

## ROUNDS 5 & 6 – MONZA, ITALY RACE REPORT

*Weather:* sunny and hot, with a dry track

### **MULLER AND CHEVROLET JUMP INTO THE LEAD**

Monza was benevolent with Chevrolet that made the most out of today's races on the Italian superfast racetrack. The blue-and-white cars collected one victory (with Yvan Muller in the second race), two third places (with Rob Huff) and a number of points that propelled the Frenchman into the lead of the Drivers' Championship and the American brand to the top of the Manufacturers'.

As usual the WTCC races in Monza were extremely exciting and were both decided on the last laps, when a combination of speed and hot asphalt took its toll on the leading drivers with of front-left tyres exploding.

Gabriele Tarquini and Huff were fighting for victory in the first race when they both dropped down presenting an unexpected 1-2 finish to BMW drivers Andy Priaulx and Augusto Farfus.

The same fate hit Michel Nykjær on the last lap of Race 2 after he had created a gap. As the Dane stopped, Muller inherited his second win of the season and jumped on top of the standings with a 24-point margin ahead of Tarquini and Huff.

Chevrolet leads the Manufacturers, closely followed by SEAT Customers Technology and BMW.

Mehdi Bennani missed a great opportunity to take the lead in the Independents' Trophy. The young North African was stripped of his Race 1 victory for straight-cutting a chicane, and in the second race he received a drive through for a clear jump start. His problems, combined with Franz Engstler's engine failure, enabled Sergio Hernández to climb on top ahead of his team mate Stefano D'Aste.

Fredy Barth scored another victory (his fourth so far) in the Rookie Challenge, while Norbert Michelisz claimed his maiden win in the second race.

The championship will resume for rounds 7 and 8 at Zolder, Italy, on June 20<sup>th</sup>.

### RACE 1 - PRIAULX LEADS BMW 1-2 IN MONZA

Andy Priaulx snatched victory in the final corner of the last lap in this afternoon's first race in Monza ahead of his team-mate Augusto Farfus and Chevrolet's Rob Huff, who crawled across the line on three wheels.

Gabriele Tarquini had been leading from Huff until the final corners of the race however, coming through the Ascari chicane for the final time, Tarquini had a front-left puncture allowing Huff to briefly take the lead. His joy was short-lived as his front-left tyre also exploded coming into the Parabolica.

In the drama, the BMW Team RBM duo was able to capitalise, driving around the outside on the exit of the final corner to take a 1-2 for the German Manufacturer. Huff held third while Tarquini dropped to seventh overall.

Huff had a great run down to the first chicane from the rolling start at the beginning of the 9-lap sprint race, getting ahead of poleman Farfus before the first chicane. From seventh on the grid, Tarquini braved the outside making it through into second before hunting down Huff for the lead.

Further down the field, Independent racers Kristian Poulsen and Darryl O'Young made contact and crashed into the barrier on exit of the chicane. The pair both limped back to the pits with damage.



As lap two began, Tarquini was all over the back of the Chevrolet and took the lead through the first chicane. The leading duo then began pulling out a gap on the rest of the field, with the BMW 320si of Farfus pushing Priaux for third.

The order coming into the final lap was Tarquini from Huff, Priaux, Farfus, Nykjær, Muller, Coronel, Barth, Monteiro and Bennani.

In the last lap drama, Muller capitalised to jump to fourth, ahead of Tom Coronel in fifth. Top rookie Fredy Barth moved up to sixth overall in his SEAT León TDI as Michel Nykjær dropped to eighth, his car also suffering from a front-left puncture. Monteiro and Bennani rounded out the top ten with the Moroccan driver winning the Independents' Trophy for the second time this season.

Hungarian Norbert Michelisz had a difficult race, after running in fifth early on, he was hit by Menu's Chevrolet causing him to cut the chicane. The bonnet of the Chevrolet flew open giving Menu a tricky drive back to the pits where the team taped it down so he could rejoin, although now down in 19<sup>th</sup>. Michelisz was then called in for a drive-through penalty for cutting the chicane before being called back by the stewards to remove the rear bodywork that was hanging off his car following the incident.

Newcomer Leonel Pernía went off at the Parabolica on the penultimate lap and got stranded into the gravel.

The result means that Nykjær was on pole for today's second race, with Tarquini alongside on the front row.

#### Monroe Performer

Overall: Gabriele Tarquini 2:01.590; Independent: Mehdi Bennani 2:02.249

#### Withdrawals

D. O'Young: racing incident; K. Poulsen: racing incident; F. Engstler: engine.

#### RACE 2 - MULLER TAKES LAST LAP VICTORY

Chevrolet's Yvan Muller claimed a last lap victory as the lead SEAT León TDI of Danish rookie Michel Nykjær sprung a front-left puncture on the final lap of Race 2.

Tom Coronel and Rob Huff completed the podium as Nykjær did not finish the race, pulling off the track at the second chicane.

