the highest-ranked driver from this championship to take

part in the Macau race.

Swede Beganovic is linked to the Ferrari Driver Academy and finished 6th in the same FIA F3 Championship this year, just four points ahead of Minì.

Also coming from F2 is Red Bull Junior Zane Maloney, currently occupying the 10th position just behind Verschoor. He will be the first-ever racer from Barbados to race in Macau.

Maloney will be in a Rodin Carlin car and have as a teammate the two-time Macau champion Dan Ticktum.

Ticktum took victory in both 2017 and 2018 and returns in a bid to become the first-ever driver to win the race three times.

This year's race will also see the return of German Sophia Flörsch,

a famous name at Macau for regrettable reasons. Flörsch became famous when she had a major crash at Lisboa in 2018 where, fortunately, everyone involved survived to tell the story.

As always, Macau is a box full of surprises and this unpredictability is also a large part of what increases the thrill of the action of the F3 racing event.

After the first two sessions yesterday, the F3 cars go out on track today from 9:30 a.m. for the Free Practice 2, returning later at 3:05 p.m. for the Qualifying 2.

Races will be held on Saturday: the Qualifying Race (10 laps) at 3:50 p.m., and closing the program of the 70th edition of the Macau GP on Sunday at 3:30 p.m., the main race (15 laps).

GT3 World Cup To pick up where they left off

RENATO MARQUES

ALWAYS one of the most awaited events, the FIA GT World Cup for GT3 specifications cars has returned this year to pick up from where they left off back in 2019.

After the pandemic that halted the race for three years, the FIA-sanctioned race is returning to the Guia Street Circuit in the first event of a three-year agreement resulting from joint efforts by the FIA, Macau's FIA member club, Automobile General Association Macao-China, and the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee, the FIA said in a statement.



For the first year upon resumption, the Macau headliner will count on a quartet of German manufacturers battling for the win, including Mercedes-AMG, Porsche, BMW, and Audi, which joins the Italians of

Ferrari.

The line-up presents a good number of well-known names from the Macau racing scene all bidding for a place at the top of the podium.

Among this group we

find Edoardo Mortara (Audi R8 LMS Evo 2), Maro Engel (Mercedes-AMG), Augusto Farfus (BMW M4), Earl Bamber (Porsche 911 GT3R), Raffaele Marciello (Mercedes-AMG), Laurens Vanthoor (Porsche 911 GT3R) and Da-

niel Juncadella (Mercedes-AMG). From these names, only Juncadella has never won the race, although he has lots of track experience.

Joining these is a series of Platinum drivers looking for their first attempt at the title, including Jules Gounon (Mercedes-AMG), Kévin Estre (Porsche 911 GT3R) and the Brazilian Daniel Serra (Ferrari 296).

Mortara is always a serious candidate for the title that slipped from his hands last year with a freak incident at the race start, when he mistakenly followed the Safety Car on track while the grid was at a stand still. Eventually, he finished second behind Engel but there

is a feeling of unfinished business and thus an added incentive for him to add a fifth title to his name, this time around with Audi Sport Asia Team Absolute.

Keen to grab any opportunity if it arises will also be the drivers from Asia, with the experienced Hong Kong racers Adderly Fong (Audi R8 LMS Evo 2) and Marchy Lee (Mercedes-AMG) and the Chinese Leo Ye (Porsche 911 GT3R) and David Chen (Ferrari 488 Evo).

The FIA GT World Cup cars will go out on track today for the 30-minute Qualifying from 2:05 p.m. with the Qualification Race (12 laps) to take place at the same time tomorrow.

The final race is scheduled to take place at 12:05 p.m. on Sunday over the course of 16 laps.



RENATO MARQUES



Rob Huff



Nestor Girolami



Tom Coronel

GUIA RACE – TCR WORLD TOUR INTERNATIONAL TCR RETURNS TO ADD SPARKLE TO EMBLEMATIC EVENT

RENATO MARQUES

AFTER a long absence, an international contingent of TCR category racers is returning to Macau to take part in the historic Guia Race for touring cars.

This series had undergone many changes worldwide over the past few years, notably the shift to fully electric vehicles (ETCR) especially in Europe but, recently, the old internal combustion TCR cars have started making a resurgence.

Following on such trend, it was decided to replace the previous World Touring Car Championship (WTCR) with a TCR World Tour season, a shorter and less frequent version of the championship with races taking place in Europe, South America, and Australia before reaching Macau.

It is precisely this Kumho TCR World Tour season's last round that will be held this weekend in the streets of Macau, with a field of cars and drivers that includes four previous winners of the

Macau Guia Race, either in qualifying or main races.

