

2017 TCR #3

World and life



International Series: Spa & Monza



Reports: The world in action



Endurance: France & Japan

THE TCR SNAPSHOT



53 years altogether

Where: TCR Benelux at Zandvoort (photographer Jacques Letihon)
What: Young guns on the podium, from left Benjamin Lessennes (17), Giacomo Altoè (16) and Mathieu Detry (20)



What's next in the world of TCR

27/28 May	TCR Russia	Smolensk
27/28 May	ADAC 24H Nürburgring	Nürburgring, Germany
3/4 June	TCR Benelux	Zolder, Belgium
3/4 June	TCR Italy	Misano
10/11 June	TCR International	Salzburgring, Austria
10/11 June	TCR Germany	Red Bull Ring, Austria
10/11 June	TCR Ibérico, TCR Portugal, TCR Spain	Jarama, Spain
10/11 June	Super Taikyu	Suzuka
16/17 June	TCR Scandinavia	Sölvalla
17/18 June	TCR International	Hungaroring, Hungary
17/18 June	TCR China	Ordos
17/18 June	TCR Russia	Nizhny Novgorod
24 June	VLN	Nürburgring

2016 TCR
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TCR DNA – something more than skin deep

Wandering around the TCR paddock in Monza, a new slogan could be seen; a slogan that perfectly captures the 'can-do' attitude of some of the independent competitors who don't have the resources of the big teams. The slogan was 'TCR DNA' and it applied to the two SEAT León cars of Stian Paulsen and Daniele Cappellari, but it's expected to pop up many more times before the season is over. Cappellari is a regular in the TCR Italy series – in which he finished fifth last year – but Monza marked his first appearance in the International Series. The slogan could be seen emblazoned both along the side of car and on his T-shirt, but both the Italian and his Norwegian rival embodied the slogan in almost everything they did that weekend and beforehand. "We are just two people, me and my girlfriend Fabiola, and we only used a total of four tyres over the entire weekend," explained Cappellari. "The only thing I did was switch the front tyres to the back for the second Race. For me, the TCR International Series is the top level of what I can do and I

wanted to come to this, my home event, to be a part of it."

It was a similar story at the far end of the giant tent that served as the TCR paddock. Stian Paulsen is competing in all of the European rounds in a bid to qualify for the one-off TCR Trophy Europe event at the Adria International Raceway in October, but a badly damaged car after the Spa event meant that goal was in jeopardy. A dejected Paulsen posted a video to his Facebook page after Race 2 in Spa;

the broken SEAT and the downbeat message "I'll be back, but I don't know when..." suggested that the one-week gap before Monza wouldn't be enough to repair the car.

"I got back to our base in Germany about 2am on the Saturday night," said Paulsen. "I didn't get much sleep and on the Sunday morning, I said to myself, 'okay, let's see how bad the car is' and then I began to fix it. It wasn't the best preparation, but at least we made it."

Without the kind of budget enjoyed by other teams, Paulsen's team consists of Stian himself, his mum and dad and some friends. "We prepared the car in Norway, but maybe we started a little too late because we had to find the money to buy the operating kit and everything. The preparation isn't perfect, but we're here. I have a three-year plan and so I have to learn as much as possible at every race and go from there."

Social media is clearly important to both drivers, with Paulsen sharing the highs and lows of his season with a series of vlogs. The determination shown by the pair to compete at the highest level of the TCR pyramid surely confirms the accessibility of the series while the hashtag #TCRDNA is one that will be worth watching for as the season goes on.







