

**17 September 2016**

**Rounds 17 & 18 – Singapore – 16 / 18 September 2016**

## **SATURDAY REPORT**

### **Jean-Karl Vernay converts pole position into Race 1 victory Stefano Comini retakes the points lead**

Jean-Karl Vernay remained undefeated after two days of track activities at Singapore's Marina Bay Circuit. After posting the fastest laps in yesterday's Practice and this afternoon's Qualifying, the young Frenchman converted his pole position into a brilliant victory in the night race.

Stefano Comini crossed the line second, completing an excellent 1-2 finish for Leopard Racing, while Pepe Oriola successfully defended a crucial third position despite strong pressure from Mat'o Homola.

James Nash – who was leading the standings before the race – was classified fifth ahead of Sergey Afanasyev.

The victory enabled Vernay to significantly cut his gap in the Drivers' Championship standings; he still lies fourth, but is now only 22 points behind his teammate Comini.

In fact, the Swiss driver has taken the lead of the series back and is now ahead of Nash and Pepe Oriola by one and two points respectively.

Petr Fulín lost a possible points result by pitting, as he was worried by an alarm from the oil temperature sensor. Both the Liqui Moly Team Engstler cars of Davit Kajaia and Filipe de Souza retired with brake issues. Jordi Oriola's Opel Astra and Martin Cao's Ford Focus managed to finish the race in 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> position respectively.

Race 2 will start tomorrow at 15:00 local time, with Mikhail Grachev on pole on the reverse grid

#### Key facts

Start – Vernay makes a good start and leads from Comini, P. Oriola and Nash

Lap 1 – Morbidelli spins at Turn 1 and re-joins; Homola overtakes Nash for 4<sup>th</sup>

Lap 3 – Fulín pits and retires from 9<sup>th</sup>; Afanasyev defends 6<sup>th</sup> place from Borković

Lap 4 – Vernay pulls away; Comini is chased by P. Oriola and Homola

Lap 5 – De Souza stops on the track

Lap 6 – Gleason, Tassi and Morbidelli are in a close battle for 8<sup>th</sup>

Lap 7 – Khoo hits the tyre-wall head-on, but re-joins

Lap 8 – Kajaia pits and retires; Grachev defends 11<sup>th</sup> place from Hezemans

Lap 9 – Khoo stops on the track; Hezemans hits the tyre-wall head-on and retires

Lap 10 – Vernay wins from Comini, P. Oriola, Homola and Nash

## Quotes from the podium finishers in Race 1

Jean-Karl Vernay (winner): *"I am very happy, it was very nice to win here and in this fantastic atmosphere. I knew that the start was going to be crucial and luckily, everything went well. I pulled away nicely in the first laps, trying to stay calm, avoid any mistakes and preserving the tyres. Everything went as planned, and it was great. I was also able to reduce the gap in the championship, I still would prefer to be much closer, but it was a good result anyway."*

Stefano Comini (second): *"Second behind my teammate was a very good result, especially for the team. I took again the leadership in the standings, and although this means little, because the gaps are very close, it was good news. As for the race, I wanted to create some chaos and I almost managed to do so, because I saw in my mirrors that Oriola and Homola were going everywhere... It would not have been clever to try to reach Jean-Karl, so I settled for a quiet race and saved new tyres for tomorrow."*

Pepe Oriola (third): *"There was nothing I could try against Vernay and Comini, their cars were so much faster, especially on the straights. I could only hope in some mistakes from them, which did not come. The situation in the standings is even closer now, and I am happy with this. We know that everything will be decided in Macau..."*

## Penalties shake up qualifying results behind the pole

Jean-Karl Vernay confirmed his form as the fastest TCR driver on Singapore's Marina Bay Street Circuit by claiming his first pole position of the season with an impressive lap of 2:24.511 that improved last year's TCR record time by nearly two seconds.

In the provisional results, Gianni Morbidelli (2:25.016), Mat'ò Homola (2:25.019), Stefano Comini (2:25.115), Pepe Oriola (2:25.436), Dušan Borković (2:25.629) and James Nash (2:25.899) filled the positions from fourth to seventh.

However, Qualifying results were later shaken up by a rain of penalties imposed by the Stewards following a number of track-limit infringement reports.

No fewer than twelve drivers saw their fastest laps disallowed: Mikhail Grachev, Davit Kajaia, Petr Fulín, Gianni Morbidelli, Martin Cao, Kevin Gleason, Jordi Oriola, Dušan Borković, Douglas Khoo, Pepe Oriola, Rafaël Galiana and Neric Wei.

On top of this, those who repeated the infringement were also given grid penalties ahead of Race 1: 15 positions to Grachev, 6 to Kajaia Fulín, Morbidelli and Cao and 3 to Gleason and Jordi Oriola.

Eventually the first three rows of the starting grid for Race 1 were filled by Vernay, Homola, Comini, P. Oriola, Nash and Tassi, while Morbidelli was demoted to 9<sup>th</sup> position.