Nykjær made a clean start from pole to lead the pack into the first chicane while Muller had a great getaway from fifth to come through to second.

Gabriele Tarquini dropped to third initially but passed Muller for second and briefly took the lead from Nykjær before being called in for a drive-through penalty. Tarquini was deemed to have made a jump start, creeping forward before the lights went out, but after being penalised retired in the pits. Mehdi Bennani also made a clear jump start and was also given a drive-through penalty losing him the lead in the Independents class.

A number of battles were going on throughout the field with Huff and Augusto Farfus battling for fifth while Jordi Gené was challenging Tiago Monteiro for eighth. After starting third, rookie Fredy Barth ran wide at the Parabolica on lap four and dropped back. The order after lap five was Nykjær from Muller, Coronel, Huff, Farfus, Priaux, Monteiro, Gené, Michelisz and Menu while Stefano D'Aste was leading the Independents in eleventh.

Nykjær continued to push in the lead, edging out a gap of over a second from the rest of the field, but disaster struck on the final lap with the rookie picking up a puncture which ended his race. Muller was poised to collect victory and assert his place at the top of the championship, finishing ahead of Coronel and Chevrolet team mate Rob Huff.

Farfus finished fourth ahead of Priaux, Gené and Monteiro. Norbert Michelisz was top rookie in eighth ahead of Alain Menu.

Chevrolet Motorsport Sweden's Argentine newcomer Leonel Pernía finished an impressive tenth coming through from 20<sup>th</sup> on the grid. Stefano D'Aste claimed the Independents' victory finishing eleventh, after Bennani paid his drive-through penalty.

#### Monroe Performer

Overall: Andy Priaulx 2:01.860; Independent: Kristian Poulsen 2:01.882

#### Withdrawals

F. Engstler, DNS; A. Romanov, oil pressure.

### **FLASH NEWS**

#### **BENNANI LOSES INDEPENDENT VICTORY**

Wiechers-Sport's Mehdi Bennani was deprived of his Race 1 victory in the Independents' Trophy when the Stewards of the meeting decided to impose a 30-second time penalty on him.

The Moroccan driver was punished for cutting a chicane and gaining unfair advantage.

#### **GRID PENALTY SUSPENDED FOR MENU**

Alain Menu was judged guilty for pushing Norbert Michelisz into a spin during today's Race 1.

Chevrolet's Swiss drivers was handed a 5-position grid penalty that remain suspended for the next three events and that will be applied in case he makes the same foul again.

### **THE WORD TO THE WINNERS**

Andy PRIAULX – Race 1 winner: *"I struggled in the race as I was the lead car in a long train and it was heartbreaking to see Rob (Huff) and Gabriele (Tarquini) disappear ahead. On the last lap though I suddenly saw tyre rubber across the track at the Ascari chicane and then Tarquini and Huff came into view. I managed to pass Tarquini but there were yellows so I had to follow Huff through the Parabolica. As soon as I saw the green flag though I passed him so I am very happy. I also want to dedicate this win to my grandmother who died on Wednesday."*

Yvan MULLER – Race 2 winner: *"I didn't expect this but we were looking after our tyres because we know this track is hard on the front-left. We changed the set up to be more conservative on the tyres. Tom (Coronel) was a bit faster at the end of the straight and first chicane and I was faster in the two Lesmos and Ascari so I just had to close the door at certain places to avoid him passing. It's a good start to the season and to be the leader after three weekends is great. Everyone bet on the diesel cars to be on top here but we have shown that the petrol powered ones can also win on a fast track."*

**2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship**  
**RACE 1 RESULT**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	18:32.008	9		167.78	2:02.234
2	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	18:32.256	9	0.248	167.75	2:02.100
3	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	18:33.661	9	1.653	167.53	2:01.616
4	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	18:33.828	9	1.820	167.51	2:01.699
5	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	18:34.279	9	2.271	167.44	2:02.041
6	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	18:34.316	9	2.308	167.44	2:02.001
7	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	18:34.383	9	2.375	167.43	2:01.590
8	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	18:34.734	9	2.726	167.37	2:02.102
9	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	18:35.251	9	3.243	167.29	2:02.104
10	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	18:35.980	9	3.972	167.19	2:02.249
11	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	18:41.040	9	9.032	166.43	2:02.386
12	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	18:42.008	9	10.000	166.29	2:02.812
13	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	18:43.583	9	11.575	166.05	2:02.909
14	16	I	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	19:02.328	9	30.320	163.33	2:04.086
15	33	I	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320si	19:31.163	9	59.155	159.31	2:08.547
16	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	19:12.824	8	1 LAP	143.75	2:01.669
17	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	20:16.734	8	1 LAP	136.20	2:02.730
18	34		Leonel PERNIA	ARG	Chevrolet Cruze	14:31.816	7	2 LAPS	166.17	2:02.548
19	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	16:15.564	7	2 LAPS	148.50	2:02.920

NOT CLASSIFIED

15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	6:25.326	3	D.N.F.	159.48	2:04.790
20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	3:02.144	1	D.N.F.	108.38	
24	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	4:17.114	1	D.N.F.	76.78	

FASTEST LAP

1		Gabriele TARQUINI		SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.590	8	106.57mph	171.51kph
21	I	Mehdi BENNANI		BMW 320si	2:02.249	7	106.00mph	170.59kph

Monza

Circuit Length = 5.7930 km.

