

# WTCC

FIA World Touring Car  
Championship



## ROUNDS 23 & 24 – MACAU RACES 1 & 2 REPORT

*Weather:* sunny and hot, with a dry track.

### **YVAN MULLER IS CROWNED WORLD CHAMPION AS CHEVROLET WIN BOTH RACES IN MACAU**

Yvan Muller claimed the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship. One year after losing the title to Andy Priaulx on the last lap of the first race in Macau because of a technical failure, SEAT Sport's Frenchman clinched the title by finishing third in today's Race 1. His team mate Gabriele Tarquini – the only other man still in contention to win the title – had to settle for second place.

If the Championship belonged to SEAT, the day belonged to Chevrolet. The blue Lacetti took a clean sweep, claiming pole position with Menu and two victories with Menu and Huff. A perfect farewell before being retired in favour of the new Cruze.

Huff's win in Race 2 was especially important, because it gave the young Briton third place in the Drivers' Championship, only one point short of Tarquini and ahead of the outgoing champion Priaulx.

The second race was one of the craziest ever seen, with James Thompson's Honda, eliminated in a collision with Augusto Farfus' BMW when only one lap separated "Thommo" from his second win of the season.

Sergio Hernández and Franz Engstler shared glories in the Independents' Trophy, with Proteam Motorsport's Spaniard was crowned champion of the class.

### **RACE 1 – MENU WINS FROM POLE POSITION**

Alain Menu converted his pole position in a victory with a narrow margin ahead of Andy Priaulx. Yvan Muller claimed a third place that secured him the 2008 WTCC champion.

Menu took the lead at the start, from Priaulx, Huff and Rydell. The field survived the Lisboa bottle-neck, except Coronel who went wide and rejoined.

Huff was putting pressure on Priaulx and at the beginning of the second lap he tried to overtake him at Lisboa, taking the outside line. Priaulx did not open the door and squeezed the Chevrolet between his car and the wall, as a result Huff dropped down to fifth behind Rydell and Y. Muller.

On lap 4 Rydell's hopes to finish third in the championship received a serious blow when he pitted and retired from third because of an engine problem. On the same lap Masaki Kano crashed at Lisboa and James Thompson overtook Jörg Müller for 10<sup>th</sup>.

Huff was now chasing Y. Muller, but he could not find a gap to go through and had to defend his position from Augusto Farfus.

On lap 6, Aoki spun at Lisboa, while Thompson gained two more places from Félix Porteiro and Nicola Larini, moving up to eighth and winning pole position for Race 2.

In the final lap, Priaulx filled the gap and tried to pass Menu, who resisted and claimed his third win of the season. Y. Muller crossed the line in third as the new champion, while Farfus stole fourth from Huff.

Sergio Hernández took another comfortable win in the Independents' Trophy, with Franz Engstler and Hong Kong's Matthew Marsh in second and third respectively.



WTCC Race of Macau – Circuito da Guia, Macau – 14 / 16 November 2008

[www.fiawtcc.com](http://www.fiawtcc.com) – [www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo](http://www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo)

## **RACE 2 – HUFF SURVIVES CARNAGE TO WIN**

Robert Huff won the second race in Macau – and so claimed third position in the championship – surviving a carnage that eliminated the three drivers in front of him during the last two laps.

At the start James Thompson took the lead from pole position, while Augusto Farfus managed to move into second at the Lisboa. Nicola Larini jumped from ninth on the grid to third, but he was soon given a drive through for a clear jump start.

Farfus was chasing Thompson closely, with Gabriele Tarquini in tow. Jordi Gené, Robert Huff, Yvan Muller, Andy Priaulx and Alain Menu were fighting over the fourth position.

On lap 2, Couto crashed at Lisboa and collected Jörg Müller, while Franz Engstler, Sergio Hernández and George Tanev were swapping positions at the front of the Independents' race.

On lap 5, Huff overtook Gené for fourth and moments later the Spaniard went off at the Maternity bend, soon imitated by Tanev; on the same lap Hernández retired with engine problems and handed the lead to Engstler.

The fight at the top intensified. Farfus was on Thompson's tail and on lap 8 hit the Briton and sent him into a wall at the Solitude Esses. The Brazilian took command, but his moment of glory did not last long as he lost one wheel on the last lap. Tarquini hit the wandering wheel and also retired. Seconds later Menu crashed at Moorish Hill from fourth position.

Huff inherited victory and crossed the line in front of Y. Muller and Priaulx, with Rickard Rydell and Alessandro Zanardi in fourth and fifth respectively.

Engstler finished sixth and claimed his first victory in the Independents' Trophy, while Manabu Orido and Matthew Marsh scored their first championship points, with the Hong Kong man finishing runner up of the Independents.