## Race 1 Classification after 10 Laps - 50.513 Kms

POS	NO	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	LAPS	TIME	GAP	KPH	BEST	LAP
1	2	J. VERNAY	FRA	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	10	24:33.044		123.449	2:25.954	6
2	1	S. COMINI	SUI	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	10	24:36.176	3.132	123.187	2:26.289	5
3	74	P. ORIOLA	ESP	SEAT Leon TCR	10	24:40.145	7.101	122.857	2:26.636	3
4	70	M. HOMOLA	SVK	SEAT Leon TCR	10	24:42.732	9.688	122.643	2:26.546	2
5	54	J. NASH	GBR	SEAT Leon TCR	10	24:44.614	11.570	122.487	2:26.637	3
6	77	S. AFANASYEV	RUS	SEAT Leon TCR	10	24:45.633	12.589	122.403	2:26.698	3
7	62	D. BORKOVIC	SRB	SEAT Leon TCR	10	24:46.533	13.489	122.329	2:26.951	2
8	24	K. GLEASON	USA	Honda Civic TCR	10	24:48.779	15.735	122.144	2:27.005	4
9	9	A. TASSI	HUN	SEAT Leon TCR	10	24:50.879	17.835	121.972	2:26.708	4
10	10	G. MORBIDELLI	ITA	Honda Civic TCR	10	24:51.308	18.264	121.937	2:26.959	5
11	8	M. GRACHEV	RUS	Honda Civic TCR	10	24:51.917	18.873	121.887	2:26.737	5
12	33	J. ORIOLA	ESP	Opel Astra TCR	10	25:15.073	42.029	120.025	2:29.068	2
13	99	M. CAO	CHN	Ford Focus TCR	10	25:22.390	49.346	119.448	2:30.324	3
14	35	R. GALIANA	FRA	Honda Civic TCR	10	26:01.143	88.099	116.483	2:29.715	3
15	64	N. WEI	CHN	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	10	26:52.376	139.332	112.781	2:30.646	5
16	50	L. HEZEMANS	NED	SEAT Leon Cup Racer	8	19:55.874	DNF	121.566	2:26.541	5
17	7	D. KAJAIA	GEO	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	7	17:43.540	DNF	119.548	2:27.807	4
NOT CLASSIFIED										
65		D. KHOO	MAS	SEAT Leon Cup Racer	6	16:00.923	DNF	113.339	2:35.878	6
22		P. FULIN	CZE	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	6	25:48.981	4 LAPS	70.311	2:27.597	2
68		F. DE SOUZA	MAC	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	5	12:52.638	DNF	117.359	2:30.915	4
FASTEST LAP										
2		J. VERNAY	FRA	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR		2:25.954 on lap 6		124.929		

Final  
at 21:10

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*

Timekeeper:

*[Signature]*

A Support Event Race to the  
**2016 FORMULA 1 SINGAPORE AIRLINES SINGAPORE GRAND PRIX - Singapore**

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## 2016 TCR INTERNATIONAL SERIES - DRIVERS' CLASSIFICATION

pos	driver	Sakhir BAHRAIN 2/3 April			Estoril PORTUGAL 24 April			Spa-Francorchamps BELGIUM 7 May			Imola ITALY 22 May			Sachsenring AUSTRIA 5 June			Oschersleben GERMANY 19 June			Sochi RUSSIA 3 July			Buriram THAILAND 28 August			Marina Bay SINGAPORE 17/18 September			Sepang MALAYSIA 1/2 October			Macau MACAU 20 November			TOTAL
		Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	
1	Stefano Comini (SUI)	0	6	0	2	15	18	0	0	18	2	25	15	0	4	15	0	0	8	5	25	10	2	12	12	3	18								215
2	James Nash (GBR)	3	15	18	0	8	25	1	4	8	0	0	0	0	18	12	3	15	15	0	4	12	0	18	25	0	10								214
3	Pepe Oriola (ESP)	1	25	25	0	4	1	4	18	6	4	18	10	3	0	0	0	1	25	4	18	0	5	25	0	1	15								213
4	Jean-Karl Vernay (FRA)	0	0	0	3	18	10	0	0	25	0	0	12	4	10	25	0	8	0	3	10	18	3	10	4	5	25								193
5	Mat'o Homola (SVK)	0	4	0	5	12	4	0	12	12	0	10	18	0	15	10	4	25	10	0	2	2	1	0	1	4	12								163
6	Gianni Morbidelli (ITA)	2	18	6	4	25	15	0	10	0	5	0	0	2	12	8	0	6	1	2	15	0	4	15	0	2	1								153
7	Sergey Afanasyev (RUS)	5	12	10	1	10	12	2	2	2	0	12	0	0	0	18	1	12	12	0	0	6	0	2	6	0	8								133
8	Dušan Borković (SRB)	4	8	15	0	0	0	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	18	18	0	0	8	0	6	15	0	6								123
9	Mikhail Grachev (RUS)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	25	0	25	2	0	0	0	0	12	25	0	0	18	0	0								113
10	Davit Kajaia (GEO)	0	2	12	0	0	6	0	6	0	3	15	4	0	6	0	0	4	0	0	6	0	0	1	10	0	0								75
11	Aku Pellinen (FIN)	0	10	1	0	6	8	3	25	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								63
12	Attila Tassi (HUN)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	8	4	0	0	6	0	1	15	0	4	8	0	2								60
13	Antti Buri (FIN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	15	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								28
14	Jordi Oriola (ESP)	0	0	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	1	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0								17
15	Jordi Gené (ESP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	8	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								16
16	Kevin Gleason (USA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4								16
17	Peter Fulin (CZE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	4	0	0	0	0	0								13
18	Kantadhee Kusiri (THA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	8	2	-	-								10
19	Niklas Mackschin (GER)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								6
20	Harald Proczyk (AUT)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								5
21	Luigi Ferrara (ITA)	0	0	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-								4
22	Florian Janits (AUT)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								3
22	Francisco Mora (POR)	-	-	-	0	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								3
22	Michela Cerruti (ITA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-								3
25	Salman Al Khalifa (BRN)	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								2
25	Loris Hezemans (NED)	-	-	-	0	2	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								2
25	Carlotta Fedeli (ITA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								2
28	Alain Menu (SUI)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								1
28	Alessandra Neri (ITA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								1
28	Pierre-Yves Corthals (BEL)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								1
28	Vladimir Sheshenin (RUS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-								1