Vernay takes the lead

TCR
International Series

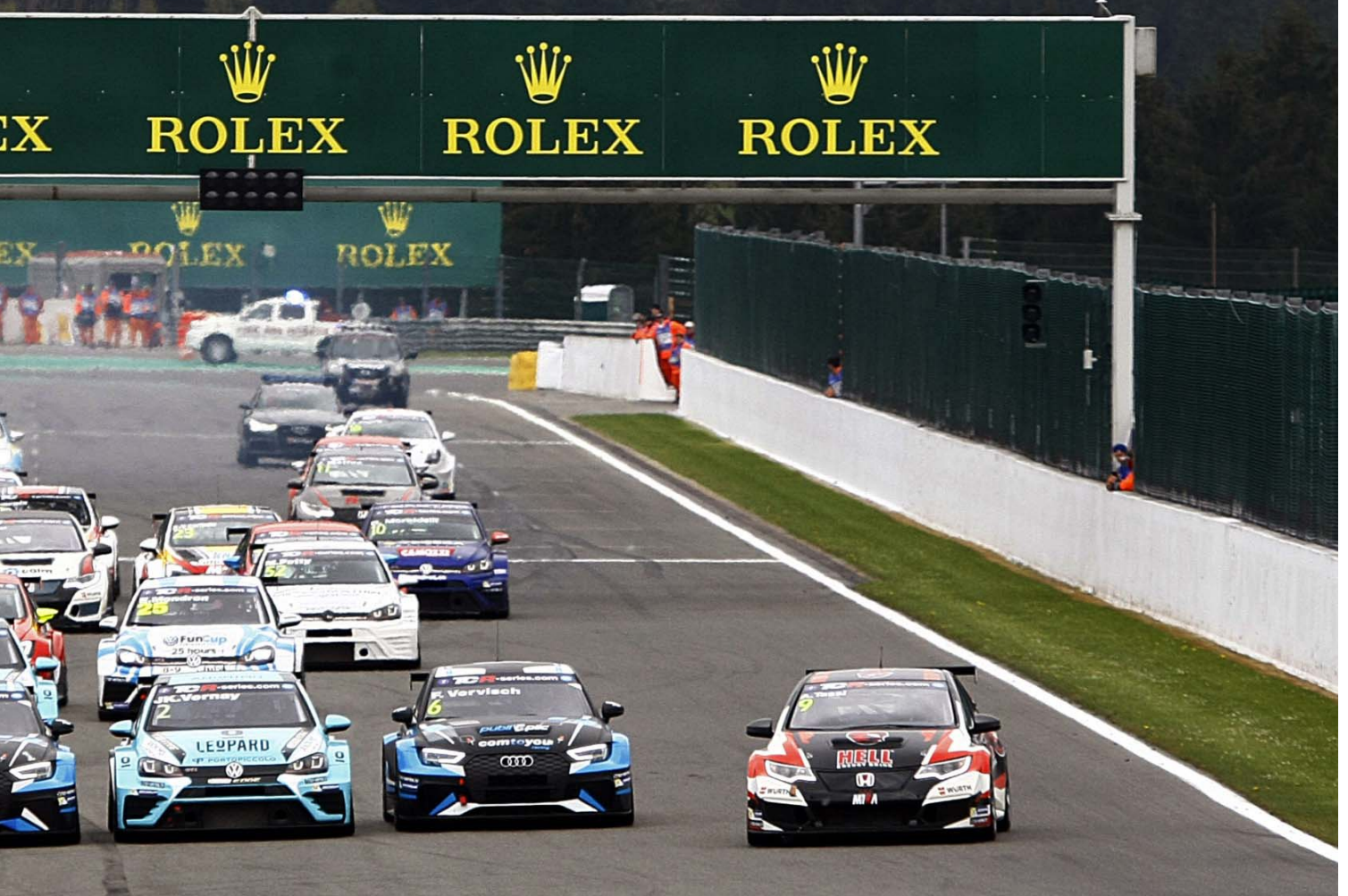
COLCIAGO AND COMINI IN CHASE OF THE FRENCHMAN

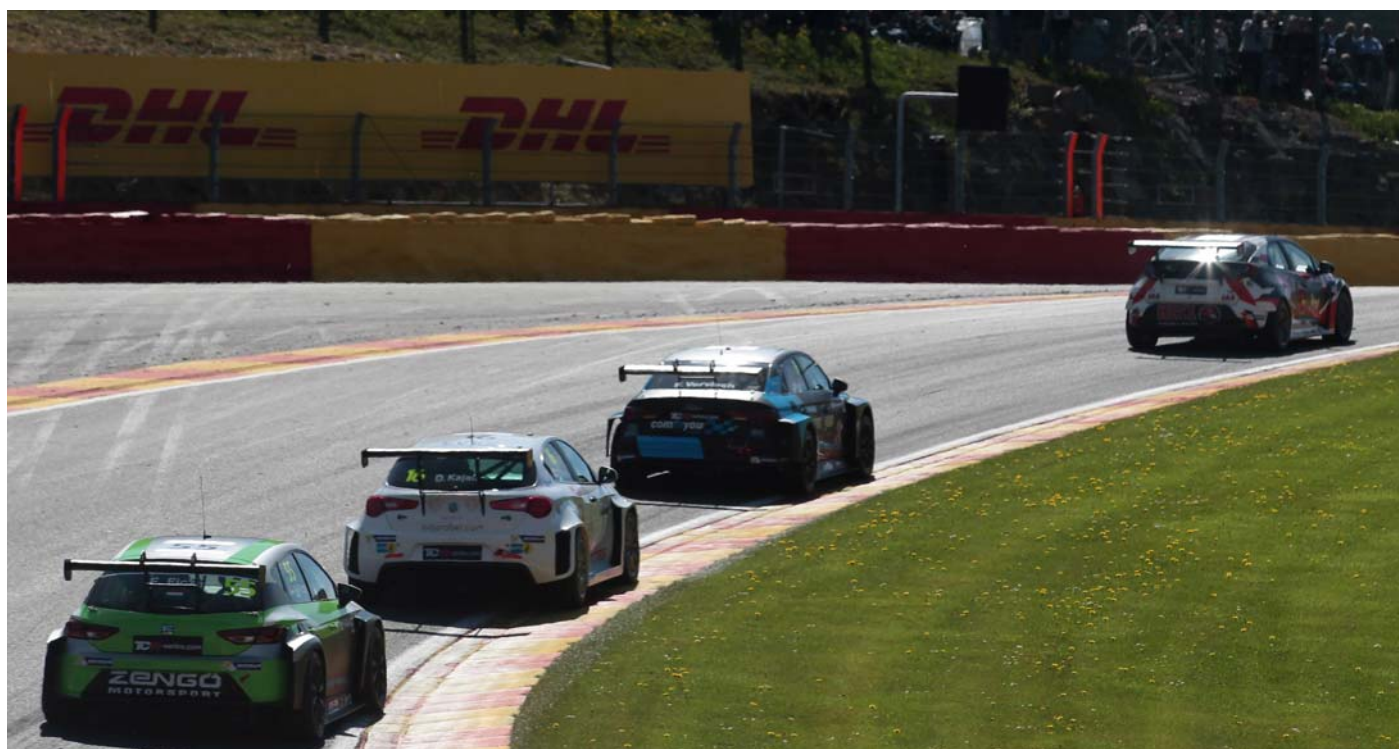
Following the two events in Georgia and Bahrain, the TCR International Series began its European leg with two back-to-back race weekends at Spa-Francorchamps in Belgium and Monza in Italy. The two legendary circuits witnessed four thrilling races that provided close racing and incidents aplenty, but the two meetings didn't pass without controversy.

