



13 May 2017

Rounds 7 &amp; 8 – 4 Hours of Monza – 12 / 14 May 2017

**RACE 1 REPORT****Colciago and Tassi make it a 1-2 finish for Honda and M1RA Racing  
Vernay maintains his lead in the standings**

Roberto Colciago was the first driver to take a second win in this year's TCR International Series. The Italian, who lives a few kilometres from the Autodromo, completed a brilliant performance in a very lively Race 1 at Monza to beat his young teammate Attila Tassi and giving M1RA and the Honda Civic an impressive 1-2 finish.

Pepe Oriola, with the Lukoil Craft-Bamboo SEAT León, finished third ahead of Jean-Karl Vernay (Leopard Racing Team WRT Volkswagen Golf GTI) who had a relatively quiet race and scored useful points that helped him to maintain the championship lead with a 24-point margin ahead of Colciago. Ferenc Ficza (Zele Motorsport SEAT León) was classified fifth, beating pole sitter Frédéric Vervisch (Comtoy Racing Audi RS3 LMS) by inches.

Once again, Monza provided the ingredients for a spectacular race, with plenty of duels and contacts that jeopardized the hopes of potential contenders such as Valente, Homola, Comini and Borković. They were all able to salvage some points at least, something that Nash, Morbidelli, van Lagen and Kajaia could not.

Race 2 will take place at 10:50 tomorrow, with the two Lukoil Craft-Bamboo SEAT León cars of Hugo Valente and James Nash on the front row of the top-ten reverse grid.

The race will be streamed live at [www.tcr-series.com](http://www.tcr-series.com) and [www.tcr-series.tv](http://www.tcr-series.tv).

Key facts

Start – Vervisch starts well from pole, but Colciago and Tassi pass him before the first chicane

Lap 1 – Homola and Oriola make contact at the first chicane, also involving Comini and Morbidelli; Homola spins and rejoins; Altoè goes out in the gravel at the Curvone following a contact with Valente; Colciago leads from Tassi, Vervisch and Kajaia

Lap 2 – Kajaia touches Vervisch at the first chicane; Vernay goes straight on

Lap 3 – Colciago is being chased by Tassi, Oriola, Vernay, Nash, van Lagen, Ficza and Valente; Vervisch has dropped to 10<sup>th</sup>, ahead of Homola; there is contact between Valente and Ficza at the Parabolica

Lap 4 – Ficza and Nash go straight on at the chicane; Vervisch makes contact with Valente and cuts the Roggia chicane, gaining two positions

Lap 5 – There is a battle for 6<sup>th</sup> between Vervisch, Valente, Nash, Borković, Homola, and Morbidelli, with plenty of contacts

Lap 6 – At the first chicane, Borković hits Morbidelli; Comini overtakes them both for 9<sup>th</sup>; Homola passes Vervisch and Nash for 6<sup>th</sup>

Lap 8 – Vervisch, Valente, Borković and Morbidelli keep fighting; Colciago has a 4-tenths lead over Tassi who is trailed by Oriola, Vernay and Ficza

Lap 9 – Tassi and Oriola get closer to Colciago, but the Hungarian goes wide at Lesmo 2 handing the second place to Oriola; Corthals and Kajaia retire in the pits



Lap 10 – Tassi attacks Oriola and re-takes the second place at the Roggia; there is contact and a fender of Oriola's SEAT rubs against a rear tyre; Vernay closes the gap from the Spaniard

Lap 11 – Colciago wins ahead of Tassi, Oriola, Vernay, Ficza, Vervisch, Valente, Homola, Comini and Borković

### **Ficza drops to tenth after penalty**

The many investigations that followed the first race ended up in only one driver being penalised: Feren Ficza.

The young Hungarian was given a 10-second time penalty for gaining an unfair advantage. In fact Ficza's Zele Racing SEAT León cut through the first chicane during the fourth lap of today's Race 1 and moved up a couple of places in the process.

