

2017 TCR #2

World and life



International: Rustavi & Bahrain



Report: Asia & Benelux



Preview: Five series at the start



> EDITORIAL

The season heats up, while the latest TCR car to be launched – the Hyundai New Generation i30 – has just begun its testing programme (see the next page), most of the TCR series worldwide have kicked off or are about to start

In the next four weeks TCR cars will be racing in twelve different countries, including Sweden, Finland and Estonia for the first time.

The International Series will resume soon with back-to-back rounds in Spa and Monza, but before that the ADAC TCR Germany begins this weekend in Oschersleben setting an impressive new record for the category with 44 full season entries.

Equally successful appears to be the TCR Scandinavia series that has attracted over twenty competitors for its maiden season.

The number of TCR cars is also growing in long distance races, thanks to the fact that they can compete for overall victories in the 24H TCE Series and the Super Taikyu. Without forgetting that a TCR class has been created within the very popular VLN series.

The level of competition is also improving and the first races of the season meant that new brands have savoured the taste of victory. The brand new Audi RS3 LMS first proved to be fast and reliable in endurance events and then scored four sprint race victories in the last weekend, between Zhuhai and Spa, the Peugeot 308 won the 12H Red Bull Ring despite its small (1.6L) engine and the Alfa Romeo Giulietta claimed a double win in the International Series.

And the success of the Romeo Ferraris-built Giulietta has been a quite remarkable exploit, considering that never before has a car developed by a private engineering company – without direct support from a manufacturer – won a TCR race.

It's no wonder that general interest in TCR continues to grow. New manufacturers are considering to develop their own cars and top-level drivers who are currently competing in other series - some even more titled - are eagerly looking at it.

2016 TCR
World and life

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The Hyundai i30 TCR takes the track

Hyundai Motorsport's first project for circuit racing took a big step forward earlier this week, when former World Touring Car champion Gabriele Tarquini drove the New Generation i30 TCR on the track for the first time, beginning the testing programme.

The Customer Racing department travelled to Motorland Aragón in Spain as the development phase of the project got underway. Prior to the trip the team had completed several shakedown runs, but the three days at the track gave the engineers a first opportunity to gather data about the car's behaviour around a racing circuit.

Completing the running without major reliability issues the team was able to try alternative settings as they started to work towards a base set-up. The mix of corners on the Aragón circuit made it the perfect venue for

the maiden test. The 5.3km layout allowed the team and Tarquini to refine the handling balance through both slow and high-speed corners, as well as under heavy braking for the hairpin at the end of the long back straight.

The team was also able to test a number of different engine map settings to begin to gauge the performance of the two-litre turbocharged engine, which is connected to a six-speed sequential gearbox, operated with paddle-shifters.

Following the test the car returned to Hyundai Motorsport's headquarters in Alzenau, Germany, where the team will prepare for next date in a busy development schedule.

Customer Racing department manager Andrea Adamo said: *"The first test of a new car is always a very exciting*

moment in a project, and to have come through three days without a major problem makes it even better. We were able to complete all the work that we had set out for the test, which is obviously a nice start to a busy development schedule for the New Generation i30 TCR project. We were able to work on the balance of the car, and start developing an initial set-up that we can use in future, not only for the handling, but the important engine and differential settings. We can now use these as a base for future tests as we turn our focus to gaining the maximum performance from specific components."

Testing will continue through the summer and autumn at different venues around Europe. Hyundai Motorsport expect to deliver the first cars to customers in early December.







A thrilling start

GEORGIA AND BAHRAIN PROVIDED
EVENTFUL RACE WEEKENDS

The TCR International Series has made a thrilling start for its third season, with two events plenty of action at the Rustavi International Motorpark in Georgia and the Bahrain International Circuit.

The fact that the Georgian weekend was the first-ever international motorsport event in the Country meant there was huge interest from local fans and media. Their hero Davit Kajaia repaid that attention by qualifying on pole position for Race 1 and duly delivered a lights-to-flag victory that had the capacity crowd cheering him on with every lap. The win also gave the Romeo Ferraris-built Alfa Romeo Giulietta its maiden TCR victory, while the fact that the Italian cars are run by the GE-Force team from Georgia gave the fans yet another reason to celebrate. Hungary's Ferenc Ficzá finished second in the Zele Racing SEAT León while Stefano Comini successfully defended third place on the final lap of the race to give the Audi RS3 LMS and Comtoy Racing their first podium finish.

