

12 July 2015

Rounds 15 & 16 – Red Bull Ring, Austria – 11/12 July 2015

RACE REPORT

Volkswagen Golf wins on debut, as Oriola is the new points leader

It was an exciting and historic weekend at the Red Bull Ring for the TCR International Series, as the much-awaited debut of the new Volkswagen Golf TCR not only materialized, but ended in glory, as Pol Rosell took a superb win in Race 2.

The 23-year-old Spaniard, who participated in the development programme of the Golf, made perfect use of the pole position on the reversed grid to keep everybody at bay, resisting in the final laps to the attacks of Pepe Oriola and Jordi Gené, the three signing an all-Spanish (and Catalan) podium.

Volkswagen becomes the fourth different brand to win a race on the maiden season of the series, joining SEAT, Honda and Audi. Oriola, third in Race 1, was the great winner of the weekend with respect to the title bid. He left Austria as the new leader of the standings, two points ahead of Stefano Comini and 24 of Gené; Morbidelli, Belicchi and Gleason are not much further away, a situation that anticipates a thrilling final stretch of the season in Asia.

Target Competition signed a one-two in the first race, with Stefano Comini winning ahead of Andrea Belicchi, after the stewards imposed a post-race penalty to Gianni Morbidelli. The WestCoast Racing driver was sanctioned for the many contacts that marked the race and confirmed the heated permanent duel with Comini. With a braking failure putting an end to his Race 2, Morbidelli's weekend ended bitterly.

The fight for the Teams' title is also expected to be very intense, with Craft-Bamboo Lukoil having reduced the gap from Target Competition to 14 points.

The TCR International Series will be back after the summer break, in Singapore (September 19 and 20) for rounds 17 and 18; this will be the third of the 2015 events held within F1 Grand-Prix weekends.

Race 1 – Comini inherits win after Morbidelli's penalty

TCR drivers delivered an exciting first race at the Red Bull Ring. Gianni Morbidelli defeated Stefano Comini, his main rival in the championship fight at the end of a tough battle, but was later demoted by a penalty.

Comini led for most of the race but could not keep Morbidelli at bay in the final laps.



The fight on the track was followed by a hot exchange of accuses between the two rivals and eventually Morbidelli was stripped of his victory by a 30-second time penalty that demoted him out of the point-scoring positions.

The Stewards of the Meeting deemed that the Italian driver had behaved unsportingly, hitting several times the cars of Comini, Belicchi and Oriola.

Close behind the two duellists, Andrea Belicchi and Pepe Oriola had their own fight for third; Belicchi crossed the finishing line ahead by inches. The first four drivers classified were covered by only 1.2 seconds.

Key moments

Grid – Skuz (grid penalty) and Romanini (technical issue in qualifying) line up at the back

Start – Gleason takes the best start, Morbidelli is slow to leave the pole and is passed by Comini

Lap 1 – Comini and Morbidelli overtake Gleason; Nagy and Grachev make contact and the Hungarian crashes into the wall at the last corner

Lap 2 – Oriola overtakes Gleason for third; Belicchi overtakes Afanasyev for fifth

Lap 3 – Morbidelli chases Comini

Lap 4 – Morbidelli ‘kisses’ Comini’s rear bumper, Oriola uses the contact to overtake Morbidelli

Lap 5 – Gené overtakes Afanasyev for sixth; the top seven are all very close

Lap 6 – Morbidelli retakes second from Oriola; Belicchi overtakes Oriola for third

Lap 7 – Afanasyev and Gené move up to fifth and sixth overtaking Gleason

Lap 8 – Romanini spins off at Turn 5

Lap 9 – Morbidelli and Comini swap places twice

Lap 10 – Belicchi overtakes Morbidelli for second; Morbidelli retakes second from Belicchi

Lap 11 – Morbidelli, Belicchi and Oriola fight for second

Lap 12 – Morbidelli is on Comini’s heels once again; Afanasyev loses two places to Gené and Gleason

Lap 13 – Comini and Morbidelli run door-to-door and make contact; Comini runs wide at the last turn and Morbidelli takes the lead

Lap 14 – Morbidelli wins from Comini; Belicchi beats Oriola by inches for third

Race 2 – Rosell scores maiden win for Volkswagen

The debuting Volkswagen Golf TCR took its maiden win in the TCR International Series in only its second race, as Pol Rosell managed to keep the pole advantage from lights to flag with a perfect and faultless performance.

