

30 September 2016

**Rounds 19 & 20 – Sepang – 29 September / 1 October 2016**

## **RACE 1 REPORT**

### **Roberto Colciago beats Stefano Comini in epic battle Only one point separates Comini and James Nash**

Roberto Colciago performed like Julius Caesar and completed a ‘veni, vidi, vici’ debut in the TCR International Series, claiming pole position and a race victory on the same day; a feat that no one has been able to achieve on their maiden appearance.

The race provided plenty of emotion, beginning with the fight for the lead between Colciago and Stefano Comini. They swapped positions, clashed and ran abreast, treating the spectators to some great entertainment.

Second place enabled Comini to retake the championship lead, albeit only one point ahead of James Nash. The young Englishman drove a sensible race, steering out of trouble but managing to recover from starting from eighth to record an important third place finish ahead of his teammate and rival Pepe Oriola.

There were close fights in the TCR Asia series as well, with Kevin Tse claiming the first victory in the season, both for him and TeamWork Motorsport. Tse managed to beat Andy Yan and Filipe de Souza, who finished second and third; Yan retained a comfortable margin in the standings.

Race 2 will start tomorrow at 15:30 local time, with Sritrai on pole on the reverse grid

#### Key facts

Grid – Morbidelli’s car is pushed into the pit lane with a steering failure; Galiana does not even join the grid, his car plagued by the same engine issues as in Practice and Qualifying  
Start – Colciago makes a good start, but Grachev does better and overtakes him on the outside before Turn 1

Lap 1 – Colciago passes Grachev for the lead; the Russian loses also second place to Comini; there is commotion at the back of the field at Turn 4, when Yan cuts on the inside and cause a five-car collision, as a result Kajaia’s Volkswagen stops on the track

Lap 2 – the safety car is deployed; Pastorelli pits to fix a problem with an exhaust manifold

Lap 4 – the race resumes, Colciago leads from Comini, Grachev, Homola, Oriola, Nash, Vernay, Borković, Tassi and Afanasyev; Homola and Oriola make contact, Nash overtakes both and moves up to fourth; Comini overtakes Colciago at Turn 15

Lap 5 – Colciago and Comini run abreast; Colciago re-takes the lead; Sritrai pits with a loose turbo pipe

Lap 6 – Grachev is under pressure from Nash, they make contact and Grachev slows down and retires; Nash moves to third, pursued by Vernay, Oriola, Borković and Tassi

Lap 7 – Oriola overtakes Vernay for fourth at Turn 1

Lap 8 – Tse runs in 12<sup>th</sup> place, leading the TCR Asia field with a two-second advantage on Yan

Lap 9 – Oriola tries to find a gap and pass Nash; Ferraris pits with brake problems

Lap 11 – Comini tries to overtake Colciago at the last turn, they clash, but Colciago resists and wins by one tenth; Nash finishes third ahead of Oriola, Vernay, Borković, Tassi, Gleason, Afanasyev and Homola; Tse beats Yan and De Souza in the TCR Asia race

## Quotes from the podium finishers in Race 1

Roberto Colciago (winner): *“I am really happy for everyone at Target Competition, for Giancarlo Bruno my engineer and the mechanics who gave me such a good car. I have to say it was a really great battle with Comini, so thanks to him for fighting so fairly. I know him well, so I know how much the win would have meant to him. It was the first time I made a start with the five lights system, so I was on the throttle too much and I touched Grachev just after the start. The thing is, I am a little bit old these days and so I have to fight at the start of the race, not the end!”*

Stefano Comini (second): *“I loved the fight with Roberto – he is an old-style driver inside and out, while I am just an old-style driver inside! I wanted to create a gap to the guys behind because I wanted to score as many points as possible ahead of the Macau races. Roberto left me a big space to pass, but I went wide at the next corner and he overtook me again as I didn’t want to risk making contact with him. I know his driving style from YouTube and I have a lot of respect for him, so I’m really delighted to have had such a good fight with him.”*

James Nash (third): *“I had a few problems with my brakes during the race and so it was tough going. If I’m honest, I didn’t think going from eighth to third was possible as I had a lot of good guys around me, so I had to make a few brave moves. Oriola had a few contacts during the race, which made life easier for me. We had a discussion in Qualifying about whether I should go out again or to stay where I was and the strategy worked well.”*

Kevin Tse (winner of TCR Asia): *“This was a fantastic result for me and for the team, so thanks to them. Luckily, I just avoided an accident in front of me, then the safety car came out and we were all grouped together but I managed to hold on to win. I know Andy (Yan) was concentrating on the title, so nothing will be decided until the final round in Macau.”*

## Qualifying – Surprise pole position for Roberto Colciago

Freshly-crowned TCR Italy champion Roberto Colciago claimed a surprise pole position at the end of a breath-taking and closely-fought Qualifying session at Sepang.

At the wheel of his Honda Civic, run by Target Competition, Colciago consistently moved up the time-sheet and eventually posted an impressive lap of 2:15.021 in the dying moments of the session.

This demoted Pepe Oriola to second after the young Spaniard had led throughout the entire session, improving the provisional fastest lap twice: 2:15.799 and 2:15.086.

Actually, in the first half of the 30-minute Qualifying session, the top five drivers were extremely close: Oriola, James Nash, Kevin Gleason, Gianni Morbidelli and Mat'o Homola were all covered by less than two tenths.

Then Oriola's second provisional fastest lap opened a deep gap between him and his pursuers. A gap that was filled little by little as far as the other drivers improved in turn.