In Race 2, TCR newcomer Giacomo Altoé started from pole position in one of WestCoast Racing's Volkswagen Golf GTi cars, thanks to the reversed top-ten grid. The 16-year old was quickly overtaken by Pepe Oriola and his new Lukoil Craft-Bamboo teammate Hugo Valente, however, with Altoé eventually finishing in tenth place. Oriola held off Valente to win, keeping intact his record of winning at least one of the opening pair of races each year, while Hungary

again had reason to celebrate; in fact Valente was demoted by a penalty and 17-year old Attila Tassi was promoted to second ahead of Jean-Karl Vernay.

Both of the races at Rustavi delivered plenty of action. The first, on a wet track, saw a four-car battle for the podium places that was only settled on the final dash for the finish line, while the second race witnessed a thrilling series of clashes that decided the majority of the top ten

positions. Leaving Georgia, Kajaia held a six-point advantage over Tassi in the Drivers' series with Oriola a further point adrift.

From the changeable weather in Georgia, the series headed to the forty-degree heat of the Middle East for Rounds 3 and 4. Bahrain was the first of two race weekends in 2017 where the TCR International Series supports Formula One and the heat was always going to be an issue for both drivers and cars.







After a frustrating weekend in Georgia, the DG Sport Compétition Opel Astra cars dominated Qualifying, with Mat'o Homola just edging out Pierre-Yves Corthals to make it a 1-2 for the team. An engine change after Free Practice meant Homola started Race 1 from the back of the grid, however, and a Balance of Performance adjustment then meant Corthals struggled to match his Qualifying pace in the two races.

In Race 1, a stunning start saw the M1RA Honda Civic of Roberto Colciago storm from the second row of the grid into the lead going into the first corner and the Italian driver then never looked back. The victory – his second in the International Series – also meant Honda became the third winning brand of the 2017 season after the victories for Alfa Romeo and SEAT in the first two races. Second-placed Hugo Valente finished on the podium, while Jean-Karl Vernay in the solitary Leopard Racing Volkswagen Golf secured third place.

Race 2 again delivered an exciting spectacle, with pole-sitter Ferenc Ficzá and Dušan Borković being beaten to Turn 1 by Attila Tassi.

RUSTAVI - RACE 1, SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2017

	DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1	Davit Kajaia	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	15 laps in 25:56.717
2	Ferenc Ficzá	SEAT León TCR	ZeLe Racing	0.374
3	Stefano Comini	Audi RS 3 LMS TCR	Comtoy Racing	1.176
4	Roberto Colciago	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	1.478
5	Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	1.784
6	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	6.667
7	Pepe Oriola	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	7.480
8	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	WestCoast Racing	7.841
9	Dušan Borković	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	10.842
10	Gianni Morbidelli	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	WestCoast Racing	11.388

Fastest lap: Davit Kajaia, 1:49.626, average 132.29 kph, lap 2

RUSTAVI - RACE 2, SUNDAY 2 APRIL 2017

	DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1	Pepe Oriola	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	17 laps in 29:40.114
2	Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	4.823
3	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	5.466
4	Dušan Borković	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	11.412
5	James Nash	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	19.012
6	Davit Kajaia	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	19.835
7	Gianni Morbidelli	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	WestCoast Racing	20.712
8	Pierre-Yves Corthals	Opel Astra TCR	DG Sport Compétition	33.498
9	Hugo Valente	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	34.056
10	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	WestCoast Racing	34.127

Fastest lap: Pepe Oriola, 1:42.657, average 144.48 kph, lap 10

INTERNATIONAL SERIES



BAHRAIN - RACE 1, SATURDAY 15 APRIL 2017

	DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1	Roberto Colciago	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	9 laps in 20:20.221
2	Hugo Valente	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	5.502
3	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	7.637
4	Dušan Borković	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	8.763
5	Pierre-Yves Corthals	Opel Astra TCR	DG Sport Compétition	9.661
6	Pepe Oriola	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	9.912
7	James Nash	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	11.284
8	Stefano Comini	Audi RS 3 LMSTCR	Comtoy Racing	11.581
9	Gianni Morbidelli	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	WestCoast Racing	12.200
10	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	WestCoast Racing	19.061

Fastest lap: Davit Kajaia, 2:13.635, average 145.79 kph, lap 2

BAHRAIN - RACE 2, SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2017

	DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1	Dušan Borković	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	9 laps in 20:40.114
2	James Nash	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	4.154
3	Hugo Valente	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	4.861
4	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	5.391
5	Roberto Colciago	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	5.690
6	Ferenc Fiza	SEAT León TCR	Zeke Racing	9.161
7	Pepe Oriola	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	14.967
8	Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	15.154
9	Stefano Comini	Audi RS 3 LMSTCR	Comtoy Racing	15.261
10	Gianni Morbidelli	Volkswagen Golf GTi TCR	WestCoast Racing	16.525

