



8 July 2017

Rounds 13 & 14 – Oschersleben – 8 / 9 July 2017

QUALIFYING REPORT

Gianni Morbidelli back on pole after 14 months

Since the TCR International Series was launched back in 2015, Gianni Morbidelli has always been one of its reference drivers. That was the case until 14 months ago, when his luck changed and he was no longer able to fight for the top positions.

Now the former F1 racer is back at the front, claiming his first pole position since Imola 14 months ago; the first since he and the WestCoast Racing team switched to the Volkswagen Golf.

Today Morbidelli was consistently among the fastest drivers, if not the fastest of the pack, throughout the second Practice and Qualifying, setting a pace that nobody was able to match. His next obvious goal is getting back to the winner's circle in tomorrow's Race 1.

To do this he will have to keep at bay Jaap van Lagen (Leopard Racing Volkswagen) and Daniel Lloyd (Lukoil Craft-Bamboo SEAT), who qualified second and third and so achieving their best results since they joined the championship.

The Qualifying results also confirmed this track is better suited to the Golf and León rather than the other models. None of the Alfa Romeo and Audi drivers managed to advance to Q2, while Roberto Colciago (8th) and Mat'ò Homola (10th) were the only Honda and Opel drivers to qualify in the leading group.

Homola will start from pole position on the reverse grid for Race 2 with Jean-Karl Vernay alongside him, while Attila Tassi – the current championship leader – will line up 13th on the grid for both races.

The first race will start tomorrow at 12:30 local time (live streaming at www.tcr-series.com and www.tcr-series.tv).

Qualifying 1: Morbidelli leads a Volkswagen 1-2-3

Volkswagen drivers from three different teams set the first three fastest laps with Morbidelli (WestCoast racing) ahead of van Lagen (Leopard Racing) and Luca Engstler (Junior Team Engstler).

Tassi was the first to top the time sheet with a lap of 1:33.181 that was improved by Oriola's 1:33.082 and then by Morbidelli's 1:33.009. Oriola was the first to go under the 1:33 mark, but his provisional fastest time of 1:32.838 was disallowed for infringing track limits. It was then Vernay who jumped on top with a lap of 1:32.829, but Morbidelli raised the bar to 1:32.064, with Lloyd second (1:32.801).

The segment was disrupted once by a red flag with twelve minutes left on the clock, to sweep the gravel off the track after Møller spun at the chicane.

When the session resumed, Engstler posted a new provisional fastest lap of 1:32.024, which was soon improved by Morbidelli's 1:31.421 and van Lagen's 1:31.553.

The following drivers went through to Q2: Morbidelli, van Lagen, Engstler, Oriola, Lloyd, Vernay, Altoè, Nash, Homola, Colciago, Huff and Paulsen.



Among those who did not make the cut were the points leader Tassi, the Alfa Romeo duo of Borković and Kajaia and the Audi pair of Vervisch and Comini. The latter spoiled his chances with a mistake on his last attempt.

Qualifying 2: Morbidelli beats van Lagen

Oriola posted a 1:31.954 on his first lap out, but Morbidelli improved immediately to 1:31.908, with van Lagen moving up to second (1:31.914).

Oriola responded with a new provisional fastest lap of 1:31.834, but Morbidelli was even faster with a 1:31.426 that nobody was able to beat.

Van Lagen improved to 1:31.669 to secure second position ahead of Loyd (1:31.714), Huff (1:31.821) and Oriola.

On their last attempts, Vernay managed to climb to ninth, securing a front spot on the reverse grid for Race 2, while Engstler outbraked himself and went straight on at Turn 1.

Quotes after Oschersleben Qualifying

Gianni Morbidelli (first): *"I had almost forgotten how it feels to be in front of everyone and on pole! It's a nice feeling and it is great, not only for me, but especially for the guys in the team, who worked so hard. After two seasons fighting for the title, it was certainly frustrating for us to go through such a difficult first part of the season with the Golf, so this is the kind of result we needed and that helps boosting the motivation. I must say that the car here has a terrific performance level and feels very good to drive. It's the first time this year I can drive it as I really want. Nothing is done, of course, but this is a good start and we have to carry one from here."*

Jaap van Lagen (second): *"I am happy to be in the TCR International Series for the second time this year. It has been a last-minute call from the team, and although I am driving almost every weekend, it is not easy to just come and do well. One always needs a little time to re-adjust to a front wheel-drive car and the rest. Today, the Golf worked really well and without a little mistake in the last corner, I think we could have been fighting for pole. First goal for me is to help Jean-Karl Vernay in the races. We will see how things develop, as Jean-Karl is not too close in neither of the grids. I would do my race only if there is no way to help him."*

Daniel Lloyd (third): *"It's my first time in the top-3 since I joined the TCR, so I am pleased, although as a driver, you always aspire to more. Everything came out nicely today, despite all the dirt on the track, I just focused on having a clear gap in front and behind me, and tomorrow I'll be definitely fighting for a podium position... at least."*

TCR Germany - Oestreich takes lights-to-flag win

Despite the large field of 37 cars, the start and first lap were extremely orderly, with the two men on the front row, Niels Langeveld (Audi) and Pascal Eberle (SEAT) getting passed by Moritz Oestreich (Honda) and Kris Richard (Honda). Luca Engstler (Volkswagen) was fifth, while the championship leader Josh Files (Target Honda) took P6 on lap 2, despite starting from the seventh row.



