



# A NEW STAR IS BORN



# MOTORCYCLE GP HICKMAN DOMINATES WITH FOURTH MACAU WIN

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Brit, Peter Hickman (BMW M1000RR), dominated the 55th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix with a lights-to-flag finish on Saturday.

Hickman now has four Macau wins, which adds to the controversial decision of attributing the 2019 win to Michael Rutter with only 1 lap of the race completed.

From pole position, Hickman started well, accompanied by Brit Davey Todd (BMW M1000RR) for the first few laps.

Although riding superbly, Todd never threatened Hickman's lead.

Hickman controlled the first half of the race then pulled away, taking the checked flag almost 30 seconds ahead of Todd who was sitting comfortably in second place and holding a comfortable lead over German racer David Datzler (BMW M1000RR) in third place, who was also last year's runner-up.

With Hickman dominating, interest in the race shifted to the following positions where a lot of changes were occurring during the race, mostly because of mechanical issues rather than overtaking.

Debuting in Macau and with a steady race and learning curve over the weekend, fourth-placed Australian Joshua Brookes (BMW M1000RR) suffered technical difficulties along with



Peter Hickman

several racers, including Macau record-holder and nine-time winner Michael Rutter and last year's winner, the Fin, Erno Kostamo, who did not finish the race.

Robert Hodson (Honda CBR1000RR-R) took fifth place, the only one of the five top finishers not riding a BMW M1000RR, the motorcycle that dominated the local GP.

"All went to plan," said Hickman after the race.

"The Dunlop tires were fantastic, and everything worked to perfection. Davey [Todd] was pushing early on which was good for me as once I pulled away from him, I started making mistakes. I had a little talk to myself and by lap ten I was focused again. I'm delighted for Faye Ho and all the team who've

worked tirelessly to achieve this win."

If there was a 'Luckiest Rider of the Weekend Award' it would be runner-up Todd. The Brit has great qualifications and placed second at the grid to start but, seconds before the lights flashed, he had an issue with the motorcycle, with the engine stopping when the race was about to start.

His bike was quickly pushed

into the pit lane, and the race started without him.

Luckily for him, on the first lap and with only half the distance completed, Irish rider Brian McCormack had a strange mishap on the way to Dona Maria Bend and fell off his bike. The bike continued, crashing hard into the wall then sliding onto the track.

The accident startled Dutch rider Nadieh Schoots who was a few spots behind McCormack. She braked but crashed, hitting McCormack's motorcycle, which was lying on the track.

The incident, occurring a minute into the race, caused an immediate red flag which canceled the start.

The recovery of the riders and motorcycles and the cleaning of the track took a while, giving Todd time to fix his motorcycle issues and join the grid for the restart. The two racers involved in the incident were transported to hospital with McCormack being released almost immediately with a minor ankle injury.

Schoots has been hospitalized for observation due to a fracture of her left foot.

Before the race finished, the Czech rider, Kamil Holan, crashed his Kawasaki ZX10R at the R Bend. The rider was also taken to hospital with a broken arm and leg. None of the riders involved in accidents are suffering from life-threatening injuries.

## Guia Race - TCR World Tour Michelisz crowned 2023 champion in Macau



Norbert Michelisz

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Hungarian Norbert Michelisz (Hyundai Elantra N TCR) was crowned 2023 Kumho TCR World Tour champion in Macau yesterday as the Belgian, Frédéric Vervisch (Audi RS3 LMS TCR) won Race 2 of the weekend ahead of Santiago Urrutia (Lynk & Co 03 FL TCR) and Yann Ehrlacher (Lynk & Co 03 FL TCR).

The season's drama-filled last race was only decided when, while on his final attempt at a win to secure the championship, Rob Huff (Audi RS3 LMS TCR) touched the car in front of him, a move common in touring car racing. However, this time, it resulted in disaster as his bonnet locks broke, causing the bonnet to fly open and shatter the windshield.

Unable to see, Huff was

forced to reduce speed and stop at the pits so the team could remediate the damage. Unfortunately, the harm to his championship hopes was irreparable, since Michelisz, although finishing in eighth position, had enough margin to secure the championship.

Michelisz's victory in Race 1 Saturday, where he earned maximum points while Huff finished third, heavily influenced the championship outcome.

Before the final race, Michelisz boasted an 18-point lead over Huff and was 20 points ahead of Ehrlacher, who was third in the tally.

After the race, Michelisz celebrated the championship win, saying, "On a day like this, with a team like this, and a racetrack like this, what else do you need in life? I'm incredibly happy."

RENATO MARQUES

# F3 World Cup Browning confirms supremacy with final win

**B**RITISH driver Luke Browning (Hitech Pulse-Eight) is the newest Macau Formula 3 (F3) star after replicating his success at the Qualifying Race (Saturday) during Sunday's final race.

Starting from the pole position, Browning led a lights-to-flag race that was challenged on only two occasions – initially at the start and later after an extended interruption due to Colombian Sebastián Montoya's crash at the Faraway Hill Bend, resulting in a red flag.

The restart, with only 5 laps remaining, saw Browning retain his position firmly through Lisboa bend, where he established a lead over the second-place contender.

He also benefited from a maneuver from Norwegian Dennis Hauger (MP Motorsport) to secure second position, as pressure from Gabriele Minì (SJM Theodore Prema Racing) in third place was keeping Hauger occupied.

The race and result seemed to be relaunched for the final laps until Hungarian Nikola Tsolov crashed at the Fishermen's Bend, hitting the wall and severely damaging the left rear wheel of his car, which was only able to pull away from the turn by a few meters.