## **BULLET NEWS**

### **JAPAN RESULTS ARE DECLARED FINAL**

The FIA Stewards declared final the results of the two races held at Okayama, Japan, two weeks ago.

The results have remained suspended, pending the technical checks of the wheel hubs of Augusto Farfus' BMW and Gabriele Tarquini's SEAT.

Also the results of Macau qualifying were declared final, following the completion of analysis of the fuel samples.

### **VAN LAGEN AND ORIDO PENALISED**

Jaap van Lagen and Manabu Orido began the first race from the back of the grid as they both were penalised by the Stewards who disallowed their qualifying times.

Van Lagen had qualified in 21<sup>st</sup> position, but his LADA was found not to conform at the ride height check. Orido had posted the 20<sup>th</sup> fastest lap, but failed to stop twice at the weighing bay.

The Russian Bears Motorsport team also withdrew Viktor Shapovalov's car because of serious damage sustained in a crash during Friday's qualifying session.

### **THOMPSON'S HONDA FASTEST IN WARM UP**

James Thompson set the fastest lap in the early morning warm up. At the wheel of his N.technology Honda Accord, the Briton clocked a 2:31.909 in the dying seconds of the session, beating Augusto Farfus by two thousandths of a second.

The Brazilian driver had completed three consecutive laps of 2:32.967, 2:32.192 and 2:31.911 to stay on top for most of the session, before being demoted to second by Thompson's last lap.

Chevrolet's pole position sitter Alain Menu posted the third fastest lap (2:32.392).

## **THEY SAID... THEY SAID...**

Yvan MULLER - *"One year ago exactly I came here and I was very sad. Finally one year later I am here on top of the world. When you lose a race you are reminded for weeks and months, and even more. When you win, you forget quite quickly, but I shall remember this for a long time. You have to do your best to win the title, but at the same time you have to have a great team to give you that opportunity. SEAT gave me that opportunity. I also have to say thank you to my mechanics and to all my team mates, because we all progressed together and work together during the season. And even yesterday we were sharing some information with Gabriele, and that is quite fantastic in a team. We have a real team spirit at SEAT !"*

Gabriele TARQUINI - *"I didn't really expect to win the championship today because I was far from Yvan. He made a fantastic season and scored a lot of points and it was quite impossible to beat him. Sometimes I was faster than him and sometimes slower. And in terms of competition it was in all races. He made a fantastic season and I think it was very tough for me to beat him. I scored many zeros and to win the championship I think you must score the points in every round. Sometimes I had bad luck sometimes I made mistakes. I have nothing to regret. It is also my way to approach the races, I am always focused on the victory and I don't want to finish second or third but sometimes you must adapt your style to the championship and this was not the case."*

Robert HUFF - *"I could have been second as I am only one point away Tarquini. I am very pleased with the result but I think also very lucky in race two to get that result. I had settled for fourth place then I saw crashed cars bouncing off the walls and oil everywhere and I was just lucky to make it through unscathed and come home first in the second win for Chevrolet today. This was especially as it was the last race we shall see the Lacetti on track for the works team and I think it is a perfect farewell for what has been a fantastic car for us."*

Alain MENU - *"Firstly I would like to congratulate Yvan. He already knows I am very pleased for him and I think he really deserved to be world champion, especially after last year. SEAT did a very good job, they had the best package. Obviously I am also very pleased for my victory in Race 1. It was the pole that clinched it. My start was not great, but obviously it is not easy to overtake into the first corner, and then the guys behind were fighting so I was able to build up a lead."*

Andy PRIAULX - *"It is an honour to give the championship to a quality driver, and both Yvan and Gabriele are such drivers. Gabriele gave me his European title in 2004 and I now hand the World title to Yvan. It is a lot easier when you have been beaten by a good driver. I feel very positive about it and look forward to the challenge of trying to win it back next year. The most important thing is to win the championship. That is what everybody is aiming at and nobody remembers anything other than that. I am proud to be the best BMW again and now we have to fight for the title next year."*

Sergio HERNÁNDEZ - *"I think it is always special to be on the podium here in the Independents' class. I was really happy to be there. I was fighting with Franz and he has been really quick here. In the second race I had a problem with the engine and I didn't finish, but I am happy for I have won the Championship, that was my goal for the season."*

Franz ENGSTLER - *"First of all I have to say thank you very much to my whole team, to my sponsors and to BMW. This was our first year in WTCC and it was very hard. Most of the tracks were new to us and the cars were fast so it was a very hard season. I did fight a lot with Sergio and I want to say congratulations to him."*