The Liqui Moly Team Engstler-run car preceded the two Team Craft-Bamboo Lukoil SEAT cars of Pepe Oriola and Jordi Gené who put big pressure throughout the race on Rosell, but unsuccessfully. With three of their representatives on the podium, it was also a triumphant day for Catalan (and Spanish) motor racing.



The best Target Competition SEAT cars and WestCoast Racing Honda cars had a more difficult afternoon. Comini salvaged a ninth after his car got damaged in various incidents, while Belicchi had to stop with mechanical problems. In the Civic camp, Morbidelli fell victim of a mistake that sent him into the gravel, while Kevin Gleason finished the race, in P5.

Mikhail Grachev took 6th, ahead of Lorenzo Veglia and Michela Cerruti, who both made a good race. The final point was for Gabriele Marotta.

Key moments

Grid – Nagy does not start, as his SEAT was not repairable after the accident in Race 1

Start – Rosell takes an excellent start from the pole, while Grachev gets passed by Gené

Lap 1 – Morbidelli, after a poor start, passes Veglia for 9th

Lap 2 – Rosell leads from Gené and Grachev while there is battle for fourth between Belicchi and Comini

Lap 4 – Grachev is under attack from Oriola, while Morbidelli passes Afanasyev, Gleason drops to 9th and Skuz makes an off-track, returning to the pits with front left wheel damage

Lap 5 – Grachev goes wide in Turn 5 and is passed by Oriola and Comini

Lap 6 – Morbidelli attacks Belicchi, but goes sideways in Turn 3 and spins onto the gravel after hitting Comini who drops to 10th

Lap 7 – Rosell is still leading ahead of Gené

Lap 8 – The Ford of Romanini stops along the track, while Cerruti passes Comini

Lap 9 – Oriola is putting the pressure on Gené

Lap 10 – Belicchi seems to have some issues as he slows down and pits

Lap 11 – Gené makes an attempt to overtake Rosell; the latter defends the leadership and Oriola takes the advantage and overtakes Gené

Lap 12 – Comini drives off track and continues despite a flat rear tyre

Lap 13 – Rosell tries to keep at bay a threatening Oriola; Afanasyev and Grachev fight for fourth; Gleason overtakes Grachev for fifth

Lap 14 – Rosell resists and wins from Oriola and Gené

What the race winners had to say

Stefano Comini, winner of Race 1: *“The Honda was very fast and consistent here, I tried to be tactical, but it was difficult to stay in front. On top of that, Morbidelli hit me in the back at the beginning of the race and a few more times, which significantly affected my car’s performance in the closing laps. In my view the penalty he was handed was more than justified.”*



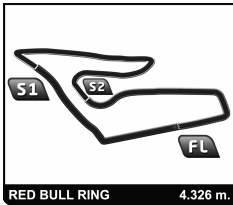
pressrelease



Pol Rosell, winner of Race 2: *"It's fantastic! To come here, the first race of the Golf and my first in TCR, and to win, it's just great! It has been a tough weekend, it was difficult to find the right balance and I had to adapt to Michelin tyres, which were new to me, but eventually everything went well. I took a perfect start and was able to build some breathing space, I wouldn't call that a real gap, but in the last five laps, I was struggling with the tyres and oversteer and it was hard to resist to Jordi and Pepe. I was involved in the testing programme of the new Golf, so it's a special feeling to achieve this result. It is a very good car, easy to drive, and I think we will see it often on the podium. Of course, it shares many components with the SEAT Leon, but the bodywork is different, and that leads to some differences also in the behavior and driving style required."*