## 2016 TCR INTERNATIONAL SERIES - TEAMS' CLASSIFICATION

pos	team	Sakhir BAHRAIN 2/3 April			Estoril PORTUGAL 24 April			Spa-Francorchamps BELGIUM 7 May			Imola ITALY 22 May			Salzburg AUSTRIA 5 June			Oschersleben GERMANY 19 June			Sochi RUSSIA 3 July			Buriram THAILAND 28 August			Marina Bay SINGAPORE 17/18 September			Sepang MALAYSIA 1/2 October			Macau MACAU 20 November			TOTAL
		Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	
1	Team Craft-Bamboo Lukoil	8	40	43	1	18	37	6	24	18	4	30	10	3	18	30	4	27	40	4	22	18	5	43	31	1	25								510
2	Leopard Racing	0	8	0	5	33	28	0	4	43	2	25	27	4	14	40	0	8	10	8	35	28	5	22	16	8	43								416
3	WestCoast Racing	3	30	10	4	31	23	3	35	18	6	4	26	7	37	10	0	6	5	2	27	25	4	15	18	2	10								361
4	B3 Racing Team Hungary	4	16	15	5	12	4	6	27	15	0	16	24	0	23	14	9	43	30	0	3	23	1	10	23	4	20								347
5	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	0	6	12	0	1	7	0	10	0	3	23	12	0	8	1	0	6	10	0	6	3	0	2	10	0	0								120
6	Mulsanne Racing	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	0	1	6	1	8	4	0	0	0	0	0								21
7	Target Competition	0	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	1	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0								20
8	LMS Racing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-								12
9	Team Eakie BBR Kaiten	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	8	2	-	-								10
10	Baporo Motorsport	-	-	-	0	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								8
11	Top Run Motorsport	0	0	6	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-								6
11	Ferry Monster Autosport	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								6
13	Bas Koeten Racing	0	0	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								5
14	B.D. Racing Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								3
15	Kissling Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2								2
16	Sébastien Loeb Racing	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								2
17	Vattana Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	-	-								1
17	Krating Daeng Racing Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	-	-								1
17	FRD Racing Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1								1



## 2016 TCR INTERNATIONAL SERIES - CAR MODEL OF THE YEAR

pos	car	Sakhir BAHRAIN 2/3 April			Estoril PORTUGAL 24 April			Spa-Francorchamps BELGIUM 7 May			Imola ITALY 22 May			Salzburg AUSTRIA 5 June			Oschersleben GERMANY 19 June			Sochi RUSSIA 3 July			Buriram THAILAND 28 August			Marina Bay SINGAPORE 17/18 September			Sepang MALAYSIA 1/2 October			Macau MACAU 20 November			TOTAL
		Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	
1	SEAT León	9	40	43	6	22	37	9	33	25	4	30	28	4	33	30	9	43	43	4	24	27	6	43	40	5	27								624
2	Volkswagen Golf Gti	1	18	19	5	33	28	3	14	43	5	40	27	4	18	40	3	25	27	8	35	28	5	22	22	8	43								524
3	Honda Civic	5	30	16	4	33	23	3	37	20	6	10	33	7	37	18	3	12	14	2	27	31	4	23	26	2	18								444
4	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	0	2	0	0	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	6	0	0	14	10	1	12	8	0	6	0	0	0								71
5	Opel Astra	0	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	6								26
6	Peugeot 308	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	14	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-								24
7	Subaru WRX STi	0	4	8	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-								12
8	Ford Focus	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4								4