Start: 13:04 End: 13:22

Weather/Track: Sun 26c/Dry 45c

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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**2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship**  
**RACE 2 RESULT**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	18:29.805	9		168.12	2:02.510
2	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	18:30.317	9	0.512	168.04	2:02.191
3	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	18:30.627	9	0.822	167.99	2:02.180
4	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	18:30.806	9	1.001	167.96	2:02.153
5	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	18:31.547	9	1.742	167.85	2:01.860
6	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	18:33.300	9	3.495	167.59	2:02.011
7	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	18:34.002	9	4.197	167.48	2:02.264
8	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	18:34.385	9	4.580	167.42	2:02.046
9	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	18:34.904	9	5.099	167.35	2:02.226
10	34		Leonel PERNIA	ARG	Chevrolet Cruze	18:39.723	9	9.918	166.63	2:02.582
11	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	18:41.661	9	11.856	166.34	2:03.078
12	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	18:43.304	9	13.499	166.10	2:02.447
13	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	18:44.173	9	14.368	165.97	2:02.652
14	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	18:44.311	9	14.506	165.95	2:02.816
15	24	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	18:44.641	9	14.836	165.90	2:01.882
16	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	18:45.071	9	15.266	165.83	2:02.961
17	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	19:03.362	9	33.557	163.18	2:03.005
18	33	I	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320si	19:19.259	9	49.454	160.94	2:07.267
19	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	16:24.754	8	1 LAP	168.29	2:02.264
20	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	13:04.151	6	3 LAPS	158.15	2:02.008

NOT CLASSIFIED

16	I		Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	4:41.115	2	D.N.F.	144.41	2:16.633
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FASTEST LAP

11			Andy PRIAULX		BMW 320si	2:01.860	6	106.34mph	171.13kph
24	I		Kristian POULSEN		BMW 320si	2:01.882	7	106.32mph	171.10kph

Monza

Circuit Length = 5.7930 km.

Start: 15:18 End: 15:37

Weather/Track: Sun 27c/Dry 51c

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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**2010 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP**

position	driver	Curitiba (BRA) 7 March		Puebla (MEX) 11 April	Marrakech (MAR) 2 May				Monza (ITA) 23 May		Zolder (BEL) 20 June		Portimão (POR) 4 July		Brands Hatch (GBR) 18 July		Brno (CZE) 1 August		Oschersleben (GER) 5 September		Valencia (ESP) 19 September		Okayama (JPN) 31 October		Macau (CHN) 21 November		TOTAL	
		8	18		12	25	8	6	0																			
1	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	25	12	CANCELLED	8	18	12	25																			100	
2	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	12	25		25	8	6	0																				76
3	Robert HUFF (GBR)	18	10		18	0	15	15																				76
4	Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	10	0		4	25	25	10																				74
5	Tom CORONEL (NED)	4	0		10	15	10	18																				57
6	Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	8	8		1	0	18	12																				47
5	Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	0	6		15	12	2	6																				41
8	Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	6	18		0	4	0	8																				36
9	Alain MENU (SUI)	15	15		2	0	0	2																				34
10	Fredy BARTH (SUI)	2	0		12	10	8	0																				32
11	Michel NYKJÆR (DEN)	0	4		0	6	4	0																				14
11	Norbert MICHELISZ (HUN)	1	2		6	1	0	4																				14
13	Mehdi BENNANI (MAR)	0	0		0	2	0	0																				2
14	Leonel PERNÍA (ARG)	-	-		-	-	0	1																				1
14	Harry VAULKHARD (GBR)	0	0		0	0	1	0																				1
14	Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	1	0	0	0	0																				1	

**2010 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP**

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA) 7 March		Puebla (MEX) 11 April	Marrakech (MAR) 2 May				Monza (ITA) 23 May		Zolder (BEL) 20 June		Portimão (POR) 4 July		Brands Hatch (GBR) 18 July		Brno (CZE) 1 August		Oschersleben (GER) 5 September		Valencia (ESP) 19 September		Okayama (JPN) 31 October		Macau (CHN) 21 November		TOTAL	
		30	26		27	40	40	27	18	26	18	35	43	22														
1	CHEVROLET	43	27	CANCELLED	30	26	27	40																			193	
2	SEAT CUSTOMERS TECHNOLOGY	23	43		40	27	18	26																				177
3	BMW	22	18		18	35	43	22																				158