Pepe Oriola, new championship leader: *"I never raced here before, so it's nice to be on the podium twice and finish the weekend achieving the goal I had set for myself: to take the lead in the championship. I spent many hours on the simulator to learn the track and took advice from my brother Jordi, who raced here last week, but still, reality is always different. Race 2 was tough, because first I had to pass Belicchi and then hope for a mistake from Grachev. Then I could catch up Jordi and pass him when he went a bit wide in Turn 2, but I couldn't do the same with Rosell, although he also went wide a couple of times, although not enough to attempt a clear overtaking. Also, I didn't want to take any risk and preferred to go for the points, considering also the misfortunes of some of my rivals, like Comini and Morbidelli."*





4 Hours of Red Bull Ring

TCR International Series
Race 1 (14 laps, 60,6 km.)

Final Classification

										Best Lap		
Drivers	Nat	Team	Vehicle	Class	Laps	Total Time	Gap	Kph	Lap	Time	Kph	
1 25 Stefano COMINI	CHE	Target Competition	SEAT León		14	23:51.673	-	152.3	11	1:40.265	155.3	
2 33 Andrea BELICCHI	ITA	Target Competition	SEAT León		14	23:52.238	+0.565	152.2	11	1:40.724	154.6	
3 74 Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León		14	23:52.330	+0.657	152.2	11	1:40.698	154.7	
4 88 Jordi GENÉ	ESP	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León		14	23:56.795	+5.122	151.7	10	1:41.162	153.9	
5 24 Kevin GLEASON	USA	West Coast Racing	HONDA Civic TCR		14	23:57.055	+5.382	151.7	7	1:41.224	153.9	
6 77 Sergey AFANASYEV	RUS	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León		14	23:58.101	+6.428	151.6	10	1:40.924	154.3	
7 8 Mikhail GRACHEV	RUS	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	VOLKSWAGEN Golf R		14	23:58.441	+6.768	151.6	14	1:41.389	153.6	
8 7 Lorenzo VEGLIA	ITA	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	SEAT León		14	24:00.068	+8.395	151.4	7	1:41.015	154.2	
9 42 Pol ROSELL	ESP	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	VOLKSWAGEN Golf R		14	24:00.376	+8.703	151.4	13	1:41.140	154.0	
10 41 Michela CERRUTI	ITA	Target Competition	SEAT León		14	24:09.358	+17.685	150.4	7	1:41.809	153.0	
11 10 Gianni MORBIDELLI	ITA	West Coast Racing	HONDA Civic TCR		14	24:21.052	+29.379	149.2	11	1:39.764	156.1	
12 20 Igor SKUZ	UKR	West Coast Racing	HONDA Civic TCR		14	24:45.698	+54.025	146.8	12	1:42.241	152.3	
13 40 Gabriele MAROTTA	MON	Target Competition	SEAT León		13	24:17.211	1 Lap	138.9	6	1:48.437	143.6	
Not classified:												
72 Diego ROMANINI	ITA	Proteam Racing	FORD Focus ST		6	11:16.437			6	1:49.992	141.6	
43 Daniel NAGY	HUN	Zengő Motorsport	SEAT León									
Pole Position			G. MORBIDELLI			1:39.716				156.2 Kph		
Fastest Lap			Lap 11 Gianni MORBIDELLI			1:39.764				156.1 Kph		

30" PENALTY TO N° 10 DUE TO STEWARDS DECISION N° 8

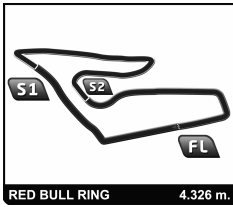
Published at:

Track Status:

DRY

Stewards:

Timekeeper:



4 Hours of Red Bull Ring

TCR International Series

Race 2 (14 laps, 60,6 km.)

