

4 June 2016

**Rounds 9 & 10 – Salzburgring, Austria – 4 / 5 June 2016**

## **SATURDAY REPORT**

### **Proczyk is fastest, but Vernay inherits pole position**

Austrian racer Harald Proczyk achieved an outstanding - and unexpected - result by emerging as the fastest driver in Qualifying at the wheel of his WestCoast Racing Honda Civic car in his maiden appearance in the TCR International Series.

Proczyk, who had already won a TCR race in the German series with his SEAT, benefited from the changing conditions at the Salzburgring that grew worse during the session as the rain intensified. He was the first to admit that this result was due more to that fact than to his control of the car.

However, Proczyk lost his right to start from pole position, just as Gianni Morbidelli lost his fourth place on the grid for tomorrow's Race 1. Both drivers were given a penalty of two positions on the grid because their cars were standing in the fast lane during the session. As a result, Jean-Karl Vernay inherited the pole position and Pepe Oriola will start from the second spot. Proczyk will start third, with Morbidelli sixth behind Jordi Oriola and Dušan Borković.

These grid penalties did not change the Qualifying results; Proczyk retains the pole position as far as points scoring and statistics are concerned.

Some of the championship's main contenders struggled with different issues: Stefano Comini and James Nash were hampered by technical problems, while Mat'ò Homola paid for a mistake in the early part of the session.

On his first outing for Mulsanne Racing, Petr Fulín placed his Alfa Romeo Giulietta in eighth, the best result so far for the Italian car. His teammate Michela Cerruti did not take part in the session, as her Giulietta was sidelined by engine problems that were the consequence of her trip into the gravel trap during this morning's first Practice.

Attila Tassi and Mikhail Grachev qualified in tenth and ninth respectively and will be on the front row of the top-ten reversed grid for Race 2.

The first race will start tomorrow at 12:35 local time, over a distance of 15 laps.

#### Q1: 1-2 for WestCoast Racing

First a red flag and then the rain spoiled this part of the session and eventually the chances of Stefano Comini and James Nash to make the cut for Q2.

The red flag was waved in the early stages, after a double incident at Turn 1 that saw Davit Kajaia's Volkswagen stranded in the gravel trap and Mat'ò Homola's SEAT hitting the barriers.

When the session resumed, the crew of the B3 Racing Team managed to replace the front splitter on Homola's car. In the meantime, the Slovak's teammate Attila Tassi had posted a fastest lap of 1:26.682 that was not to be beaten, as rain poured down with nine minutes left.

Comini was one of the few to make a qualifying attempt after he had missed the dry part of the session while his team was working to replace the gearbox. However, on the wet track the Swiss could not clock a good enough time to advance to Q2.

Davit Kajaia, who had rejoined and set the 12<sup>th</sup> fastest lap, was later excluded for having received external aid after his incident at Turn 1, and this handed his teammate Florian Janits the last spot for Q2. As for Nash, his car suffered from transmission problems, which sidelined him for almost the entire session.

The following drivers made the cut: Tassi, P. Oriola, Morbidelli, Afanasyev, Borković, J. Oriola, Grachev, Vernay, Fulín, Proczyk, Homola and Janits.

## Q2: Proczyk claims surprise result

Newcomer Harald Proczyk surprisingly emerged as the fastest driver in a Q2 that was flooded by pouring rain. The Austrian was the first driver to hit the track and set a time of 1:38.923 that he managed to improve on the following lap to 1:38.767. Soon afterwards the rain intensified, making it impossible for the other drivers to go faster than that.

Jean-Karl Vernay (1:39.079) and Pepe Oriola (1:39.359) secured the second and third places on the grid, while a last gasp improvement from Sergey Afanasyev granted him the seventh place and demoted Mat'ò Homola from 10<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, stripping him of the pole position on the reverse grid for Race 2.