Ficza eventually finished in fifth position, but the penalty dropped him down to tenth.

### **Quotes from the Race 1 podium finishers**

Roberto Colciago (1<sup>st</sup>): *"This morning, I didn't know if I could race because my back was aching so badly, but luckily I had no pain once I was in the car. I couldn't get away from the others because the tow is so important here in Monza and so I just concentrated on not making any mistakes. Attila pressured me from the start, so it's good for the team that he has the same pace as me. When I was in Spa, it looked like I was racing with the ambulance because of the Success Ballast, so I'm really happy to win at my home track."*

Attila Tassi (2<sup>nd</sup>): *"It's a great result for the team and for me as well. The start was just how I imagined it and I ended up behind Roberto. I was then a bit less aggressive and so the others could catch up with us. I made a mistake two laps from the end and Pepe overtook me, but then at the end he damaged his rear bodywork in the chicane so I overtook him on the straight and then defended the position. Roberto has been racing here in Monza for thirty years – nearly twice as long as I am old – and so he knows every little thing about the place which is really useful for me."*

Pepe Oriola (3<sup>rd</sup>): *"I had a really good start and I came into the first chicane side by side with two or three cars; I got a push and hit Homola, he spun and I'm really sorry, it wasn't my intention. When I was up to third, I was trying to catch the Honda cars but it was really tough to follow them. Then I waited for a mistake and it arrived, but then Attila and I then had a little touch. I think SEAT has to work on the rear fenders of the car; it was only a little contact but this doesn't have to happen. It was impossible to stop Attila, in the last 250 metres of the straights the top speed of the Hondas is amazing."*

### **Qualifying – Frédéric Vervisch took his maiden pole**

In a very close Qualifying, Frédéric Vervisch took his maiden pole position in the TCR International Series. The Belgian was impressive throughout the whole session, in his only second Touring Car appearance.



It was also the second consecutive pole for Audi and Comtoy Racing, after the one claimed by Stefano Comini at Spa. Six brands were represented in the top 7, all covered by seven tenths, proving the competitiveness of the field.

The M1RA Honda Civic cars of Roberto Colciago and Attila Tassi dominated most of the two parts of the session, but were eventually beaten by the Audi.

Davit Kajaia was an excellent fourth-fastest with the GE Force Alfa Romeo Giulietta, preceding the DG Sport Compétition Opel Astra of Mat'o Homola, the best of the Lukoil Craft-Bamboo SEAT León cars of Pepe Oriola and the best of the Volkswagen Golf GTI cars, the Leopard Racing Team WRT machine of Jean-Karl Vernay.

Stefano Comini was only 8<sup>th</sup>, after a difficult session, ahead of James Nash and Hugo Valente. The two Lukoil Craft-Bamboo drivers will fill the front row of the top-ten reverse grid for Race 2.

#### Qualifying 1: Colciago was fastest at home

The session started under the sun and with perfect conditions. It was immediately a slipstreaming exercise, with the three Lukoil Craft-Bamboo SEAT cars of Oriola (2:01.078), Valente and Nash, leading in that order. Shortly afterwards, it was the DG Sport Compétition Opel Astra cars taking the advantage with Corthals (2:00.946), but Oriola retook the lead (2:00.153) before being beaten by the Honda Civic cars of Tassi (2:00.063) and Colciago (2:00.090). With six minutes to go, Vervisch put his Audi on top (2:00.021). Shortly afterwards, the Hungarian young boys made a hit, with Tassi back on top (1:59.610) ahead of Ferenc Ficza (1:59.895) in the Zele Motorsport SEAT León.

In the dying moments of the session, though, Colciago pipped everybody with a lap of 1:59.601. The Italian beat Tassi, Ficza, Vervisch, Oriola, Vernay, Homola, Kajaia, Valente and Nash. The last two promoted to Q2 were Comini and Jaap van Lagen.

