

## ROUNDS 9 & 10 – PORTIMÃO, PORTUGAL QUALIFYING REPORT

*Weather:* sunny and hot; the track was dry

### MONTEIRO GRABS POLE FOR HOME EVENT

Tiago Monteiro claimed his first WTCC pole position since 2007 for his home event at the Autódromo Internacional de Algarve, today. The Portuguese driver recorded a quickest time of 1:55.372 despite an earlier collision with Andy Priaulx's BMW and will start alongside Chevrolet's Yvan Muller (1:55.425) on the front row for tomorrow's Race 1 ahead of BMW's Augusto Farfus (1:55.675).

Colin Turkington (1:56.698) ended the session tenth and top of the independents with Norbert Michelisz (1:55.991) in sixth as the best rookie.

Q1 – The drama started early on with local racer Monteiro colliding with Priaulx at T12 resulting in them both having to return to the pits before recording a flying lap. Priaulx was straight back out while the SR-Sport team did some fast work to repair the damage to rear right of Monteiro's SEAT León TDI, getting him out with half the 20-minute session still remaining.

Gabriele Tarquini was provisionally quickest with a time of 1:56.097 as the final seconds saw a jostle for position. Priaulx improved to fourth to secure his place in Q2 as Muller, on the cusp of being knocked out, also improved to second in his Chevrolet Cruze. Michel Nykjær briefly moved into the top ten before being quickly demoted by Alain Menu on his final run.

Monteiro's last lap moved him to the top of the timesheets on home soil ahead of the final shootout.

The top ten going through to Q2 were Monteiro, Tarquini, Muller, Huff, Farfus, Priaulx, Menu, Gené, Michelisz and Turkington.

The result confirmed reigning British Touring Car champion Colin Turkington as the best independent on his WTCC debut.

Q2 – In the final 10-minute session all the drivers left it late with only four minutes remaining as they recorded their first lap times.

Monteiro was flying, setting a fastest time of 1:55.372, which was not bettered in the final moments. Chevrolet's Muller was just 0.053 seconds adrift in second place.

Rob Huff (1:55.934) was the only driver to make any real improvement on his time to jump up to fifth just behind reigning champion Tarquini (1:55.709) in fourth. As the final seconds ticked down the order was confirmed: Monteiro first, from Muller, Farfus, Tarquini, Huff, Michelisz, Gené, Priaulx, Menu and Turkington.

### FLASH NEWS

#### O'YOUNG ALLOWED TO CHANGE THE OIL SUMP

Following a request from bamboo-engineering the Stewards of the Meeting decided to allow the British team to change the oil sump on Darryl O'Young's Chevrolet Lacetti car without imposing any penalty.

The case was considered as force majeure and in the interest of everybody's safety.



## VAULKHARD'S BEST LAP DISALLOWED

Harry Vaulkhard had his best qualifying lap disallowed by the Stewards after he was reported as having driven his bamboo-engineering Chevrolet Lacetti with all the four wheels out of the track at T16 while clocking his best time.

The young Briton had clocked a 1:56.828 that was worthy of the 13<sup>th</sup> position on the grid for tomorrow's Race 1 and third place in the Independents' Trophy.

Because of the penalty he was allocated a best lap of 1:57.628, which demoted him to 17<sup>th</sup>.

## THEY SAID... THEY SAID...

Tiago MONTEIRO – pole position: *“I've not had many poles in WTCC so I'm glad to get another one, especially at home. We were pessimistic really as realistically we thought it would be impossible but we knew if we could get a good clear lap we could do something good. In Q1 I had a misunderstanding with another car (Priaulx) which I didn't see coming. I thought that was it and I would be starting from the back of the grid but the SR-Sport team did an amazing job to change almost the whole of the right rear in about six minutes and the car still felt good! I got a good tow, everything fell into place and it worked out for us.”*

Yvan MULLER – qualified second: *“When my engineer said I was just 0.05s behind the pole, I cannot tell you the word I used! But when I found out it was Tiago on pole, I was happy for him at his home race and I am pleased with my second place. We are competitive but there are tyre issues again, the same as in Monza and Zolder so I will do my best to save them and finish the races.”*

Augusto FARFUS – qualified third: *“Taking into account the circumstances and circuit layout it is definitely a good result. It looks as though it should be a good track for BMW but it isn't. We have had a tough weekend. P3 is positive though and I am confident with our race pace. I need to get a good clean start and then stay with the front runners. We are not the quickest on the straights but we are getting closer so a podium could be possible.”*