Fastest lap: Dušan Borković, 2:13.476, average 145.97 kph, lap 2

This time, however, the front row pair struck back and Borković quickly took the lead. The Alfa Romeo is a lot harder on its tyres than the other TCR

cars and so once Borković had opened up a gap, it then became a matter of managing the tyre wear until the Serbian driver could cross the line and take his first – and the Alfa's second – TCR victory. Lukoil Craft-Bamboo again had two drivers on the podium, but this time it was James Nash who finished second ahead of Valente.

After the first four races of the season, the top three drivers are separated by only two points: Jean-Karl Vernay leads the Drivers' series from Dušan Borković with Roberto Colciago third.

The International Series now faces a streak of five European events: Spa in Belgium, Monza in Italy, Salzburgring in Austria, Budapest in Hungary and Oschersleben in Germany.



Thong and Sritrai shares wins in Zhuhai

After Volkswagen Golf cars dominated the TCR Asia series opener in Sepang, Audi and Honda struck back at Zhuhai with Jasper Thong and Tin Sritrai sharing victories.

The 17-year old Thong in the Audi RS3 LMS run by Phoenix Racing Asia under the banner of Audi Hong Kong sprinted to the lead at the start, followed by Lai Wee Sing (R Engineering Honda Civic Type-R), Kanthadee Kusiri (Liqui Moly Team Engstler Volkswagen Golf GTi) and Sritrai (Team Thailand Honda). During the first lap Lai was passed by Kusiri and Sritrai, then made a

mistake and dropped down the order. On lap 2, Sritrai spun at T1 and dropped down too, while Chen Wei An (Tianshi Racing Team Audi) joined the leading duo of Thong and Kusiri. The fight for the lead was exciting, with Thong and Kusiri driving side-by-side and Chen trying to find a gap. On lap 6, Chen made his move at T1, but went off and retired. For the remaining 8 laps, Thong managed to keep Kusiri at bay and won by a one-tenth margin; Huang Chu Han (Tianshi Racing Team Audi) took third place ahead of point leader Diego Moran (Liqui Moly Team

Engstler Volkswagen); Sritrai recovered to fifth after his spin. On the wet track Sritrai made the best start and took the lead of Race 2, chased by Huang and Lai. On lap 3, Chen overtook Lai for third, but a couple of laps later went off and lost several positions. Filipe de Souza (Macau Racing Team Volkswagen) was the fastest driver on the track and joined Huang, Lai and Kusiri in a close fight for second; the Macanese managed to overtake his three rivals and closed the gap from the leader Sritrai. On the last-but-one lap, de Souza



REGIONAL & NATIONAL



attacked, but went off and re-joined just ahead of the Lai-Huang-Kusiri trio. Sritrai crossed the line first, while de Souza maintained second place from Lai; Huang went wide at the last turn and handed fourth to Kusiri.

Despite a poor weekend, Moran maintained his leadership with 72 points, but Kusiri (68) and Sritrai (67) have closed the gap. The series' will return to the Zhuhai International Circuit, on 13/14 May for rounds 5 and 6.

Results

Zhuhai, Round 3, Sunday 23 April

1. Jasper Thong (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Kantadhee Kusiri (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Huang Chu Han (Audi RS3 LMS)

Zhuhai, Round 4, Sunday 23 April

1. Tin Sritrai (Honda Civic); 2. Filipe de Souza (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Lai Wee Sing (Honda Civic)





Victories for Audi, Opel and SEAT at Spa

The TCR Benelux Series lived a very entertaining season-opening event at Spa, with many guest stars. On Saturday, the Delahaye Racing SEAT León of the Mondron brothers took the Qualifying Race, while the Comtoyou Racing Audi RS3 LMS won three out of the four Sprint races (two with Stefano Comini, one with Sheldon Van der Linde) and the DG Sport Compétition Opel Astra of Mat'o Homola clinched the other victory. Comini-Van der Linde emerged as the first points leaders (105 points) ahead of the Mondron brothers (69) and Vernay-Huff (64). Guillaume and Edouard Mondron won the Qualifying Race ahead of the Boutsen Ginion Racing Honda Civic cars of Stéphane Lémeret-Tom Coronel and Benjamin Lessennes-Enzo Guibbert. The race was marked by a lively first lap, which saw the poleman Homola withdrawing with electrical problems and a pile-up at the chicane that eliminated Denis Dupont (Team WRT SEAT) and forced Rob Huff (WRT Volkswagen Golf) to pit for repairs.