Those who did not make the cut were the two WestCoast VW Golf cars of Morbidelli and Altoè, the GE Force Alfa Romeo of Borković, Corthals, Paulsen, Cappellari and Møller.

#### Qualifying 2: Vervisch beat the Honda boys

As Valente went straight at the Roggia on the first fast lap, Colciago confirmed immediately his leadership (1:59.859), ahead of Homola, Comini and van Lagen. In the second fastest lap, Colciago improved (1:59.246) and Tassi moved up to second (1:59.361), with Kajaia third. It was then Tassi who took the provisional pole on his last lap (1:59.131) before being beaten by Colciago (1:59.097). Eventually it was Vervisch (1:58.997) who went faster than the two Honda cars. Kajaia (1:59.469) was an excellent fourth, flowed by Homola, Oriola, Vernay, Comini, Nash and Valente who took pole for Race 2.

### **What the fastest drivers said after Qualifying**

Frédéric Vervisch (1<sup>st</sup>): *"Before the weekend, everybody knew that the Audi had good top speed but you still have to do it, the speed has to be there and Monza is not an easy track. I'm really, really pleased that Audi and the team gave us such a good car and I hope we can have a bit more pace than we had at Spa in the race. We discussed slipstreaming and we tried it yesterday, but it didn't really work and so we decided not to do it."*



Roberto Colciago (2<sup>nd</sup>): *“Until this morning, I didn’t know if I could even go in the car; I’m surprised I could drive, let alone be P2! I think I have a problem with the discs in my back, which I damaged yesterday going across the kerbs. It started at Spa but I had a massage during the week, which helped. After FP2 yesterday I was really bad and I didn’t sleep much, so I don’t know what will happen in the race.”*

Attila Tassi (3<sup>rd</sup>): *“It feels good. We worked a lot during Free Practice yesterday to set up a good car for Qualifying and for the races. Of course, I have a really experienced teammate who is at his home track so that is a big plus for me because he has taught me lots of small things about Monza. In the race, I will try to do the same kind of start I did at Spa and then defend hard.”*

### **Gabriele Tarquini, a spectator with an interest...**

Touring Car legend Gabriele Tarquini was a very attentive spectator in the Monza paddock over these two days, and had many hands to shake...

*“It’s nice to see so many friends, but I am not here only to socialize, I have come to see the future rivals...”* admitted the Italian with a big smile.

*“Il ‘Cinghio’* came to Monza from Misano, where he completed another test with Hyundai’s future TCR racer, the New Generation i30.

*“The development and testing phase are going on smoothly and positively,”* explained the former World Champion and official test driver of the Korean brand.

*“I can say it is a well-born car. Things are definitely being done in the proper way. It is still premature to say anything about a race debut, but the time will come for sure!”*