Norbert MICHELISZ – top Rookie, P6: *“It is a good feeling to be the best rookie again, but I am now looking at the overall standings as well. Our aim was to first get into Q2 and then to get as high as we could. I think tomorrow the key question will be whether people can manage their tyres. I am confident we can achieve a top eight finish in Race 1 and then we'll see what we can do in Race 2.”*

Colin TURKINGTON – top Independent, P10: *“I'm really pleased to be here in WTCC. It wasn't easy in qualifying but I'm really happy to have made it into the top ten. I am learning every session and getting closer to the pace. In Q1 I had a good lap, picking up a bit of a tow from Coronel. In Q2 I had another good lap but that was as much pace as we had here today.”*

**2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship  
COMBINED QUALIFYING RESULT**

| POS | NO | CLS | DRIVER                   | NAT        | CAR               | Q1       | Q2       |
|-----|----|-----|--------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------|----------|
| 1   | 3  |     | <b>Tiago MONTEIRO</b>    | <b>POR</b> | SEAT Leon TDI     | 1:55.931 | 1:55.372 |
| 2   | 6  |     | <b>Yvan MULLER</b>       | <b>FRA</b> | Chevrolet Cruze   | 1:56.112 | 1:55.425 |
| 3   | 10 |     | <b>Augusto FARFUS</b>    | <b>BRA</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:56.200 | 1:55.675 |
| 4   | 1  |     | <b>Gabriele TARQUINI</b> | <b>ITA</b> | SEAT Leon TDI     | 1:56.097 | 1:55.709 |
| 5   | 7  |     | <b>Robert HUFF</b>       | <b>GBR</b> | Chevrolet Cruze   | 1:56.183 | 1:55.934 |
| 6   | 5  |     | <b>Norbert MICHELISZ</b> | <b>HUN</b> | SEAT Leon TDI     | 1:56.479 | 1:55.991 |
| 7   | 4  |     | <b>Jordi GENE</b>        | <b>ESP</b> | SEAT Leon TDI     | 1:56.302 | 1:56.104 |
| 8   | 11 |     | <b>Andy PRIAULX</b>      | <b>GBR</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:56.258 | 1:56.141 |
| 9   | 8  |     | <b>Alain MENU</b>        | <b>SUI</b> | Chevrolet Cruze   | 1:56.261 | 1:56.246 |
| 10  | 29 | I   | <b>Colin TURKINGTON</b>  | <b>GBR</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:56.513 | 1:56.696 |
| 11  | 17 |     | <b>Michel NYKJAER</b>    | <b>DEN</b> | SEAT Leon TDI     | 1:56.517 |          |
| 12  | 20 | I   | <b>Darryl O'YOUNG</b>    | <b>HKG</b> | Chevrolet Lacetti | 1:56.766 |          |
| 13  | 18 |     | <b>Fredy BARTH</b>       | <b>SUI</b> | SEAT Leon TDI     | 1:56.905 |          |
| 14  | 2  |     | <b>Tom CORONEL</b>       | <b>NED</b> | SEAT Leon TDI     | 1:56.946 |          |
| 15  | 25 | I   | <b>Sergio HERNANDEZ</b>  | <b>ESP</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:57.502 |          |
| 16  | 24 | I   | <b>Kristian POULSEN</b>  | <b>DEN</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:57.578 |          |
| 17  | 19 | I   | <b>Harry VAULKHARD</b>   | <b>GBR</b> | Chevrolet Lacetti | 1:57.628 |          |
| 18  | 15 | I   | <b>Franz ENGSTLER</b>    | <b>GER</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:57.803 |          |
| 19  | 21 | I   | <b>Mehdi BENNANI</b>     | <b>MAR</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:57.887 |          |
| 20  | 26 | I   | <b>Stefano D'ASTE</b>    | <b>ITA</b> | BMW 320si         | 1:58.008 |          |
| 21  | 16 | I   | <b>Andrei ROMANOV</b>    | <b>RUS</b> | BMW 320si         | 2:00.413 |          |

QUALIFICATION MAXIMA 2:04.046

Portimao

Circuit Length = 4.6530 km.

Start: 17:30 End: 18:05

Weather/Track: Sun 28C / Dry 34C

|          |          |          |            |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|
| Steward: | Steward: | Steward: | Issued at: |
|----------|----------|----------|------------|