ROUNDS 11 & 12
PRACTICE AND QUALIFYING

Weather: changeable; for the whole day a cloudy sky alternated with sunny breaks; the track was still damp during the morning's first practice, but dried up for the other sessions.

PRACTICE 1 – FASTEST LAP FOR THOMPSON

James Thompson topped the timesheet in the first practice session that took place on a damp Spa track. The Alfa Romeo man was among the top three for most of the session but secured the fastest lap of 2:42.451 which was his last. After occupying the top spot on and off, Giovanardi claimed the third fastest lap, 0.418 seconds off his team-mates' pace. Dirk Müller was the fastest of the BMW drivers and split Thompson and Giovanardi for second by completing a lap in 2:42.594. The 4th best time was Andy Priaulx's, 0.545 seconds slower than Thompson. Tarquini, García and Farfus completed the Alfa Romeo/BMW top seven.

Peter Terting who was 8th quickest overall headed the SEAT Sport team with a time of 2:44.290. For Chevrolet, Menu and Huff occupied 10th and 11th spots respectively with just 0.005 of a second difference between them. Ford team-mates Klenke and Funke had an encouraging session and completed the 14th and 15th quickest times.

Marc Hennerici of Wiechers-Sport was the fastest of the Independent drivers with a time of 2:45.662 which made him 9th quickest overall. Fellow Independent Trophy contender, Tom Coronel did not manage to complete a lap after stopping on the track at Raidillon due to an electrical failure.

Alessandro Zanardi's car was deemed unrepairable after his accident during testing yesterday and therefore withdrawn from the event.

PRACTICE 2 – JÖRG MÜLLER BACK ON TOP

Jörg Müller, who had set the fastest time in yesterday's testing, was again the fastest of the field for the whole of a disrupted second practice session. After 18 minutes, red flags were issued so a kerb could be fixed, but the session resumed for a further 10 minutes. Jörg posted a lap of 2:34.257 in the opening stages of the session and improved his time by 0.169 seconds to remain at the top. Farfus lead the Alfa Romeo team to claim second position with a lap 0.263 seconds slower than Jörg.

SEAT Sport's Plato jumped into the top three as the session was ending by completing a lap in 2:34.705. His team-mate Gené was fifth fastest while Dirk Müller slotted in at fourth – 0.921 slower than his BMW Team Deutschland compatriot. Colciago of JAS Motorsport was 1.321 seconds behind Jörg meaning he claimed 7th position. In tenth position was Rob Huff for Chevrolet and his team-mate Larini was right behind as 11th quickest.

Rosenblad was the fastest independent in his Crawford Racing BMW, placed 15th overall. Newcomer Ayari went off at Pouhon skidding on his own oil when his Peugeot's engine blew.

QUALIFYING – FIRST POLE FOR FARFUS

Augusto Farfus claimed his first pole position of the season with just 50 seconds of the qualifying session remaining. The Brazilian ousted Jörg Müller - who had been at the top of the time sheet for most of the session – by setting a lap of 2:33.158. The Alfa Romeo man will be joined by Andy Priaulx's BMW on the front row of the grid. The reigning FIA European champion too completed his best lap as the final seconds were counted down; his time was 0.278 off Farfus'.

Jörg Müller's best time of 2:33.689 was set within the opening minutes meaning he and team-mate Dirk – who was just 0.112 seconds slower – waited in the pits for the rest of the session. They were demoted from 1st and 2nd to 3rd and 4th after the late surge from the front row occupiers.

Jordi Gené was the quickest of the SEAT Sport Team and 5th overall with a time 0.665 of second behind the pole setter. Roberto Colciago repeated the performance he had in the second practice session by achieving the 7th fastest lap in his JAS Motorsport Honda Accord Euro R.

Alain Menu had the best time of the Chevrolet cars with a lap in 2:35.216 which placed him 17th on the grid. Michael Funke and Thomas Klenke struggled to find a competitive pace in their Ford Focus cars and will begin the Race 1 from the back of the grid. As well as Soheil Ayari and his brand new Peugeot 407.

Tom Coronel, who was 14th overall will start ahead of his Independent competitors although Stefano D'Aste will be placed directly behind him in 15th spot.

ROUNDS 11 & 12
QUALIFYING QUOTES

Augusto FARFUS, Alfa Romeo Racing Team – pole position
"I am happy to have my first pole position of the year. My set-up is good and luckily I found a fast lap. I will push and do my best tomorrow but the first corner is going to be difficult with thee BMW cars behind me. Spa would be a great place to claim my first WTCC win. I don't really mind whether it is wet or dry tomorrow as long as the conditions are consistent throughout the race."

Andy PRIAULX, BMW Team UK – 2nd fastest
"This track is almost like home to me really because the car is prepared in Belgium and we did a fair amount of testing here over the winter. It's a circuit I enjoy a lot. Without a team-mate it was difficult for me to get a slipstream but I found some traffic and managed to make the last lap count. This year the weight system means you could go the whole season without winning a race and still win the Championship. I always have a heavy car so a race win is difficult. As long as I come away with some good points I'll be happy."

Jörg MÜLLER, BMW Team Deutschland – 3rd fastest
"When the cars came out with their second set of tyres I thought there was a possibility I wouldn't keep hold of pole position. I did my lap without a slipstream and I know I can do the same lap time as Augusto so I'm not worried about tomorrow. The season is only half complete and there are still 100 points available. The weight situation is important and I think I am one of the guys who still has a chance to win the title."

Jordi GENÉ, SEAT Sport – 5th fastest
"I'm a bit disappointed because everything worked perfectly; I had a good lap and thought it would be good enough to secure a place on the second row. I expected to lose one place but not two. Tomorrow I would like to fight for a podium and there is no doubt I hope for dry conditions."

Tom CORONEL, GR Asia – 14th fastest
"Of course it is nice to start first of the Independent competitors. I had three very good runs and great grip on my car. I feel confident and I know I can be strong here. D'Aste and Rosenblad start behind me and they will probably get a better start, but I am not worried."

Alain MENU, Chevrolet Racing – 17th fastest
"After free practice I was hoping for a better placing than this, so in that respect I'm a bit disappointed. But I went as fast as the car would go. Maybe a tenth or two quicker would have been possible in ideal circumstances, but the track was rather slippery this afternoon and on my fastest lap a car was parked on the outside of turn 11, which was a bit dangerous."

Soheil AYARI, Peugeot Sport Denmark – 24th fastest
"We would prefer to be further up the grid but we have to be realistic; we are really here to develop and it is a learning experience. In fact, for the rest of the season we will be learning. You cannot expect to arrive at a World Championship and be at the top straight away. It will take time."

Michael FUNKE, Ford Hotfiel Sport – 25th fastest
"We have a problem with the car, something to do with the engine but we are not entirely sure what. The team will work tonight and hopefully find what is wrong, so in the warm up tomorrow we will see."