

20 November 2016

Rounds 21 & 22 – Macau – 17 / 20 November 2016

RACE REPORT

Stefano Comini clinches a second successive Drivers' title

Stefano Comini confirmed himself as the 'king' of the TCR International Series by winning a second consecutive Drivers' title in what was, arguably, the most chaotic race meeting in the short history of the category.

Despite the fact that both races were dramatically shortened by red flags and suspensions, the Swiss driver was able to exploit the remaining track time to show his driving skill and strategic view. A perfect start meant Comini put himself in the best position to win Race 1 and reduce his gap from James Nash (who retired after a collision with another car) to a mere half point.

In the second race, Comini did not take any risks and let Tiago Monteiro, Jean-Karl Vernay and Pepe Oriola through to claim the podium positions, settling on a fourth place that granted him the title.

There was recognition too for the great efforts put in by Leopard Racing and Volkswagen Motorsport on their first season in TCR. The icing on the cake for them was Vernay's third position in the Drivers' standings.

Craft-Bamboo Lukoil teammates James Nash and Pepe Oriola had to bow to the Comini-Vernay duo and placed themselves second and fourth in the championship. Both would have deserved to be champion, but were victims of the Guia street circuit 'law' that always favours those who are good (or lucky) enough to keep out of trouble.

TCR promoter Marcello Lotti commented: *"It was a shame that such an exciting season has come to an end with two races that were plagued by incidents and suspensions. We knew that this is always a risk you take when you decide to race in Macau but I'm afraid that this year, troubles have been increased by the decision to allow cars complying with different regulations to race together."*

This is also the reason why Macau has not been included in the provisional calendar of the 2017 TCR International Series.

Comini wins a chaotic Race 1, as Nash crashes

The first race turned into a complete chaos. A number of incidents prompted the red flag once and forced the safety car to intervene twice.

Eventually only five laps were completed, equating to 50% of the scheduled race distance. As a consequence only 50% of the points were awarded.

With Stefano Comini emerging as the winner and James Nash eliminated after he hit the wall, the gap between the two was reduced to only half-a-point before the final race, with the Briton still in the lead.

The only other driver still in contention – at least theoretically – was Jean-Karl Vernay, 25 points behind the leader.

Key facts

Start – Comini takes the best start from Monteiro and Vernay

Lap 1 – three local drivers crash into each other at T1; Morbidelli crashes at Mandarin; Vernay overtakes Monteiro at the Lisboa bend and moves up to second; Nash climbs to fourth ahead of Borković

Lap 2 – The safety car is deployed; Afanasyev pits with engine problems

Lap 4 – The race resumes after one lap behind the safety car, with only seven minutes left on the clock

Lap 4 – Homola hits the barrier at the Lisboa bend and blocks the track; Buri, Files, Tassi and a number of other cars are stuck behind him

Lap 4 – Nash hits the wall and breaks the rear left suspension

Lap 5 – The safety car is deployed once again; Comini leads from Vernay, Monteiro, Borković and Oriola

Lap 6 – The race finishes but the chequered flag is not being waved... the drivers resume racing, but they are slowed down by the full course yellow in the second half of the lap

Race 2 - Monteiro wins and Comini is champion

Another chaotic race sacred Tiago Monteiro as the winner and Stefano Comini as the 2016 TCR International Series champion. This was the second consecutive title for the Swiss driver and the first one for Leopard Racing and the Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR car.

Once again a pile up caused by the drivers from the Chinese championship forced the clerk of the course to suspend the race that resumed with only two laps to go.

Once again half points were awarded.

Guest star Monteiro who had pipped Comini and Jean-Karl Vernay at the start, emerged as the winner ahead of Vernay, Pepe Oriola and Comini who clinched the Drivers' title with only 3.5 points from Nash.

Key facts

Grid – Nash is on the grid, after the Craft-Bamboo crew performed a miracle and repaired his car; Tassi and Buri start from the pit lane

Start – Monteiro sprints from the second row of the grid and takes the lead from Comini and Vernay

Lap 1 – Borković and Oriola follow in fourth and fifth positions

Lap 2 – Grachev, Files and Belicchi advance to sixth, seventh and eighth respectively; Nash is up to ninth

Lap 3 – Oriola overtakes Borković for fourth; Nash overtakes Sritrai for ninth and Belicchi for eighth

Lap 4 – Another pile up is caused by the drivers from the local championship at the Police bend; the track is blocked and the race is suspended

Lap 6 – The race resumes after one lap behind the safety car with only two laps to go; Vernay overtakes Comini for second at the Lisboa; Files overtake Grachev for sixth

Lap 7 – Oriola overtakes Comini for third; Yan overtakes Sritrai for tenth; Monteiro wins from Vernay, Oriola and Comini

Quotes from the podium finishers in both races

Stefano Comini (2016 TCR International Series Champion – 1st in Race 1): *“Champion again, that’s simply great! Last year I won with my guts, this time with my head... It was a difficult challenge but we made it, and it has really been a collective effort. I want to thank everybody at Leopard Racing, at WRT and at Volkswagen Motorsport, and give special thanks to Jean-Karl, whose help was really crucial this weekend to get the success. It has been a tough season, we had a difficult start with the car, but then we improved race after race. At this moment, I can only say that I am very, very happy.”*