Although the car was not in a concerning location, the Safety Car was nevertheless deployed to remove the car. But with three laps remaining, there was



Luke Browning

insufficient time to do so effectively. Despite the interesting beginning, the race concluded in the worst way possible, with cars lining up behind the Safety

Car until the finish line.

Browning's victory was nonetheless unquestionable, as he displayed control over the racing weekend with victories

in both races and topping the Qualifying 2 session with a best time of 2 minutes 05.435 seconds.

Nonetheless, the record of

Guia Circuit for an F3 car remains with Estonian Juri Vips, who in 2019 scored a lap in 2 minutes 06.317seconds. This is due to a rule that only considers circuit records during the race, not the Qualifying sessions. This is a longstanding regulation established by local organizers and applies to all categories, including cars and motorcycles racing at the Guia Circuit.

After the race, Browning said that the fact that the race lasted over 1:40 from start to finish was one of the challenges to maintaining concentration over an extended duration.

However, he combatted any potential distraction or loss of focus with a very high degree of motivation to win the Macau race.

He also praised the team for the car, saying that it was "absolutely phenomenal all weekend, and has been an absolute pleasure to drive."

Browning also noted that after the interruption, the track was very slippery in the Faraway Hill area due to the presence of silica sand, a compound used to quickly absorb liquids on the track released by Montoya's crash, whose car was severely damaged.

# FIA GT World Cup Marciello adds to his Macau success

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Swiss racer, Raffaele Marciello (Mercedes AMG GT3), bid a triumphant farewell to GT car racing, winning the final race of the FIA GT World Cup on Sunday.

Marciello, who also won the Qualification Race on Saturday, has added significantly to his tally of wins in Macau.

This marked Marciello's last race as a Mercedes AMG factory racer.

Next season, he is preparing to take on the 2024 Le Mans Daytona h (LMDh), a sports prototype race car that competes alongside Le Mans Hypercar entries in the Grand Touring Prototype class of the IMSA SportsCar Championship and also competes in the Hypercar class of the FIA World Endurance Championship.

This weekend in Macau



Raffaele Marciello

was picture-perfect for Marciello, with back-to-back wins after the competition's interruptions over the past three years.

This year, he returned to repeat the success of 2019 where, as now, he also won both the Qualification and Final Races.

In a race with fewer in-

terruptions than usual, Marciello seemed always to be in control, with little to no overtaking for the top positions.

The opening lap was the exception, with door-to-door battles between second-place finisher Edoardo Mortara (Audi R8 LMS Evo 2) and Sheldon van der

Linde (BMW M4 GT3) at the time for the third position but with Mortara keeping the place.

The main change at the top occurred after the interruption due to Chen Weian crashing his Ferrari 488 GT3 into the Lisboa Bend barriers, which brought the safety car

onto the track.

At the restart, and with 7 laps to go, a disaster occurred for Maro Engel (Mercedes AMG GT3), who was in second place at the time, when a mechanical issue forced him to retire to the pits.

With five laps to go, van der Linde, in third place, was forced into the pits with a puncture. He rejoined the race but lost all his efforts at the front.

In the end, Marciello took the checkered flag with a 2.5 second advantage over Mortara with another former Macau winner, the Brazilian, Augusto Farfus (BMW M4 GT3), completing a podium with representation of three different manufacturers.

Debuting in Macau, Daniel Serra and the Ferrari 296 GT3 left some great impressions in the last part of the race with Serra being the fastest on

track at one point.

His great efforts eventually took him to fourth position overall with Daniel Juncadella (Mercedes AMG GT3) finishing fifth and Laurens Vanthoor (Porsche 911 GT3R) finishing sixth.

At the end of the race, Marciello expressed his feelings about the race, saying, "In Macau, it is never easy because mistakes are always around the corner, but it was a great race and I'm happy to finish my AMG life this way."

The winner noted that while Engel could have posed a significant threat to his lead at the final stage of the race, his retirement gave him enough time to easily manage the end of the race.

Engel finished the Qualification Race in second place on Saturday, followed by Mortara, whose final result scored another two podiums for Audi.

# RESULTS

## F3 WORLD CUP

- 1 - Luke BROWNING (GBR)
- 2 - Dennis HAUGER (NOR)
- 3 - Gabriele MINÌ (ITA)

## GT WORLD CUP

- 1 - Raffaele MARCIELLO (CHE)
- 2 - Edoardo MORTARA (CHE)
- 3 - Augusto FARFUS (BRA)

## TCR WORLD TOUR

### Race 1

- 1 - Norbert MICHELISZ (HUN)
- 2 - Nestor GIROLAMI (ARG)
- 3 - Rob HUFF (GBR)

### Race 2

- 1 - Frédéric VERVISCH (BEL)
- 2 - Santiago URRUTIA (URY)
- 3 - Yann EHLACHER (FRA)

## MOTORCYCLE GP

- 1 - Peter HICKMAN (GBR)
- 2 - Davey TODD (GBR)
- 3 - David Mario DATZER (DEU)

## MTCC - CTCC

### Race 1

- 1 - CAO Hongwei (CHN)
- 2 - XIE Xinzhe (CHN)
- 3 - YANG Xiaowei (CHN)

### Race 2

- 1 - Max HART (IRL)
- 2 - XIE Xinzhe (CHN)
- 3 - YANG Xiaowei (CHN)

## 70TH ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE

### Race 1

- 1 - LEI Kit Meng (MAC)
- 2 - Summer CHAN (MAC)
- 3 - LOO Long Yin (HKG)

### Race 2

- 1 - Adrian CHUNG (HKG)
- 2 - LOO Long Yin (HKG)
- 3 - Summer CHAN (MAC)

## SPECTATORS

- Nov 16 to Nov 19 - 99,000  
Nov 11 to Nov 19 - 145,000