Comini, fifth on the grid, took the lead in Race 1 at the end of the first lap; however on lap 5 he was passed by Frédéric Caprassé's Opel who was given a 5-second penalty for jump start. Comini retook the lead in the penultimate lap and won from Lessennes and Jean-Karl Vernay (Team WRT Volkswagen). In the second race, Comini led from lights to flag beating Vernay, his former teammate in the International Series. Lessennes finished third, while Kevin Abbring's Peugeot 308 and the 2016 champion Lémeret's Honda couldn't take part in the race due to the damage sustained in a collision at the end of Race 1. The Honda couldn't be repaired, which forced Coronel out of Races 3 and 4. Homola beat bad luck to take victory in Race 3 with his Opel Astra. He took the lead from the pole at the start, but he had to fight hard in the closing laps to keep at bay van der Linde's Audi and Huff's Volkswagen. In Race 4, van der Linde gave Comtoyou Racing and Audi their

third win of the day. He built a comfortable lead and resisted the great recovery from Maxime Potty (Team WRT Volkswagen) who had passed teammate Rob Huff for second during the final lap. Homola, was on pole, but had to stop in the pits on lap 2 with technical issues. The next rounds of the TCR Benelux Series are scheduled at Zandvoort, Netherlands, on May 20/21.

Results

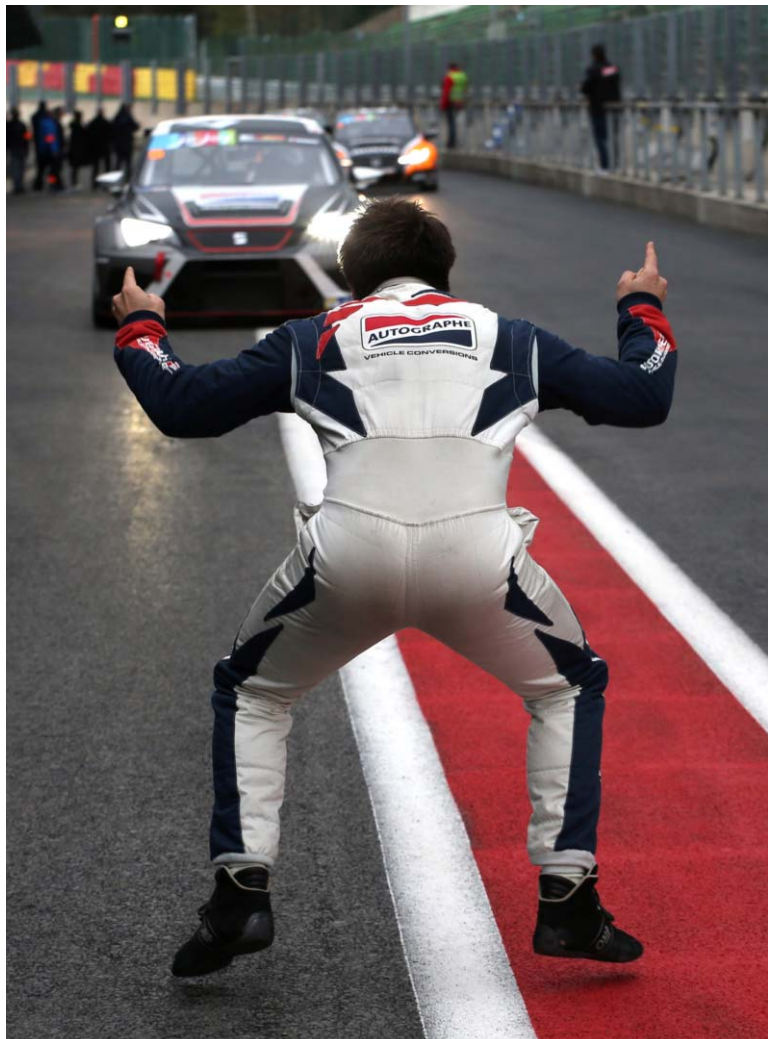
Spa, Round 1, Sunday 23 April
1. Stefano Comini (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Benjamin Lessennes (Honda Civic); 3. Jean-Karl Vernay (Volkswagen Golf)

Spa, Round 2, Sunday 23 April
1. Stefano Comini (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Jean-Karl Vernay (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Benjamin Lessennes (Honda Civic)