Tiago Monteiro (3rd in Race 1; 1st in Race 2) - *“The objective was to win Macau and I achieved it. It’s a race that means so much to any driver and a place so special for us Portuguese... I am very happy and it is a revenge on the bad luck when I lost the race one lap to the end two years ago... I knew the competition was going to be very tough in TCR and so it was. Still, it was a very strange and very long race, with so many interruptions, but the few laps of real racing were very intense. I knew I had to attack and did it at the start and the restart in Race 2, and that proved to be a smart move.”*

Jean-Karl Vernay (2nd in Race 1 and Race 2): *“I feel a little bit sorry for the fans, who did not get the real TCR show, but Macau is Macau... For us, the target was to help Stefano to become champion, and I am happy we made it. Second twice leaves me a little bit disappointed, I really wanted to win one of the races, but it wasn’t possible. In Race 2, in the two laps that were left I attacked hard, could almost try something on Tiago, who was very fast, but made a small mistake at the Melco hairpin, and that was it.”*

Pepe Oriola (3rd in Race 2): *“It’s a little bit of a pity that we could not offer a good show to spectators and TV watchers but it’s Macau... Personally, I am happy to be on the podium and of my performance, that’s really the only thing to say...”*

James Nash (Vice-champion in the 2016 TCR International Series): *“It was a good season but not good enough... It was a difficult and disappointing weekend, but that’s how things go sometimes. Regarding the incident with Homola, I don’t understand where he wanted to pass, there was no space, it was silly...”*

Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T

Race 1 - Final Classification - TCR International Series

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	DIFF	KM/H	BEST	ON
1	1	TCR	Stefano COMINI Leopard Racing Team	SUI	Volkswagen Golf GTI	37:08.856	5	-- 5 laps --		49.42	3:04.726	1
2	2	TCR	Jean Karl VERNAY Leopard Racing Team	FRA	Volkswagen Golf GTI	37:09.896	5	1.040	1.040	49.40	3:07.131	1
3	81	TCR	Tiago MONTEIRO WestCoast Racing	POR	Honda Civic	37:10.323	5	1.467	0.427	49.39	3:07.732	1
4	62	TCR	Dusan BORKOVIC B3 Racing Team	SRB	SEAT León SEQ	37:10.700	5	1.844	0.377	49.38	3:09.423	1
5	74	TCR	Pepe ORIOLA Craft Bamboo Racing	ESP	SEAT León SEQ	37:11.048	5	2.192	0.348	49.37	3:11.640	1
6	83	TCR	SRITRAI Tin Team Thailand	THA	Honda Civic	37:12.109	5	3.253	1.061	49.35	3:18.207	1
7	23	TCR	Andrea BELICCHI Mulsanne Srl	ITA	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	37:12.789	5	3.933	0.680	49.33	3:22.078	1
8	35	TCR	Rafaël GALIANA Taraet Srl	FRA	SEAT León	37:23.299	5	14.443	10.510	49.10	3:04.934	5
9	8	TCR	Mikhail GRACHEV WestCoast Racing	RUS	Honda Civic	37:24.094	5	15.238	0.795	49.08	3:04.816	5
10	50	TCR	Joshua Luke FILES Taraet Srl	GBR	Honda Civic	37:26.086	5	17.230	1.992	49.04	3:05.188	5
11	7	TCR	Davit KAJAIA Liqui Moly Team Enastler	GEO	Volkswagen Golf GTI	37:27.197	5	18.341	1.111	49.02	2:59.237	5
12	20	TCR	LOU Hon Kei Elegant Racing Team	MAC	SEAT León	37:31.352	5	22.496	4.155	48.93	3:00.265	5
13	28	TCR	Kevin TSE Team Work Motorsport	MAC	Volkswagen Golf GTI	37:57.027	5	48.171	25.675	48.37	3:18.966	1
14	54	TCR	James NASH Craft Bamboo Racing	GBR	SEAT León SEQ	34:17.334	4	-- 4 laps --		42.83	5:33.662	4
15	3	TCR	YAN Cheuk Wai Andy Liqui Moly Team Enastler	HKG	Volkswagen Golf GTI	34:24.612	4	7.278	7.278	42.68	3:16.014	1
16	9	TCR	Attila TASSI B3 Racing Team	HUN	SEAT León SEQ	35:42.409	4	1:25.075	1:17.797	41.13	3:14.629	1
17	48	TCR	Antti BURI LMS Racing	FIN	SEAT León DSG	37:48.370	4	3:31.036	2:05.961	38.85	3:12.768	1
----- NOT CLASSIFIED -----												
DNC	70	TCR	Matej HOMOLA B3 Racing Team	SVK	SEAT León	28:44.283	3	-- 3 laps --		38.33	3:10.587	1
DNC	22	TCR	Petr FULIN Mulsanne Racing	CZE	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	29:13.310	3	29.027	29.027	37.69	3:30.052	1
DNC	77	TCR	Sergey AFANASYEV Craft Bamboo Racing	RUS	SEAT León SEQ	3:30.661	1	-- 1 laps --	0.609	104.5		
DNC	10	TCR	Gianni M ORBIDELLI WestCoast Racing	ITA	Honda Civic							