### **2017 TCR International Series – calendar**

2 April – Rustavi International Motorpark, Georgia

16 April – Bahrain International Circuit (F1 event)

6 May – Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium (WEC event)

**14 May – Autodromo di Monza, Italy (ELMS event)**

11 June – Salzburgring, Austria

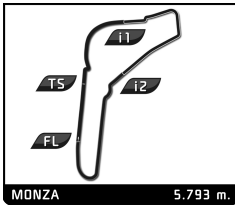
2 July – Hungaroring, Hungary

9 July – Motorsport Arena Oschersleben, Germany (with ADAC TCR Germany)

3 September – Chang International Circuit, Buriram (with TCR Thailand)

8 October – Zhejiang International Circuit, China (with TCR Asia & TCR China)

26 November – Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi (F1 event)



# TCR International Series

## 4 Hours of Monza

### Race 1 (11 laps, 63,7 km.)

## Final Classification

Drivers	Nat	Team	Vehicle	Class	Laps	Total Time	Gap	Kph	Best Lap		
									Lap	Time	Kph
1 5 Roberto COLCIAGO	ITA	M1RA Motorsport	Honda Civic Type-R TCR		11	<b>22:14.954</b>	-	171.8	6	<b>2:00.555</b>	173.0
2 9 Attila TASSI	HUN	M1RA Motorsport	Honda Civic Type-R TCR		11	<b>22:16.567</b>	+1.613	171.6	3	<b>2:00.561</b>	173.0
3 74 Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	Craft-Bamboo Racing	SEAT León TCR		11	<b>22:17.212</b>	+2.258	171.6	7	<b>2:00.371</b>	173.3
4 2 Jean-Karl VERNAY	FRA	Leopard Racing Team WRT	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR		11	<b>22:17.362</b>	+2.408	171.5	7	<b>2:00.527</b>	173.0
5 6 Frédéric VERVISCH	BEL	Comtoy Racing	Audi RS 3 LMS TCR		11	<b>22:20.835</b>	+5.881	171.1	7	<b>2:00.106</b>	173.6
6 7 Hugo VALENTE	FRA	Craft-Bamboo Racing	SEAT León TCR		11	<b>22:23.545</b>	+8.591	170.7	8	<b>2:00.584</b>	172.9
7 70 Maťo HOMOLA	SVK	DG Sport Compétition	Opel Astra TCR		11	<b>22:25.640</b>	+10.686	170.5	3	<b>2:00.513</b>	173.1
8 1 Stefano COMINI	CHE	Comtoy Racing	Audi RS 3 LMS TCR		11	<b>22:28.292</b>	+13.338	170.1	3	<b>2:00.409</b>	173.2
9 62 Dusan BORKOVIC	SRB	GE-Force	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR		11	<b>22:28.959</b>	+14.005	170.1	3	<b>2:00.580</b>	173.0
10 55 Ferenc FICZA	HUN	Team Zele-Racing	SEAT León TCR		11	<b>22:30.163</b>	+15.209	169.9	4	<b>2:00.355</b>	173.3
11 10 Gianni MORBIDELLI	ITA	West Coast Racing	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR		11	<b>22:31.847</b>	+16.893	169.7	5	<b>2:00.971</b>	172.4
12 54 James NASH	GBR	Craft-Bamboo Racing	SEAT León TCR		11	<b>22:35.419</b>	+20.465	169.2	3	<b>2:01.361</b>	171.8
13 34 Stian PAULSEN	NOR	Stian Paulsen Racing	SEAT León TCR		11	<b>22:38.082</b>	+23.128	168.9	6	<b>2:01.758</b>	171.3
14 11 Jens Reno MØLLER	DNK	Reno Racing	Honda Civic Type-R TCR		11	<b>22:41.598</b>	+26.644	168.5	10	<b>2:01.418</b>	171.8
15 76 Daniele CAPPOLLARI	ITA	Daniele Cappollari	SEAT León TCR DSG		11	<b>23:08.893</b>	+53.939	165.2	8	<b>2:04.600</b>	167.4
16 16 Davit KAJAJIA	GEO	NCLE Sport Club Mia-Force	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR		9	<b>18:53.094</b>	2 Laps	165.6	3	<b>2:00.693</b>	172.8
17 23 Pierre-Yves CORTHALS	BEL	DG Sport Compétition	Opel Astra TCR		8	<b>16:49.648</b>	3 Laps	165.2	6	<b>2:02.070</b>	170.8

### Not classified:

14 Jaap VAN LAGEN	NLD	Leopard Racing Team WRT	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR		3	<b>6:10.975</b>			3	<b>2:01.119</b>	172.2
21 Giacomo ALTOÈ	ITA	West Coast Racing	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR								

<b>Pole Position</b>		F. VERVISCH	<b>1:58.997</b>	175.3 Kph
<b>Fastest Lap</b>	Lap 7	Frédéric VERVISCH	<b>2:00.106</b>	173.6 Kph

10 second penalty to Car Nr 55 due to Stewards Decision Nr 3

Published at: .....

Track Status: **DRY**

<b>Stewards:</b>	<b>Timekeeper:</b>
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