Spa, Round 3, Sunday 23 April
1. Mat'o Homola (Opel Astra); 2. Sheldon van der Linde (Audi RS3 LMS); 3. Rob Huff (Volkswagen Golf)

Spa, Round 4, Sunday 23 April
1. Sheldon van der Linde (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Maxime Potty (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Rob Huff (Volkswagen Golf)









Five series are ready to kick off

TCR ACTIVITY WORLDWIDE IS READY TO BURST INTO FULL BLOOM,
AS FIVE MORE SERIES WILL START IN THE
UPCOMING WEEKENDS IN GERMANY, ITALY, THAILAND, SCANDINAVIA
AND THE IBERIAN PENINSULA, WITH A TOUCH OF... PINK



For its second season, the ADAC TCR Germany moves the crossbar higher for everyone, asserting itself as the most successful TCR series around with an outstanding 44 entries. Josh Files returns to defend his 2016 title with the same combination of team (Target Competition) and car (Honda Civic Type-R). However, he will face a cosmopolitan bunch of top-level competitors that include experienced Touring Car drivers such as Kristian Poulsen (Liqui Moly Team Engstler Volkswagen Golf), Antti Buri (LMS Racing Audi RS3 LMS), Harald Proczyk (HP Racing SEAT León) and Steve Kirsch (Team ADAC Sachsen Honda). The new generation is also well

represented by the likes of Luca Engstler (Liqui Moly Team Engstler VW), Sheldon van der Linde and Max Hofer (Prosport Performance Audi), Robin Brezina (Aust Motorsport Audi), Niko Kankkunen (LMS Racing Audi) and Tom Lautenschlager (Target Competition Audi) who are all in their teens. Lady drivers are also well represented, by Poland's Gosia Rdest (Target Competition Audi) and Switzerland's Jasmin Preisig (Lubner Motorsport Opel Astra). The series will be run over seven events (starting with Oschersleben next week) with a couple of trips abroad: to the Red Bull Ring in Austria and to Zandvoort in the Netherlands.



2016 TCR Portugal champion Francisco Mora will race in the TCR Ibérico





Josh Files (on the other page) will defend the TCR Germany title; Jasmin Preisig in the Lubner Motorsport Opel Astra



Buy one and get two free! A driver can do just that by racing in the new TCR Ibérico series, as he or she also has the opportunity to contest the TCR Portugal and TCR Spain titles. The joint venture between the Portuguese promoter Fulleventos and its Spanish partner, V-Line Org. aims to revive the splendour of Touring Cars across the two countries. The calendar of the Iberian series (that coincides with that of TCR Spain) spans four events, two in Portugal and two in Spain. The opening round will be next week in Estoril. The TCR Portugal competitors will race in two further rounds.

In a field of ten or twelve cars, there is a team that embodies the spirit of the two promoters: a Baporo Motorsport SEAT León shared by Gustavo Moura of Portugal and the young Faust Salom, the 2016 champion of TCR Spain. The outfit will also run another León for the Andorran lady Amalia Vinyes. Francisco Abreu will be driving a Volkswagen Golf run by Novadriver, while last year's winner of TCR Portugal, Francisco Mora, has remained faithful to his SEAT and to Veloso Motorsport that will also field an Audi RS3 LMS for the pairing of Rafael Lobato and Patrick Cunha.



Amalia Vinyes



The second season of TCR Thailand begins only eight weeks after the end of the first.

In fact, the 2016 title was only awarded at the end of February in Bangsaen, in an event that had been postponed by three months due to the national mourning following the king's death.

New from this year are the first appearance of a Volkswagen Golf GTi, run by Sloth Racing for Paritat Bulbon, and the arrival of two strong title contenders: Pasarit Phromsombat and Nattavid Leewattanavalagul, who will be driving SEAT León cars run by the RMI Racing Team.

Phromsombat, three-time champion in the Thailand Super Series, and Leewattanavalagul, a diminutive lady who has proved to be more than up to the task when fighting with her male competitors, tested their cars for the first time last week.

The Chang International Circuit in Buriram will host the opening round next week and three of the remaining four events, including one that welcomes the International Series in October.

On top
Gosia Rdest,
below Nattavid
Leewattanavalagul
(left) and
Mikaela
Åhlin-Kottulinsky
(right)



The switch of the popular STCC to TCR is proving to be the right move, as the new Scandinavian series has already attracted more than twenty competitors, for the strongest field for more than a decade.

