

ROUNDS 5 & 6 – MONZA, ITALY QUALIFYING REPORT

Weather: sunny and hot, with a dry track

FARFUS TAKES FIRST POLE FOR BMW

Augusto Farfus claimed the first pole position of the season for BMW with a lap time of 2:00.672, one year on from his last pole position at Brno. The Brazilian will line up alongside Chevrolet's Rob Huff (2:00.697) on the front row with BMW Team RBM fellow driver Andy Priaulx in third (2:00.807)

Top rookie Norbert Michelisz (2:01.731) will start eighth overall with bamboo-engineering scoring a 1-2 in the Independents' class with Darryl O'Young (2:02.186) finishing 12th overall, ahead of team mate Harry Vaulkhard (2:02.384) in 14th.

Q1 – As the 20-minute session began, Huff took provisional pole for Chevrolet as most of the field headed out for their first runs. Huff had a 0.436-second lead at the halfway point but as the cars completed their second sets of laps, Tarquini edged ahead with a time of 2:00.690.

Sergio Hernández's problems continued into qualifying as the Proteam Motorsport crew worked on his car for a large part of Q1. He eventually got on track to record a quickest time of 2:04.260 but down in 20th.

Franz Engstler spun at the second chicane early in the session before running wide later on at the second Lesmo.

The top ten going forward into Q2 was Tarquini, Huff, Muller, Monteiro, Priaulx, Michelisz, Menu, Farfus, Barth and Gené.

Q2 – In the ten minute shootout the field of ten cars stayed close together on the high speed Italian track as team work and slipstreaming is crucial to getting a good grid position.

On the first lap out Tarquini and Barth both ran wide kicking up the dirt at the second Lesmo. Farfus took the provisional pole position which he then never relinquished. After the first two runs Farfus led from Huff and Priaulx with Priaulx also running wide at the second Lesmo. The top drivers didn't improve on their final run leaving Menu (2:00.899) fourth from Muller (2:01.078), Gené (2:01.400) and Tarquini (2:01.544).

Norbert Michelisz lost time with the cars running wide at the Lesmos ahead of him, but still posted a time of 2:01.731 to start tomorrow's race eighth and top rookie. Fredy Barth (2:01.926) will start ninth with Tiago Monteiro (2:01.927) rounding out the top ten.

FLASH NEWS

GRID PENALTY FOR TIAGO MONTEIRO

SR-Sport driver Tiago Monteiro posted the 10th fastest lap in today's qualifying. However he will start from the 15th spot on the grid for tomorrow's Race 1 at Monza. The Portuguese driver was handed a 5-grid position penalty for repeatedly cutting the first chicane and improving his lap time during the Q1 session.



ENGINE CHANGE ON ROMANOV'S CAR

Liqui Moly Team Engstler applied for an engine change on Andrei Romanov's BMW 320si car.

The Stewards of the meeting authorized the change but imposed a grid penalty to the Russian driver.

Therefore he will be demoted to last on the grid for tomorrow's Race 1, losing his 21st qualifying position.

FOOTBALL STAR PERNÍA VISITS HIS BROTHER

Argentine Touring Car star Leonel Pernía received the visit of his brothers Mariano and Emiliano today.

Leonel is not the only member of the family making a name for himself in International sport, as his brother Mariano currently plays football in Spain's first division for Atlético Madrid.

Having dual Spanish and Argentine nationality, he was also selected for the Spanish national team to take part in the 2006 FIFA World Cup.

THEY SAID... THEY SAID...

Augusto FARFUS – pole position: *"We were not expecting this weekend to be our best. We were hoping we'd get into Q2 but slipstream really pays a lot. I had a clean lap with no mistakes and thanks to the slipstream from Priaulx ahead I got a great lap time. It doesn't really show the performance of the BMW as we don't have the quickest top speed so it's going to be very hard to keep the place tomorrow in the race."*

Rob HUFF – qualified second: *"Three times we have been second now so we really need to move up a step. The team have not been here with the Cruze before so they did a great job to work on set up and get the car up to speed quickly. All three of us were struggling but we are much happier with the cars now. We worked well together in qualifying and it was good to get a tow. I want to thank Chevrolet and RML."*

Andy PRIAULX – qualified third: *"It was great to get a team strategy and make it work. I had a fairly good first lap, and improved on second but then the SEAT cars had problems ahead. At the end my tyres were past their best but I am really happy with the car. I had almost the perfect slipstream but we'll see tomorrow how good the car really is."*

Norbert MICHELISZ – top Rookie, P8: *"This has been the most difficult weekend in WTCC so far for me. We had problems in the Lesmos and Parabolica earlier in the weekend as we just didn't have a good balance but the team made some changes. We had a good tow in Q1 but in Q2 we didn't get a really clear clean lap as there was carnage in the Lesmos and then Monteiro didn't give me much space as he tried to drop to the back of the field so I think we could have been P5."*

Darryl O'YOUNG – top Independent, P12: *"It's good to be on top. We had a lot of work to do this weekend as we didn't run in Thursday's testing but the team have done a great job to really fine tune the car and get it up to speed. I am really happy. P8 in the race would be good but the Independents are all really close so it's going to be tough. Hopefully I can get a gap and open up a lead in the Independent's class."*

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

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	Q1	Q2
1	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	2:01.126	2:00.672
2	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	2:00.775	2:00.697
3	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	2:00.941	2:00.807
4	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	2:01.091	2:00.899
5	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	2:00.834	2:01.078
6	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.629	2:01.400
7	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	2:00.690	2:01.544
8	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.006	2:01.731
9	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.581	2:01.926
10	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	2:00.862	2:01.927
11	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.765	
12	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:02.186	
13	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	2:02.235	
14	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:02.384	
15	34		Leonel PERNIA	ARG	Chevrolet Cruze	2:02.441	
16	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	2:02.829	
17	24	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	2:02.834	
18	15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	2:02.983	
19	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	2:03.276	
20	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	2:04.260	
21	16	I	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	2:04.327	
22	33	I	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320si	2:08.144	

QUALIFICATION MAXIMA 2:09.138

Monza

Circuit Length = 5.7930 km.

Start: 16:00 End: 16:35

Weather/Track: Sun 27c/Dry 49c

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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