Jean-Karl Vernay climbed to a provisional second position (2:15.296), ahead of his teammate Stefano Comini (2:15.311), Morbidelli (2:15.476), Nash (2:15.646), Colciago (2:16.675) and Homola (2:15.923).

Eventually, as the session was drawing to a close, Colciago hit the target and won pole, beating Oriola by 0.048 seconds; Mikhail Grachev jumped into third with a last lap of 2:15.155 and Homola moved up to fifth (2:15.310) behind Vernay.

The twelve fastest drivers were all covered by the same second. Team Thailand's Tin Sritrai qualified in a brilliant tenth position, well ahead of the other TCR Asia drivers and winning pole position on the reverse grid for Race 2 in the process.

Rafaël Galiana was the only driver who missed the qualification maxima as he could not post a decent lap time due to lack of engine power.

## Qualifying – What the pole sitter had to say

Roberto Colciago (pole position): *"I had never seen the track before I arrived here yesterday, the timetable is very tight with only one Practice session and I didn't know the car, so it was a very good result and so I must thank Target Competition, JAS Motorsport and the mechanics for doing such a good job. Yesterday, I spent the first part of the Practice learning the track and so I was a long way off going fast. We thought we had a problem with the front of the car so we fixed that and I learnt the track and so we are very happy with the result."*



## Race 1 Classification after 11 Laps - 60.973 Kms

POS	NO	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	LAPS	TIME	GAP	KPH	BEST	LAP	
1	5	<b>R. COLCIAGO</b>	ITA	Honda Civic TCR	11	26:46.089		136.669	2:17.562	9	
2	1	<b>S. COMINI</b>	SUI	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	11	26:46.265	0.176	4.165	136.654	2:17.268	4
3	54	<b>J. NASH</b>	GBR	SEAT Leon TCR	11	26:50.430	4.341	0.770	136.300	2:17.651	7
4	74	<b>P. ORIOLA</b>	ESP	SEAT Leon TCR	11	26:51.200	5.111	1.281	136.235	2:17.435	7
5	2	<b>J. VERNAY</b>	FRA	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	11	26:52.481	6.392	1.053	136.127	2:18.039	8
6	62	<b>D. BORKOVIC</b>	SRB	SEAT Leon TCR	11	26:53.534	7.445	0.640	136.038	2:18.058	8
7	9	<b>A. TASSI</b>	HUN	SEAT Leon TCR	11	26:54.174	8.085	0.473	135.984	2:18.241	8
8	24	<b>K. GLEASON</b>	USA	Honda Civic TCR	11	26:54.647	8.558	2.012	135.944	2:18.153	9
9	77	<b>S. AFANASYEV</b>	RUS	SEAT Leon TCR	11	26:56.659	10.570	0.402	135.775	2:18.296	8
10	70	<b>M. HOMOLA</b>	SVK	SEAT Leon TCR	11	26:57.061	10.972	1.022	135.741	2:17.988	5
11	50	<b>L. HEZEMANS</b>	NED	SEAT Leon TCR	11	26:58.083	11.994	5.984	135.656	2:17.752	5
12	28	<b>K. TSE</b>	MAC	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	11	27:04.067	17.978	4.388	135.156	2:18.581	5
13	3	<b>A. YAN</b>	HKG	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	11	27:08.455	22.366	1.157	134.792	2:19.458	6
14	68	<b>F. DE SOUZA</b>	MAC	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	11	27:09.612	23.523	16.870	134.696	2:19.417	11
15	65	<b>D. KHOO</b>	MAS	SEAT Leon TCR	11	27:26.482	40.393	19.886	133.316	2:20.944	5
16	72	<b>N. PASTORELLI</b>	ITA	Ford Focus TCR	11	27:46.368	60.279	2.354	131.725	2:19.764	8
17	27	<b>W. O'BRIEN</b>	HKG	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	11	27:48.722	62.633		131.539	2:23.278	5
18	20	<b>M. FERRARIS</b>	ITA	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	9	23:49.279	DNF		125.652	2:20.000	6
<b>NOT CLASSIFIED</b>											
	8	<b>M. GRACHEV</b>	RUS	Honda Civic TCR	6	16:12.311	DNF		123.138	2:18.248	4
	83	<b>T. SRITRAI</b>	THA	Honda Civic TCR	4	11:08.402	DNF		119.417	2:43.505	3
	7	<b>D. KAJAIA</b>	GEO	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR	0		DNF				
	10	<b>G. MORBIDELLI</b>	ITA	Honda Civic TCR	0		DNS				
	35	<b>R. GALIANA</b>	FRA	Honda Civic TCR	0		DNS				
<b>FASTEST LAP</b>											
	1	<b>S. COMINI</b>	SUI	Volkswagen Golf Gti TCR		2:17.268 on lap 4		145.371			

Timekeeper:

### A Support Event Race to the 2016 FORMULA 1 PETRONAS MALAYSIA GRAND PRIX - Kuala Lumpur

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## 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			Salzburgring 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				
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	15	4	27				556	
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	20	2	28				466	
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	31	3	4				399	
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	28	1	14				390	
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	4	0	0				124	
6	Target Competition	0	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	1	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	5	27				52	
7	Mulsanne Racing	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	0	1	6	1	8	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0				23	
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	
14	Kissling Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	1	-	-	-				3	
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	0	0	0				1		
17	TeamWork Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	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			Salzburgring 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				
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	33	5	27				689	
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	22	2	28				576	
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	33	8	33				518	
4	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	0	2	0	0	6	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	6	0	0	14	10	1	12	8	0	6	0	0	0	6	0	4				81	
5	Opel Astra	0	8	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	6	4	-	-	-				30
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	2	0	6				12	