Among the most highlighted names is Brit, Rob Huff, the most successful touring car racer in Macau who has been a regular presence at Guia Race even during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic.

This time, Huff takes the wheel of the Audi Sport Team Comtoy squad accompanied by another winner of the race, Frédéric Vervisch.

Huff needs no introductions in Macau as he is the record holder and a nine-time race winner. He is aiming to increase his tally.

The same team also includes John Filippi and Tom Coronel, with the latter coming to the Macau race after clinching the 2023 TCR Europe crown.

Filippi is, so far, the only driver to have won a TCR World Tour race outside of the nine drivers who compete regularly in the 2023 season.

Also joining the Macau race will be Ben Bargwanna and Marco Butti.

After the end of his own country's series last

weekend at Bathurst, TCR Australia race winner Bargwanna returns to the World Tour at the wheel of the Team Clairet Sport Peugeot 308. Bargwanna also raced in the rounds of Portimão and Spa earlier this year.

As for Butti, he has only raced in the Vallelunga event where he won the TCR Italian Trophy. This year he focused on TCR Italy, scoring three victories on his way to finish fourth in the rankings. The Italian youngster will race a Hyundai Elantra N entered by BRC Squadra Corse with support from the Hong Kong-based Evolve Racing.

Running in the second Evolve Racing car will be last weekend's TCR Asia Challenge winner of Race 1 and second runner-up in Race 2, Lo Sze Ho.

Five other TCR Asia Challenge competitors will join this weekend's race including Paul Poon (Teamwork Motorsport, Audi), Deng Bao Wei (109 Racing, Honda Civic Fk7), Yan Chuang (Fancy Teamwork, Lynk & Co 03),

Osborn Li (Z.Speed, Hyundai i30 N) and Ken Tian (QMA Motorsports, Audi).

The field will also include some other big names of Macau touring car races in recent years, such as China's Ma Qing Hua, Thed Björk, and double WTCR champion Yann Ehrlacher, who currently sits second in the TCR World Tour points.

Norbert Michelisz and Mikel Azcona will also be back and running, like Lo, Hyundai Elantra N TCR cars.

Eyes will also be on Nestor Girolami who will be at the wheel of the new-for-2023 Honda Civic Type R FL5 TCR. Girolami and the new Honda had a maiden win on the world stage in his native Argentina back in August.

The Guia Race – TCR World Tour will be out on track from 12:45 p.m. for the very important qualifying session. TCR World Tour cars will return to the Guia Circuit tomorrow around the same time for Race 1 (9 laps) and again on Sunday at 10:35 a.m. for another 9-lap Race 2.

SCHEDULE

November 17 (Today)

- 6:30 - 7:00 Circuit Inspection
- 8:00 - 8:45 Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 55th Edition - Qualifying 1
- 9:30 - 10:10 Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Free Practice 2
- 10:30 - 11:05 Macau Touring Car Cup - China Touring Car Championship - Qualifying
- 11:25 - 11:55 Macau Grand Prix 70th Anniversary Challenge - Qualifying
- 12:45 - 13:35 Macau Guia Race - Kumho TCR World Tour Event of Macau - Qualifying
- 14:05 - 14:35 Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualifying
- 15:05 - 15:45 Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying 2
- 16:10 - 16:55 Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 55th Edition - Qualifying 2

November 18 (Saturday)

- 6:30 - 7:00 Circuit Inspection
- 7:30 - 7:50 Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 55th Edition - Warm Up
- 8:40 - 9:25 Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix - 55th Edition - Race (12 laps)
- 10:05 - 10:40 Macau Touring Car Cup - China Touring Car Championship - Race 1 (9 laps)
- 11:20 - 11:50 Macau Grand Prix 70th Anniversary Challenge - Race 1 (8 laps)
- 12:50 - 13:25 Macau Guia Race - Kumho TCR World Tour Event of Macau - Race 1 (9 laps)
- 14:05 - 15:05 Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup - Qualification Race (12 laps)
- 15:50 - 16:50 Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup - Qualifying Race (10 laps)

November 19 (Sunday)

- 6:30 - 7:00 Circuit Inspection
- 8:20 - 08:55 Macau Touring Car Cup - China Touring Car Championship - Race 2 (9 laps)
- 9:30 - 10:00 Macau Grand Prix 70th Anniversary Challenge - Race 2 (8 laps)
- 10:35 - 11:10 Macau Guia Race - Kumho TCR World Tour Event of Macau - Race 2 (9 laps)
- 12:05 - 13:15 Macau GT Cup - FIA GT World Cup (16 laps)
- 13:30 - 14:30 Classic Cars Parade
- 15:15 - 15:20 Lion Dance
- 15:30 - 16:30 Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix - FIA F3 World Cup (15 laps)