Jaime PUIG - SEAT Sport Director - *"It has been a fantastic season. We have a great team. The best team, I am sure of it !. I think sometimes when you do something different to the others you can win. And this was the case with SEAT when we decided last year to switch to the turbodiesel. And we are proud to be the first manufacturer world champion with a diesel car."*

## BULLETIN 139

### 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship RACE 1 RESULT

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	23:10.203	9		142.63	2:33.414
2	1		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	23:10.726	9	0.523	142.57	2:33.327
3	12		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	23:18.784	9	8.581	141.75	2:33.604
4	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	23:19.538	9	9.335	141.68	2:33.836
5	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	23:20.074	9	9.871	141.62	2:33.579
6	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	23:20.895	9	10.692	141.54	2:33.597
7	11		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	23:21.421	9	11.218	141.49	2:33.723
8	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	23:22.283	9	12.080	141.40	2:33.439
9	6		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	23:23.112	9	12.909	141.32	2:33.808
10	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	23:24.428	9	14.225	141.18	2:33.842
11	18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	23:30.912	9	20.709	140.53	2:33.808
12	31		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	23:31.627	9	21.424	140.46	2:34.729
13	66		Andre COUTO	MAC	Honda Accord Euro R	23:37.951	9	27.748	139.84	2:35.234
14	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	23:50.166	9	39.963	138.64	2:33.537
15	42		Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	23:52.530	9	42.327	138.41	2:35.713
16	80		Manabu ORIDO	JPN	Chevrolet Lacetti	24:09.001	9	58.798	136.84	2:37.016
17	88		Matthew MARSH	HKG	BMW 320si	24:12.288	9	1:02.085	136.53	2:38.379
18	13		Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	24:26.964	9	1:16.761	135.16	2:39.865
19	45		George TANEV	BUL	BMW 320si	24:27.568	9	1:17.365	135.11	2:38.162
20	43		Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	24:38.115	9	1:27.912	134.14	2:39.389
21	29		Jaap VAN LAGEN	NED	Lada 110	24:58.074	9	1:47.871	132.36	2:37.115
22	20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	23:07.855	8	1 LAP	126.99	2:33.459
23	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	15:48.501	6	3 LAPS	139.36	2:34.914

#### NOT CLASSIFIED

17		Takayuki AOKI	JPN	BMW 320si	13:17.991	5	D.N.F.	138.04	2:35.862
10		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	10:45.258	4	D.N.F.	136.57	2:34.468
69		Melvin CHOO	SIN	BMW 320si	11:27.844	4	D.N.F.	128.12	2:45.575
27		Kirill LADYGIN	RUS	Lada 110	8:45.722	3	D.N.F.	125.72	2:40.661
81		Masaki KANO	JPN	BMW 320i	2:56.975	1	D.N.F.	124.49	2:56.975

#### FASTEST LAP

1		Andy PRIAULX		BMW 320si	2:33.327	6	143.69kph	89.28mph
31		Sergio HERNANDEZ		BMW 320si	2:34.729	3	142.39kph	88.47mph

Circuito Da Guia  
Circuit Length = 6.1200 km.  
Start: 12:05 End: 12:28

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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## BULLETIN 140

### 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship RACE 2 RESULT

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	23:23.216	9		141.31	2:33.462
2	12		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	23:30.469	9	7.253	140.58	2:33.158
3	1		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	23:31.173	9	7.957	140.51	2:33.281
4	10		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	23:41.336	9	18.120	139.50	2:32.958
5	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	24:14.943	9	51.727	136.28	2:34.611
6	42		Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	24:16.179	9	52.963	136.17	2:35.984
7	80		Manabu ORIDO	JPN	Chevrolet Lacetti	24:21.530	9	58.314	135.67	2:36.247
8	88		Matthew MARSH	HKG	BMW 320si	24:25.839	9	1:02.623	135.27	2:38.937
9	43		Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	24:39.569	9	1:16.353	134.01	2:40.967
10	13		Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	24:56.757	9	1:33.541	132.47	2:42.293
11	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	20:41.119	8	1 LAP	142.01	2:32.933
12	11		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	20:43.010	8	1 LAP	141.79	2:33.524
13	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	20:47.840	8	1 LAP	141.24	2:33.157
14	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	22:16.242	8	1 LAP	131.90	2:33.160
15	17		Takayuki AOKI	JPN	BMW 320si	19:01.132	6	3 LAPS	115.84	2:36.161

