

ROUNDS 13 & 14 – BRNO, CZECH REPUBLIC QUALIFYING REPORT

Weather: cloudy; the track was dry

HUFF SECURES HIS FIRST POLE OF THE SEASON

Britain's Rob Huff (2:10.860) scored his first pole position since Macau last year making no mistakes on his final lap to finish 0.338s ahead of reigning champion Gabriele Tarquini (2:11.198) at Brno.

Colin Turkington will start as best of the independents in third overall for Race 1 in Brno, while Norbert Michelisz (2:11.436) topped the rookies in sixth overall.

Q1 – Rob Huff led the times as the WTCC cars were making steady progress during the first qualifying session until Fabio Fabiani continued his bad day ending beached in the gravel at T5 for the second time this weekend. The red flag came out as his car was moved out of danger while Gabriele Tarquini, Jordi Gené and Tom Coronel were yet to set a fast lap.

With 10-minutes remaining the session restarted and the field headed back on track. Huff remained at the top with Tarquini, Menu, Muller, Gené, Farfus, Turkington, Coronel, Michelisz and Nykjær going through into Q2.

Andy Priaulx (2:11.761) missed the cut by 0.011s from the Danish rookie with Tiago Monteiro (2:11.994) also struggling and qualifying in 14th.

Q2 – The drivers left it late in the 10-minute session but it only took one flying lap for Britain's Rob Huff to secure his first pole position of the season ahead of reigning champion, Tarquini. Turkington was the fastest BMW driver for the second time this season finishing in third overall, just 0.007s adrift of the Italian.

With the whole field only recording one quick lap each it was Augusto Farfus (2:11.260) to claim fourth position with Alain Menu (2:11.360) in fifth.

Michelisz and Nykjær were left to fight it out in the Rookie Challenge during Q2 with Michelisz coming out to qualify sixth and Nykjær (2:11.826) tenth.

Tom Coronel (2:11.528) fast lap was good enough for seventh ahead of championship leader Yvan Muller (2:11.542) and Gené (2:11.745).

FLASH NEWS

HUFF, MULLER AND PRIAULX ON CZECH TV

Since 2007 the early morning live broadcast during the show "Dobré Ráno" (Good Morning) aired on CT1 – Czech Republic's most viewed TV channel – has become a traditional appointment when the WTCC visits Brno.

On Friday morning the FIA Race director Mirek Bartos and drivers Rob Huff, Yvan Muller and Andy Priaulx were guests in the show's studio that was set up on the terrace of the circuit's pit building.

ROMANOV IS BACK WITH 6 GEARS

Liqui Moly Team Engstler's driver Andrei Romanov is back at the wheel of his BMW 320si after skipping the previous event in Brands Hatch.

His car, that was driven by Tim Coronel in England, is fitted with an X-track, 6-speed, sequential gearbox.



THEY SAID... THEY SAID...

Rob HUFF – pole position: *“It is great to finally get a pole position. The team deserved it as they did a great job. I was confident in qualifying and got a good lap with no mistakes for pole. I will be looking for Chevrolet’s first win in Brno since 2006 and I have given myself the best opportunity to do that. Tarquini will be there alongside me as usual but hopefully I can lead into T1 and control the race from there. It will be tough on tyres again with long fast corners but I am hoping to come home with my first win of the season.”*

Gabriele TARQUINI – qualified second: *“I am happy to be on the first row. I didn’t do a fantastic lap in Q2 making a mistake in the last part of the track but fortunately it was good enough for the front row. In 2008 I won by chance after getting a good start when there was trouble behind me. It will be a hard race for front-wheel drive cars but the tyres are more stable this year so I’m optimistic about the race.”*

Colin TURKINGTON – qualified third and best Independent: *“It’s been a really strong day for eBay Motors. I am really pleased to have given myself a good starting point for race one as over a race distance I think we have a really strong package. It’s difficult to know what to expect as I’ve never raced at Brno before. My plan is to survive the first lap but I’m not here for the full championship so I won’t take any big risks. I just want to get a good result for me and the team.”*

Norbert MICHELISZ – top Rookie, P6: *“It’s good to be at the top of the rookies but to be honest i am looking at the overall classification. I am looking forward to tomorrow as it’s only about 300-kilometres from Budapest so I have a lot of supporters here, which will help in the races tomorrow.”*

**2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship
COMBINED QUALIFYING RESULT**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	Q1	Q2
1	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	2:10.611	2:10.860
2	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	2:10.666	2:11.198
3	29	I	Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320si	2:11.179	2:11.205
4	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	2:11.111	2:11.260
5	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	2:10.678	2:11.360
6	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	2:11.601	2:11.436
7	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	2:11.498	2:11.528
8	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	2:10.885	2:11.542
9	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	2:11.009	2:11.745
10	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	2:11.750	2:11.826
11	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	2:11.761	
12	24	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	2:11.798	
13	25	I	Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	2:11.833	
14	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	2:11.994	
15	20	I	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:12.093	
16	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	2:12.180	
17	21	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	2:12.496	
18	26	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	2:12.617	
19	15	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	2:12.658	
20	19	I	Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:13.007	
21	16	I	Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	2:13.989	
22	33	I	Fabio FABIANI	ITA	BMW 320si	2:19.110	

QUALIFICATION MAXIMA 2:19.753

Brno

Circuit Length = 5.4030 km.

Start: 15:00 End: 15:42

Weather/Track: Bright 21C / Dry 31C

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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