

## ROUNDS 19 & 20 – IMOLA, ITALY QUALIFYING REPORT

*Weather:* sunny, with a dry track

### QUALIFYING – TARQUINI LEADS A SEAT TRIO

On his home racetrack, championship leader Gabriele Tarquini took his fourth pole of the season in a SEAT-dominated qualifying. The Spanish marque used team-work and it paid dividends as they achieved a 1-2-3 with Yvan Muller (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Rickard Rydell (3<sup>rd</sup>). Augusto Farfus of BMW Team Germany, their closest championship contender, qualified sixth. Stefano D'Aste won the Independents' pole position.

Q1 – The session opened with the five SEAT Sport cars hitting the track in a line to benefit from slipstreaming. Activities were halted temporarily after Andrea Larini went off at the Acque Minerali and caused a red flag. On restarting the session all three Chevrolet's entered the top ten along with Priaulx and Farfus. However, in order to ensure a strong presence in Q2, SEAT Sport made a final push at the end and with all five drivers setting their best times they laid claim to the top five positions. Hernández posted his best lap in the final seconds but it was five hundredths too slow to put him through. Müller and Zanardi were also notable names that missed out. Stefano D'Aste was the fastest Independent competitor and qualified 14<sup>th</sup> overall ahead of Monteiro (16<sup>th</sup>) and Coronel (17<sup>th</sup>). James Thompson was the lead LADA and qualified 15<sup>th</sup> after sitting seventh until half way.

Q2 – Despite making it into Q2, Alain Menu was absent due to engine problems as he pulled into his garage after Q1 – he will line up 10<sup>th</sup> on the grid. SEAT's opening gambit was a strong one with all five drivers setting good times. Priaulx and Farfus were next out to try and slay the SEAT-shaped dragon but they only managed to demote Gené to seventh - Priaulx achieved fifth and Farfus sixth. On the next lap Farfus bettered his time but remained sixth as Huff had slipped into fourth (and consequently demoted Monteiro to fifth). Priaulx had to settle for seventh followed by Gené and Larini.

### FLASH NEWS

#### PRACTICE 1 – ITALIANS SET THE PACE

Gabriele Tarquini topped the timesheet posting a 1:56.660 on his last lap and demoting Alessandro Zanardi to second and Yvan Muller to third.

Moments earlier Zanardi had clocked a 1:56.947 but lost the car and hit the tyres at the Tamburello chicane.

Tom Coronel was fourth fastest overall and Independent pace setter. Augusto Farfus and Sergio Hernández were fifth and sixth fastest followed by Jordi Gené. Alain Menu clocked a 1:57.631 to be the best Chevrolet driver and eighth overall. James Thompson's LADA Priora achieved a time of 1:58.260 which equated to 17<sup>th</sup> overall.



## PRACTICE 2 – JORDI GENÉ ON TOP

Jordi Gené was the fastest in the session, setting a lap of 1:56.456. Rickard Rydell's time of 1:56.491 was good enough for second followed by Andy Priaulx (1:65.674). Tiago Monterio set the fourth best time followed by a trio of BMW cars: Jörg Müller (1:56.791), Alessandro Zanardi (1:56.886) and Félix Porteiro (1:57.064). Championship contenders Gabriele Tarquini and Yvan Muller were eighth and ninth quickest with Nicola Larini leading the Chevrolet camp as tenth best. The session was red flagged and ended a couple of minutes prematurely due to an incident between Stefano D'Aste and Fabio Fabiani at the Villeneuve corner.

## THEY SAID, THEY SAID...

Gabriele TARQUINI

*"From memory this is my first home pole position – but then again my memory is not great! Pole doesn't give you extra points but it does give you a chance to lead and avoid incidents. We don't need to win every race but like we showed in Oschersleben we need to score at every race. With a bad weekend you can lose everything and I still believe the championship will be decided on the last corner of the last race. This really is my home race as I live close by and people from my town come to watch me. It will be a great atmosphere."*

Yvan MULLER

*"It's good to be back in Q2 especially after the last two events. Everyone had bad times and I hope my bad period has finished for this season. We showed in qualifying how we can work together and this is not easy to manage. There will be no fighting between me and Gabriele (Tarquini) tomorrow because we are looking at the Manufacturer's Championship. For me it is important to stay in contention for the Drivers' Championship but we will play for that in Macau."*

Rickard RYDELL

*"It is very important for us to do well here as we have less of an advantage at Okayama. Slipstreaming is risky if you get too close especially as it is slippery here, on the first chicane in particular. But we worked well and practiced our tactics in the free practice sessions. Tomorrow the aim is for Gabriele (Tarquini) and Yvan (Muller) to go ahead and I will have to work hard to defend third place."*

Stefano D'ASTE

*"It was very difficult here as the track conditions are dirty which makes it slippery and creates problems with traction. To be honest I thought Tom (Coronel) or one of the other front wheel drive cars would be on pole. Tomorrow rain is forecast which would make things even more tricky for the BMW cars."*

**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
COMBINED QUALIFYING RESULT**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	Q1	Q2
1	2		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:56.139	1:55.530
2	1		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:55.840	1:55.726
3	3		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	1:55.847	1:55.891
4	11		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	1:56.610	1:56.044
5	5		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	1:56.189	1:56.252
6	8		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	1:56.393	1:56.257
7	6		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	1:56.873	1:56.286
8	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	1:56.392	1:56.418
9	14		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	1:56.704	1:56.522
10	12		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	1:56.972	N / S
11	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	1:57.026	
12	7		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	1:57.121	
13	9		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	1:57.208	
14	27	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	1:57.306	
15	36		James THOMPSON	GBR	Lada Priora	1:57.331	
16	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	1:57.419	
17	21	I	Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	1:57.472	
18	30	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	SEAT Leon	1:57.787	
19	26	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	1:57.962	
20	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	1:58.029	
21	22	I	Tom BOARDMAN	GBR	SEAT Leon	1:58.170	
22	18		Jaap van LAGEN	NED	LADA Priora	1:58.388	
23	19		Kirill LADYGIN	RUS	LADA Priora	1:58.990	
24	45	I	Andrea LARINI	ITA	SEAT Leon	1:59.056	
25	46	I	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320si	2:02.619	

QUALIFICATION MAXIMA 2:03.948

Subject to technical scrutineering.

Weather/Track: Sun 26°/Dry 38°.

Imola

Circuit Length = 4.9090 km.

Start: 15:00 End: 15:38

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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