#### NOT CLASSIFIED

31		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	13:34.733	5	D.N.F.	135.21	2:36.553
9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	10:31.002	4	D.N.F.	139.66	2:34.203
45		George TANEV	BUL	BMW 320si	10:53.024	4	D.N.F.	134.95	2:38.864
20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	8:56.362	3	D.N.F.	123.23	2:39.497
69		Melvin CHOO	SIN	BMW 320si	9:11.611	3	D.N.F.	119.82	2:57.703
6		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	5:51.092	2	D.N.F.	125.50	2:48.116
66		Andre COUTO	MAC	Honda Accord Euro R	2:48.721	1	D.N.F.	130.58	2:48.721
2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	2:49.272	1	D.N.F.	130.15	2:49.272
18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	3:31.470	1	D.N.F.	104.18	
29		Jaap VAN LAGEN	NED	Lada 110	3:35.846	1	D.N.F.	102.07	
27		Kirill LADYGIN	RUS	Lada 110		0	D.N.F.	N/A	

#### FASTEST LAP

3		Augusto FARFUS		BMW 320si	2:32.933	7	144.06kph	89.51mph
42		Franz ENGSTLER		BMW 320si	2:35.984	3	141.24kph	87.76mph

Circuito Da Guia  
Circuit Length = 6.1200 km.  
Start: 13:20 End: 13:43

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:
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## 2008 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	# - driver	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Valencia (ESP)		Pau (FRA)		Brno (CZE)		Estoril (POR)		Brands Hatch (GBR)		Oschersleben (GER)		Imola (ITA)		Monza (ITA)		Okayama (JPN)		Macau (CHN)		TOTAL
		2 March	6 April	18 May	1 June	15 June	13 July	27 July	31 August	21 September	5 October	26 October	16 November													
1	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	10	4	3	5	5	1	8	2	1	4	6	8	8	0	0	1	10	4	10	5	2	3	6	8	114
2	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	4	10	4	6	8	4	4	5	3	10	0	0	2	4	0	0	4	0	8	10	0	0	2	0	88
3	Robert HUFF (GBR)	0	0	0	0	10	8	5	4	0	0	5	4	0	0	8	6	5	6	3	0	5	4	4	10	87
4	Andy PRIAULX (GBR)	5	8	0	1	2	6	1	10	0	1	3	6	6	0	0	4	0	2	6	0	6	0	8	6	81
5	Rickard RYDELL (SWE)	8	2	8	8	0	2	3	6	0	0	10	1	0	0	3	0	8	3	0	0	10	0	0	5	77
6	Augusto FARFUS (BRA)	0	3	0	0	0	0	10	3	5	6	0	0	0	3	10	3	2	1	0	1	3	8	5	0	63
7	Jörg MÜLLER (GER)	6	5	0	0	4	5	0	0	4	2	0	2	10	5	0	0	1	8	0	0	8	0	0	0	60
8	Jordi GENÉ (ESP)	0	1	10	4	6	3	6	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	5	0	0	2	8	0	0	3	0	56
9	Alain MENU (SUI)	0	0	1	2	1	10	0	0	6	3	0	0	1	10	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	10	0	54
10	Félix PORTEIRO (ESP)	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	5	1	5	3	8	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	51
11	Nicola LARINI (ITA)	0	0	6	0	3	0	2	8	0	0	8	3	0	0	0	0	3	5	4	6	0	0	0	0	48
12	Tiago MONTEIRO (POR)	0	0	2	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	10	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	3	4	2	0	0	43
13	Alessandro ZANARDI (ITA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	8	0	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	4	36
14	Tom CORONEL (NED)	2	0	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	8	0	0	0	0	1	10	0	0	35
15	James THOMPSON (GBR)	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	10	0	0	0	5	1	0	25
16	Sergio HERNÁNDEZ (ESP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	9
17	Franz ENGSTLER (GER)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
18	Stefano D'ASTE (ITA)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	2
18	Manabu ORIDO (JPN)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
20	Olivier TIELEMANS (NED)	1	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
20	Matthew MARSH (HKG)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	1	1

## 2008 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA)		Puebla (MEX)		Valencia (ESP)		Pau (FRA)		Brno (CZE)		Estoril (POR)		Brands Hatch (GBR)		Oschersleben (GER)		Imola (ITA)		Monza (ITA)		Okayama (JPN)		Macau (CHN)		TOTAL
		2 March	6 April	18 May	1 June	15 June	13 July	27 July	31 August	21 September	5 October	26 October	16 November													
1	SEAT	18	15	18	18	14	7	14	11	8	15	16	18	13	9	9	13	18	7	18	18	14	13	9	13	326
2	BMW	11	14	7	8	8	11	13	13	18	14	7	11	16	14	13	14	5	10	9	7	14	14	13	10	274
3	CHEVROLET	0	7	11	10	14	18	9	12	8	6	13	7	6	13	14	9	9	11	9	11	8	6	14	13	238
4	HONDA	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	2	5	4	0	0	3	2	2	0	6	10	2	2	3	6	3	2	60