Final Classification

										Best Lap		
Drivers		Nat	Team	Vehicle	Class	Laps	Total Time	Gap	Kph	Lap	Time	Kph
1	42 Pol ROSELL	ESP	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	VOLKSWAGEN Golf R		14	23:45.394	-	153.0	8	1:40.992	154.2
2	74 Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León		14	23:45.774	+0.380	152.9	8	1:40.919	154.3
3	88 Jordi GENÉ	ESP	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León		14	23:46.867	+1.473	152.8	4	1:41.091	154.1
4	77 Sergey AFANASYEV	RUS	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	SEAT León		14	23:49.095	+3.701	152.6	12	1:40.917	154.3
5	24 Kevin GLEASON	USA	West Coast Racing	HONDA Civic TCR		14	23:50.359	+4.965	152.4	12	1:41.034	154.1
6	8 Mikhail GRACHEV	RUS	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	VOLKSWAGEN Golf R		14	23:58.732	+13.338	151.5	11	1:41.008	154.2
7	7 Lorenzo VEGLIA	ITA	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	SEAT León		14	24:01.006	+15.612	151.3	10	1:42.029	152.6
8	41 Michela CERRUTI	ITA	Target Competition	SEAT León		14	24:01.709	+16.315	151.2	10	1:41.606	153.3
9	25 Stefano COMINI	CHE	Target Competition	SEAT León		14	24:51.321	+1:05.927	146.2	3	1:40.930	154.3
10	40 Gabriele MAROTTA	MON	Target Competition	SEAT León		14	25:28.927	+1:43.533	142.6	13	1:46.281	146.5
11	33 Andrea BELICCHI	ITA	Target Competition	SEAT León		11	19:23.332	3 Laps	147.3	7	1:41.233	153.8

Not classified:

72 Diego ROMANINI	ITA	Proteam Racing	FORD Focus ST		7	14:19.590			2	1:51.844	139.2
10 Gianni MORBIDELLI	ITA	West Coast Racing	HONDA Civic TCR		5	8:34.695			4	1:40.939	154.3
20 Igor SKUZ	UKR	West Coast Racing	HONDA Civic TCR		4	7:27.637			3	1:41.922	152.8

Not started

43 Daniel NAGY	HUN	Zengő Motorsport	SEAT León
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Pole Position

P. ROSELL	1:41.097	154.0 Kph
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Fastest Lap

Lap 12	Sergey AFANASYEV	1:40.917	154.3 Kph
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Published at:

Track Status:

DRY

Stewards:

Timekeeper:

2015 TCR INTERNATIONAL SERIES - DRIVERS' CLASSIFICATION

position	driver	Sepang MALAYSIA 29 March			Shanghai Jiaxing CHINA 12 April			Valencia SPAIN 3 May			Portimão PORTUGAL 10 May			Monza ITALY 24 May			Salzburging AUSTRIA 31 May			Sochi RUSSIA 21 June			Red Bull Ring AUSTRIA 12 July			Marina Bay SINGAPORE 20 September			Buriram THAILAND 25 October			Macau MACAU 22 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				
1	74 - Pepe Oriola (ESP)	0	18	18	1	0	12	5	25	10	3	0	12	3	18	0	2	8	18	3	18	18	0	15	18									225	
2	25 - Sefano Comini (SUI)	3	25	12	0	12	18	3	8	25	0	10	0	4	0	12	3	18	4	0	12	25	2	25	2									223	
3	88 - Jordi Gené (ESP)	0	6	25	0	6	1	0	15	0	4	18	15	0	12	18	1	12	1	5	25	10	0	12	15									201	
4	10 - Gianni Morbidelli (ITA)	0	12	15	5	25	15	0	4	15	0	0	0	5	25	25	4	10	15	0	6	0	5	0	0									186	
5	33 - Andrea Belicchi (ITA)	4	10	10	0	10	25	4	12	0	0	0	1	1	15	10	0	15	10	4	15	0	0	18	0									164	
6	24 - Kevin Gleason (USA)	5	8	6	3	15	8	0	0	12	0	6	18	0	8	0	5	25	8	0	4	8	4	10	10									163	
7	17 - Michel Nykjær (DEN)	0	4	0	0	2	10	2	6	18	0	0	25	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	2	6	-	-	-									100	
8	77 - Sergey Afanasyev (RUS)	0	15	0	0	1	0	1	18	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	12	0	10	12	1	8	12									98	
9	8 - Mikhail Grachev (RUS)	0	0	4	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	8	8	0	0	2	0	0	6	1	8	15	0	6	8									78	
10	7 - Lorenzo Veglia (ITA)	0	1	0	0	0	4	0	1	6	2	15	0	0	6	4	0	6	0	-	-	-	0	4	6									55	
11	23 - René Münnich (GER)	1	0	8	4	18	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									31		
12	3 - Nicki Thiim (DEN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	25	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									30		
13	42 - Pol Rosell (ESP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	25									27	
14	22 - Fernando Monje (ESP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	10	15	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-									25	
15	6 - Franz Engstler (GER)	2	0	0	0	8	6	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									16		
16	18 - José Monroy (POR)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									14	
17	9 - Kelvin Van der Linde (RSA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									13	
18	20 - Igor Skuz (UKR)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	8	0	0	0	-	-	-	0	0	0									10	
19	46 - Zsolt Szabó (HUN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	6	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-									10	
20	34 - Bas Schouten (NED)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-									10	
21	32 - David Cebrián (ESP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									8	
22	19 - Oscar Nogués (ESP)	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									8	
23	4 - Tomas Engström (SWE)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	4	-	-	-									7	
24	50 - Francisco Mora (POR)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									5	
24	41 - Michela Cerruti (ITA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	4									5	
26	47 - Norbert Tóth (HUN)	-	-	-	0	4	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									4	
27	36 - Antonio D'Amico (ITA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									3	
27	55 - Ferenc Ficza (HUN)	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									3	
28	43 - Dániel Nagy (HUN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3											3	
29	2 - Aleksey Dudukalo (RUS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	-	-	-									2	
29	5 - Tengyi Jiang (CHN)	-	-	-	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									2	
29	99 - Frank Yu (HKG)	0	0	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									2	
32	40 - Gabriele Marotta (MON)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1									1	
32	16 - Markus Östreich (GER)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-									1	
32	26 - Ildar Rakhmatullin (RUS)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	-	-	-									1	
32	71 - Tom Boardman (GBR)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									1	



2015 TCR INTERNATIONAL SERIES - TEAMS' CLASSIFICATION

position	team	Sepang MALAYSIA 29 March			Shanghai Jiaoding CHINA 12 April			Valencia SPAIN 3 May			Portimão PORTUGAL 10 May			Monza ITALY 24 May			Salzburg AUSTRIA 31 May			Sochi RUSSIA 21 June			Red Bull Ring AUSTRIA 12 July			Marina Bay SINGAPORE 20 September			Buriram THAILAND 25 October			Macau MACAU 22 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				
1	Target Competition	7	35	22	0	27	43	7	25	43	0	13	26	5	15	22	3	33	35	4	27	33	2	43	14									484	
2	Team Craft-Bamboo Lukoil	0	33	43	2	12	16	7	43	12	7	20	27	5	30	18	3	20	30	8	43	30	1	27	33									470	
3	WestCoast Racing	6	20	23	9	43	25	0	10	27	1	10	20	5	33	33	9	35	23	0	14	14	9	14	12									395	
4	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	2	4	8	3	12	14	1	16	6	7	40	8	0	6	6	0	6	8	3	14	21	0	14	35									234	
5	Campos Racing	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	6	6	0	10	15	0	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-									41	
6	Zengô Motorsport	0	6	4	1	6	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	6	0	1	0	-	-	-	3	0	0									33	
7	Veloso Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	12	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									26	
8	Bas Koeten Racing	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-									18	
9	JSB Compétition	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									9	
10	B.D. Racing Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									3	
11	Proteam Racing	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0									1	

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