## **Quotes from the fastest qualifiers**

Harald Proczyk (fastest): *"I think we were very lucky today; we were out at exactly the right moment and the conditions changed immediately afterwards. I tried to go faster later on, but it was not possible. The car is working well and we did a good job in both Practice sessions. The Honda is a strong car, particularly here, but it takes a few sessions before you can get the best out of any car. I hope tomorrow it will be dry because I was sideways about five times. When it rains, it's dangerous at the Salzburgring and so I hope it's dry for us to have two good races."*

Jean-Karl Vernay (second): *"We thought we would be fighting for P10 and so our aim was just to go through to Q2. We were lucky in that we did a good lap time in Q1 before the rain came and in Q2 we did the same. I was close behind Proczyk and then Pepe and that's when I did my best lap. After that, the weather got worse and worse with every lap. I hope that it rains tomorrow or that we have a wet track because otherwise it will be very tough for us. The problem for us is not from the BoP, but the SEAT and the Honda have had a lot of work and our car is still new. We have to improve the aero package to be able to fight with the other guys."*

Pepe Oriola (third): *“I’m really happy – Gianni is behind me and Stefano didn’t make it into Q2, so for the Championship it’s really good. Without the mistake on my first lap, I think I could have been on pole position. I said to myself that I was going to wait to brake for the first corner, but I braked too late. After that, every lap was worse and worse. Towards the end of the session, I was aquaplaning; it will be very difficult if it’s like that for the races. I don’t mind if it rains tomorrow, but I hope it’s not as much rain as today.”*

## **F1 and GP2 cars to entertain spectators at Salzburgring**

Tomorrow the spectators who will come to the Salzburgring for the Austrian round of the TCR International Series will be treated to a special show from a couple of single-seaters: a Formula 1 Toro Rosso and a Top-Speed GP2.

The cars will make two appearances on the track, before the first TCR race and between the two races.

19 year old Chris Höher, the 2015 champion of the FIA Formula 3 Central European Zone, will be at the wheel of the Dallara GP2/08 car, while the 2006 F1 Toro Rosso STR1-Cosworth will be driven by Ingo Gerstl from Salzburg who is the current leader of the Boss GP Series following three victories out of four races.

## TCR International Series - Salzburgring

Gesamt Ergebnis - TCR International Series

4 - 5 June 2016

OFFICIAL RESULT

Salzburgring - 4240 mtr.

Pl.	Nr.	Name / Bewerber	Fahrzeug	Qual-1	Qual-2	Diff.
1	43	Harald Proczyk WestCoast Racing	Honda Civic TCR	1:27.935	1:38.767	0.000
2	2	Jean-Karl Vernay Leopard Racing	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	1:27.532	1:39.079	0.312
3	74	Pepe Oriola TeamCraft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León TCR	1:26.769	1:39.359	0.592
4	10	Gianni Morbidelli WestCoast Racing	Honda Civic TCR	1:26.938	1:39.964	1.197
5	33	Jordi Oriola Target Competition	Honda Civic TCR	1:27.130	1:40.064	1.297
6	62	Dusan Borkovic B3 Racing Team Hungary	SEAT León TCR	1:27.121	1:40.214	1.447
7	77	Sergey Afanasyev TeamCraft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León TCR	1:27.094	1:40.230	1.463
8	22	Petr Fulin Mulsanne Racing	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	1:27.736	1:40.487	1.720
9	8	Mikhail Grachev WestCoast Racing	Honda Civic TCR	1:27.361	1:40.639	1.872
10	9	Attila Tassi B3 Racing Team Hungary	SEAT León TCR	1:26.683	1:40.788	2.021
11	70	Mat ́o Homola B3 Racing Team Hungary	SEAT León TCR	1:28.437	1:41.846	3.079
12	45	Florian Janits Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	1:29.174	1:44.241	5.474
13	1	Stefano Comini Leopard Racing	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	1:40.284		13.601
14	7	Davit Kajaia Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR			
15	54	James Nash TeamCraft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León TCR			

Qualification Maxima (107 % from 1:26.683) = 1.32,750

Schnelste Runde : 1:38.767 in Runde 3 durch nr. 43 : Harald Proczyk (Honda Civic TCR)

**Aushangzeit**

Ergebnisse und Rundenzeiten : [www.raceresults.at](http://www.raceresults.at)

Zeitnahme durch : SDO SportTiming

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Seite 1 von 1			