And quantity is matched by quality, as some of the region's strongest Touring Car specialists have joined, beginning with Robert Dahlgren (PWR Racing SEAT León) and Fredrik Eklblom (Kristoffersson Motorsport Audi RS3 LMS) both former Volvo factory drivers in the World Championship.

The list also includes Mattias Andersson (Team Honda Racing

Honda Civic Type-R), Daniel Haglöf (PWR Racing SEAT), four Finns and a young but experienced lady, Mikaela Åhlin-Kottulinsky whose late grandfather Freddy became Swedish Formula 3 champion in 1966 – fighting against the likes of Ronnie Peterson – and won the Paris-Dakar in 1980. For its maiden season the TCR Scandinavia will run mostly in Sweden (six of the seven rounds) with one visit to Alastaro, Finland. An expansion to Denmark and Norway is planned for 2018. The season opener will take place at Knutstorp in the first weekend of May.



Massimiliano
Mugelli and
his Audi
RS3 LMSi



The
Kristoffersson
Motorsport
Volkswagen
Golf Ti



Nicola Baldan's
SEAT León



Italy's was one of the first national touring car series to accept the TCR cars back in 2015. After a maiden season as one of the classes in the CIT (Campionato Italiano Turismo), TCR rose to the major category in 2016 and eventually the promoter ACI Sport renamed the whole series as TCR Italy Touring Car Championship for 2017. Although last year's champion Roberto Colciago has made the switch to the International Series, the new season looks promising with a field of 16/18 cars. Among the probable

title contenders are Samuele Piccin, third classified in 2016 (MM Motorsport Honda Civic Type-R), Andrea Argenti (South Italy Racing SEAT León) and the Pit Lane Competizioni pairing of Nicola Baldan (SEAT) and Massimiliano Mugelli (Audi).

The calendar is comprised of seven events at some of the most famous motorsport venues such as Imola, Monza and Mugello. The opening round will be hosted by the Adria International Raceway on May 6 and 7.

The endurance experience

TCR CARS PROVE SUCCESSFUL IN LONG DISTANCE RACES

The number of teams and drivers who have picked TCR cars to take part in long distance races is growing as more endurance series are creating their own TCR categories.

A powerful impulse to the movement has been given this year by the

opening up to TCR of two hugely popular national series: the VLN in Germany and the Super Taikyu in Japan. They have joined Creventic's 24H Series and 24H TCE Series that had already established TCR classes in 2016, with increasing success.





TCR 24H Series

While the two opening rounds of the 24H Series at Dubai and Mugello were won by Audi RS3 LMS cars, the 12H of Red Bull Ring recorded Peugeot's first ever TCR victory. Although the 308 Racing Cup is not yet in full TCR specs – Peugeot Sport's kit will be launched by the end of the year – Team Altran Peugeot claimed a 1-2 finish in the class and its cars were classified 17th and 18th overall in the Austrian race.

Guillaume Roman, Thierry Blaise and Kim Holmgaard covered 369 laps, one more than their teammates Stéphane Ventaja, Thierry Boyer and Michael Carlsen. The Speed Factory Racing Audi RS3 LMS of Jesus Fuster, Miguel Abello, Mirko van Oostrum and Jaime Fuster that had been fastest in Qualifying took third place, 36 laps down after a series of incidents that resulted in pit stops for repairs.





TCR 24H TC Series

TCR cars were the dominant force in the 24H Touring Car Series's first two rounds at Silverstone and Magny-Cours. Thirteen TCR cars took the start out of a 30-car field at Silverstone and eventually filled the top six positions in the overall classification. Victory went to the Team Bleekemolen SEAT León shared by Sebastiaan Bleekemolen, Melvin de Groot, Rob Smith and Rene Steenmetz that completed 549 laps for a distance of 3239 kilometres. The Pit Lane Competizioni Audi RS3 LMS DSG (Alberto Vescovi, Roberto Ferri, Zach Arnold, Enrico Bettera, John Filippi) claimed second place, five laps behind. Ten further laps down, third position went to the Modena Motorsports SEAT León DSG (Marcel Tjia, Christian Chia, Michael Soeryadjaya, Benny Simonsen, Philippe Descombes). The Monlau Competición SEAT León driven by José Manuel Pérez Aicart, Alba Cano Ramírez and Álvaro Bajo won

the second round: the 12H Magny-Cours.

After setting pole position, the Spanish team led the whole race and Pérez Aicart took the chequered flag after having completed 358 laps on the French circuit, equalling a total distance of 1579 kilometres. Three laps behind the winners, the Red Camel-Jordans.nl

SEAT León TCR DSG (Ivo Breukers, Robert Nearn, Anthony Morris) finished in second place. The Bas Koeten Racing SEAT León TCR DSG (Kristian Jepsen, Jan Sorensen, Morten Jepsen) finished fourth overall and completed the podium of the TCR class. The third round of the 24H TC Series will be the 24H Misano on 7 to 9 July.