----- FASTEST LAP -----

NO	DRIVER/S	CLASS	CAR MAKE / MODEL	FASTEST LAP	ON	KMH
97	LAU Shek Fai Edqar		SEAT León	2:57.167	5	124.36
7	Davit KAJAIA	TCR	Volkswagen Golf GTI	2:59.237	5	122.92

Circuito da Guia, Macau
Circuit Length = 6.120 Km - 3.8028 miles

Suncity Group Macau Guia Race 2.0T

Race 2 - Final Classification - TCR International Series

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	DIFF	KM/H	BEST	ON	
1	81	TCR	Tiago MONTEIRO WestCoast Racing	POR	Honda Civic	45:38.635	7	-- 7 laps --		56.31	2:35.687	2	
2	2	TCR	Jean Karl VERNAY Leopard Racing Team	FRA	Volkswagen Golf GTI	45:39.561	7	0.926	0.926	56.29	2:35.944	2	
3	74	TCR	Pepe ORIOLA Craft Bamboo Racing	ESP	SEAT León SEQ	45:40.076	7	1.441	0.515	56.28	2:35.494	7	
4	1	TCR	Stefano COMINI Leopard Racing Team	SUI	Volkswagen Golf GTI	45:41.229	7	2.594	1.153	56.26	2:35.814	2	
5	62	TCR	Dusan BORKOVIC B3 Racing Team	SRB	SEAT León SEQ	45:41.712	7	3.077	0.483	56.25	2:35.778	2	
6	50	TCR	Joshua Luke FILES Target Srl	GBR	Honda Civic	45:42.134	7	3.499	0.422	56.24	2:35.971	7	
7	8	TCR	Mikhail GRACHEV WestCoast Racing	RUS	Honda Civic	45:48.377	7	9.742	6.243	56.11	2:38.223	2	
8	54	TCR	James NASH Craft Bamboo Racing	GBR	SEAT León SEQ	45:48.600	7	9.965	0.223	56.11	2:36.924	2	
9	23	TCR	Andrea BELICCHI Mulsanne Srl	ITA	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	45:49.108	7	10.473	0.508	56.09	2:38.499	7	
10	3	TCR	YAN Cheuk Wai Andy Liqui Moly Team Engstler	HKG	Volkswagen Golf GTI	45:49.814	7	11.179	0.706	56.08	2:38.299	7	
11	83	TCR	SRITRAI Tin Team Thailand	THA	Honda Civic	45:54.119	7	15.484	4.305	55.99	2:40.340	7	
12	35	TCR	Rafaël GALIANA Target Srl	FRA	SEAT León	46:00.039	7	21.404	5.920	55.87	2:41.736	2	
13	7	TCR	Davit KAJAIA Liqui Moly Team Engstler	GEO	Volkswagen Golf GTI	46:00.386	7	21.751	0.347	55.87	2:41.374	6	
----- NOT CLASSIFIED -----													
DNC	28	TCR	Kevin TSE Team Work Motorsport	MAC	Volkswagen Golf GTI	22:59.497	4	-- 4 laps --		63.88	2:42.265	2	
DNC	20	TCR	LOU Hon Kei Elegant Racing Team	MAC	SEAT León	23:01.508	4	2.011	2.011	63.79	2:48.637	2	
DNC	9	TCR	Attila TASSI B3 Racing Team	HUN	SEAT León SEQ	5:42.281	2	-- 2 laps --		128.7	2:39.873	2	
DNC	48	TCR	Antti BURI LMS Racing	FIN	SEAT León DSG	3:11.116	1	-- 1 laps --		8.708	115.2	3:11.116	1

----- FASTEST LAP -----

NO	DRIVER/S	CLASS	CAR MAKE / MODEL	FASTEST LAP	ON	KMH
74	Pepe ORIOLA	TCR	SEAT León SEQ	2:35.494	7	141.69
33	JIANG Teng Yi		Audi A3	2:38.588	7	138.93

Circuito da Guia, Macau
Circuit Length = 6.120 Km - 3.8028 miles



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			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				
		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	24	0	
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	10	9	21,5	15	521,5
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	40	3	8,5	15,5	466
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	14	1	6	5	416
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	5	0	0	0,5	129,5
6	Target Competition	0	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	2	1	0	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	5	27	8	0	2,5	4	66,5
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	0	0	3	1	27
8	LMS Racing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	10	0	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0	0	14
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	Team Thailand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	4	0	4
15	B.D. Racing Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	3	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
16	Kissling Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
17	Sébastien Loeb Racing	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
18	Vattana Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
18	Krating Daeng Racing Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
18	FRD Racing Team	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	1
18	TeamWork Motorsport	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	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			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				
		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	30	3	
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	18	9	21,5	15	639,5
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	40	3	11,5	16,5	589
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	6	0	3	3	93
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	0	-	-	-	12