The race's first victim was Sheldon van der Linde (Audi), who retired in the pits on lap 2 with a technical problem.

On lap 5, Simon Larsson (Audi) hit the barriers at the chicane, prompting the deployment of the Safety Car. At the restart, things stayed pretty much the same, with Engstler moving up to 4th. Steve Kirsch (Honda) passed Files for 6th, but when he tried to attack Langeveld there was a slight contact and the Honda went off-track and rejoined in P13. On lap 14, it was Files who went straight on after some rubbing with Langeveld, losing six positions. Shortly afterwards, Langeveld was passed by Florian Thoma (Volkswagen) and Tim Zimmermann (Audi) who moved up to 4th and 5th.

The race ended in drama, as at the beginning of last lap the engine of Richard's Honda, that had been chasing the leader Oestreich for the entire race, blew at the beginning of the straight and caught fire. Oestreich therefore won under yellow flags, preceding Eberle, Engstler, Thoma, Zimmermann and Langeveld with Files finishing tenth.

Files maintains the leadership in the standings with 166 points; Thoma has climbed to second, one point ahead of van der Linde, but with a gap of 68 from the leader.

The second race will start tomorrow at 10:15.

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

18 June – Hungaroring, Hungary (DTM Event)

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)

ADAC TCR Race Weekend - Oschersleben

DMSB Reg. nr:

Result Qualification 1 and 2 - TCR International Series

7 - 9 July 2017

Final results

Oschersleben - 3667 mtr.

Pos	Nbr	Name / Entrant	Car	Qual-1	Qual-2	Gap
1	10	Gianni Morbidelli (ITA) West Coast Racing	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	1:31.421	1:31.426	
2	14	Jaap van Lagen (NED) Leopard Racing Team WRT	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	1:31.553	1:31.669	0.243
3	17	Daniel Lloyd (GBR) Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing	SEAT León TCR	1:32.228	1:31.714	0.288
4	3	Rob Huff (GBR) Leopard Racing Team WRT	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	1:32.561	1:31.821	0.395
5	74	Pepe Oriola (ESP) Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing	SEAT León TCR	1:32.069	1:31.834	0.408
6	21	Giacomo Altoè (ITA) West Coast Racing	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	1:32.304	1:31.883	0.457
7	54	James Nash (GBR) Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing	SEAT León TCR	1:32.307	1:31.954	0.528
8	5	Roberto Colciago (ITA) M1RA	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	1:32.468	1:32.130	0.704
9	2	Jean-Karl Vernay (FRA) Leopard Racing Team WRT	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	1:32.252	1:32.146	0.720
10	70	Mat'o Homola (SVK) DG Sport Compétition	Opel Astra TCR	1:32.322	1:32.191	0.765
11	8	Luca Engstler (DEU) Junior Team Engstler	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	1:32.024	1:32.195	0.769
12	34	Stian Paulsen (NOR) Stian Paulsen Racing	SEAT León TCR	1:32.651	1:32.773	1.347
13	9	Attila Tassi (HUN) M1RA	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	1:32.722		1.301
14	62	Dušan Borkovi (SRB) GE-Force	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	1:32.834		1.413
15	16	Davit Kajaia (GEO) GE-Force	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	1:33.104		1.683
16	6	Frédéric Vervisch (BEL) Comtoyou Racing	Audi RS 3 LMS TCR	1:33.207		1.786
17	28	Aurelien Panis (FRA) Boutsen Ginion	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	1:33.328		1.907
18	1	Stefano Comini (SUI) Comtoyou Racing	Audi RS 3 LMS TCR	1:33.397		1.976
19	55	Ferenc Ficza (HUN) Zeng Motorsport	KIA cee'd TCR	1:33.584		2.163
20	38	Danny Kroes (NED) Ferry Monster	SEAT León TCR	1:33.704		2.283
21	11	Reno Møller (DEN) Reno Racing Jens	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	1:34.114		2.693
22	66	Grégoire Demoustier (FRA) DG Sport Compétition	Opel Astra TCR	1:34.164		2.743
23	18	Duncan Ende (USA) Icarus Motorsports	SEAT León TCR	1:34.605		3.184


Fastest time : 1:31.426 in lap 3 by nbr. 10 : Gianni Morbidelli (Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR)

Publication-time

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