The Mathilda Racing Volkswagen Golf GTi driven by Benjamin Leuchter and Andreas Gülden won the TCR class in the first two 4-hour rounds of the VLN series that takes place on the Nürburgring Nordschleife road course.

In the 63. ADAC Westfalenfahrt, Gülden and Leuchter finished in a respectable 31st place overall (out of 182 starters); they beat the LMS Engineering Audi RS3 LMS driven by Matthias Wasel, Marcus Löhnert and Artur Goroyan by 9 minutes and 11

seconds, while the Norwegian trio of Håkon Schjærin, Atle Gulbrandson and Kenneth Østvold completed the podium in a second Audi.

Gülden and Leuchter encored in the 43. DMV 4-Stunden Rennen, ranking 39th overall. Second place went to the Bonk Motorsport Peugeot 308 of Jürgen Nett, Joachim Nett and Bradley Philpot which finished one lap behind the winner and beat the SEAT León shared by Jens Ludmann and Arndt Hallmanns by five minutes.



The TCR concept successfully landed in Japan at Twin Ring Motegi, when four TCR cars took part in the opening round of the Super Taikyu.

In the early stages of the 200-minute race the Team Dream Drive Audi RS3 LMS shared by Shozo Tagahara, Takuya Shirakasa and Naoto Takeda and the Motul Dome Racing Project Honda Civic

Type-R of Hiroki Kato, Keiji Ishikawa and Takuya Kurosawa had a close fight for the lead. However, the Audi soon dropped back because

of a fuel pump issue.

The fight for the lead shifted between the two Honda cars run by the Motul Dome Racing Project and the Modulo

Racing Project driven by Shinichi Ito, Shinichi Ebisawa and Shinji Nakano.

Eventually the former crossed the line victorious, beating the sister car by only 13 seconds.

The two Honda TCR cars also won the overall classification, one lap ahead of a BMW Z4 of the ST-1 class.



TCR International Series (after rounds 4 of 20)



Drivers			
1	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTI	52 pts
2	Dusan Borkovic	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	51
3	Roberto Colciago	Honda Civic Type-R	50
4	Pepe Oriola	SEAT León	45
5	Davit Kajaia	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	39
6	Hugo Valente	SEAT León	38
7	Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R	36
8	James Nash	SEAT León	34
9	Ferenc Ficzá	SEAT León	29
10	Stefano Comini	Audi RS3 LMS	21
11	Pierre-Yves Corthals	Opel Astra	18
12	Gianni Morbidelli	Volkswagen Golf GTI	10
13	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTI	6
14	Mat'o Homola	Opel Astra	5

Teams		
1	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing	103 pts
2	GE-Force	90
3	MIRA	88
4	Leopard Racing Team WRT	52
5	Zeke Racing	30
6	Comtoyou Racing	25
7	DG Sport Competition	24
8	WestCoast Racing	21
9	Icarus Motorsports	1

Model of the year		
1	SEAT León	124 pts
2	Honda Civic Type-R	94
3	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	91
4	Volkswagen Golf GTI	70
5	Audi RS3 LMS	27
6	Opel Astra	27

TCR Asia (after rounds 4 of 12)



Drivers			
1	Diego Moran	Volkswagen Golf GTI	72 pts
2	Kantadhee Kusini	Volkswagen Golf GTI	68
3	Yin Sifral	Honda Civic Type-R	67
4	Lai Wee Sing	Honda Civic Type-R	60
5	Jasper Thong	Audi RS3 LMS	58
6	Mohamed Kaathir	Honda Civic	46
7	Alex Liu	SEAT León	18
8	Douglas Khoo Kok Hui	SEAT León	14
9	Eric Kwong	SEAT León	13
10	Tong Siu Kau	Audi RS3 LMS	12

TCR Asia Cup		
1	Mohamed Kaathir	Honda Civic 90 pts
2	Jasper Thong	Audi RS3 LMS 90
3	Alex Liu	SEAT León 45

Teams		
1	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	140 pts
2	R Engineering	106
3	Team Thailand	67

TCR Benelux (after rounds 4 of 24)



Drivers			
1	Stefano Comini/Sheldon van der Linde	Audi RS3 LMS	105 pts
2	Edouard Mondron/Guillaume Mondron	SEAT León	69
3	Jean-Karl Vernay/Rob Huff	Volkswagen Golf GTI	64
4	Enzo Guilbert/Benjamin Lessenes	Honda Civic Type-R	58
5	Mat'o Homola/Frédéric Caprasse	Opel Astra	49
6	Maxime Potty/Mathieu Detry	Volkswagen Golf GTI	38
7	Willem Meijer/Paul Sijljes	Audi RS3 LMS	22
8	Giacomo Altoè/Romain de Leval	Volkswagen Golf GTI	22
9	Aurélien Comte/Kevin Abbring	Peugeot 308 RC	21
10	Stéphane Lémeret/Tom Coronel	Honda Civic	18

Teams		
1	Comtoyou Racing	108 pts
2	Team WRT	78
3	Delahaye Racing	72

24H Series (after rounds 3 of 6)



Drivers			
1	Julian Griffin/James Kaye/Eric Holstein/Finlay Hutchison	Audi RS3 LMS	29 pts
2	Mathias Beche/John Shen/John Shen/Francis Tjia	SEAT León	26
3	Philippe Olivier/John Allen/JT Coupal/Gosia Rdest/John Weisberg	SEAT León DSG	24
4	Kane Astin/Christian Dijkhof/Daniel Wheeler/Aram Martroussian	SEAT León DSG	21
5	Hermann Bock/Max Partl	Audi RS3 LMS DSG	19
6	Thierry Blaise/Guillaume Roman/Kim Holmgard	Peugeot 308 RC	18
7	Gavin Spencer/Ashley Woodman/Carey Lewis/Frank Pettit	SEAT León DSG	17
8	Siegfried Kudzas/Christian Schmitz/Monika Parhofer/Dirk Vorländer	Audi RS3 LMS DSG	16
9	Thierry Boyer/Stéphane Ventaja/Michael Carlsen	Peugeot 308 RC	15
10	Gerhard Haas/Claudio Truffer/Patrik Meier	Honda Civic Type-R	14

24H TC Series (after rounds 2 of 5)



Drivers			
1	Álvaro Bajo/José Manuel Pérez Aicart/Alba Cano Ramírez	SEAT León	39 pts
2	Roberto Ferry/John Filippi/Zach Arnold	Audi RS3 LMS DSG	36
3	Melvin de Groot/Sebastiaan Bleekemolen/René Steenmetz/Robert Smith	SEAT León	30
4	Enrico Bettera/Alberto Vescovi	Audi RS3 LMS DSG	28
5	Michael Soeryadajaya/Philippe Descombes/Marcel Tjia/Christian Chia	SEAT León DSG	26
6	Gunther Wiesmeier/Felix Wimmer/Matthias Kaiser	SEAT León DSG	24
7	Christian Windschberger/Martin Gasser	SEAT León DSG	24
8	Stefan Tanner/Michel Schaap/Christian Dijkhof/Maxim Aronov	SEAT León DSG	22
9	Klaus Kresnik	SEAT León DSG	22
10	Jurgen Smet	SEAT León DSG	22

SUPER TAIKYU (after rounds 1 of 6)



Drivers			
1	Takuya Kurowasa/Keiji Ishokawa/Hiroki Kato	Honda Civic Type-R	21 pts
2	Shinichi Ito/Shinichi Ebisawa/Shinji Nakano	Honda Civic Type-R	16
3	Koichi Okumura/Kei Akiyoshi/Daisuke Yamawaki	Audi RS3 LMS	13
4	Shozo Tagahara/Takuya Shirasaka/Naoto Takeda	Audi RS3 LMS	12



What's next in the world of TCR

29/30 April	TCR Baltic Trophy	Bikernieki, Latvia
29/30 April	ADAC TCR Germany	Oschersleben
29/30 April	TCR Ibérico, TCR Portugal, TCR Spain	Estoril, Portugal
29/30 April	TCR Thailand	Buriram
5/6 May	TCR International	Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium
6/7 May	TCR Italy	Adria
6/7 May	TCR Scandinavia	Knutstorp, Sweden
6/7 May	24 Series - 24H Paul Ricard	Le Castellet, France
13/14 May	TCR International	Monza, Italy
13/14 May	TCR Asia	Zhuhai, China
13/14 May	TCR Russia	Grozny
19/20 May	TCR Scandinavia	Alastaro, Finland
20/21 May	TCR Benelux	Zandvoort, Netherlands
27/28 May	TCR Russia	Smolensk
27/28 May	ADAC 24H Nürburgring	Nürburgring, Germany