The 7km track at Spa-Francorchamps saw a total of 24 cars entered, with the series' regulars joined by a number of local drivers, two entrants looking to qualify for the TCR Trophy Europe and a pair of Touring Car star names – Dutch legend Tom Coronel and 2012 World Champion Rob Huff. It was also where the Audi RS3 LMS was predicted to finally get a chance to shine, which is precisely what happened.

Over the first two race weekends, Stefano Comini had struggled to get his 2017 season underway, but the Belgian event saw a dramatic upturn in his fortunes. After qualifying on pole for Race 1, the reigning TCR champion was beaten to the first corner by Attila Tassi's M1RA Racing Honda Civic, but retook the lead on lap 2 and then never looked back. The 17-year old Belgian driver Benjamin Lessennes took a brilliant second place, with Tassi claiming the last of the podium places. Series leader Jean-Karl Vernay was fourth, ahead of Comini's Comtoyout Racing teammate Frédéric Vervisch.







Race 2 began with a series of incidents before the cars had even reached the first corner. Tom Coronel collided with the rear of Pepe Oriola's SEAT, which then hit the Volkswagen Golf GTI of pole-sitter Maxime Potty; the damage eventually forcing the Spaniard to pull out of the race. The remainder of the race then turned into a thriller, with Rob Huff taking the lead on lap 2 and then perfectly judging the moment to back off and allow his teammate Jean-Karl Vernay to slingshot from third place into the lead. Comini, starting from tenth on the grid, managed to avoid the first corner dramas and moved into third place on lap 7. That was how it finished, with Vernay and Huff giving the Leopard Racing Volkswagen cars a 1-2 and a delighted Comini adding third place to his win in Race 1.

It had been a weekend to forget for Lukoil Craft-Bamboo (8th for James Nash in Race 2 was their best result) and DG Sport Compétition, which scored a solitary point when Pierre-Yves Corthals finished 10th in Race 1. Similarly, WestCoast Racing left Spa licking their wounds after Giacomo Altoè was their only points-scorer (10th in Race 2).

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS - RACE 1, FRIDAY 5 MAY 2017

	DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1	Stefano Comini	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	Comtoyout Racing	9 laps in 23:07.903
2	Benjamin Lessennes	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	Boutsen Ginion Racing	3.547
3	Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	8.343
4	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	8.764
5	Frédéric Vervisch	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	Comtoyout Racing	9.063
6	Rob Huff	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	9.325
7	Edouard Mondron	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Delahaye Racing	9.619
8	Tom Coronel	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	Boutsen Ginion Racing	10.550
9	Pepe Oriola	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	11.790
10	Pierre-Yves Corthals	Opel Astra TCR	DG Sport Compétition	12.075

Fastest lap: Stefano Comini, 2:32.101, average 165.77 kph, lap 3

SPA-FRANCORCHAMPS - RACE 2, SATURDAY 6 MAY 2017

	DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	9 laps in 23:13.917
2	Rob Huff	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	0.720
3	Stefano Comini	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	Comtoyout Racing	2.325
4	Edouard Mondron	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Delahaye Racing	3.888
5	Benjamin Lessennes	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	Boutsen Ginion Racing	4.907
6	Frédéric Vervisch	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	Comtoyout Racing	5.909
7	Davit Kajaia	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	11.790
8	James Nash	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	12.398
9	Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	13.116
10	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	WestCoast Racing	13.817

Fastest lap: Stefano Comini, 2:32.593, average 165.24 kph, lap 3



A week later, the TCR circus had moved to 'The Cathedral of Speed' at Monza in Italy. So far, the season had seen six different winners from the six races, but when Roberto Colciago took victory in Race 1, he became the first two-time winner of the year. His young colleague Attila Tassi made another stunning start and ran for much of the race in second place, giving the Honda Civic cars of M1RA Racing a 1-2 finish, while a relieved Pepe Oriola finished third and so claimed some vital points after the frustrations of Spa. Frédéric Vervisch started from pole position, but the Comtoyoud Audi driver slipped to sixth by the chequered flag. In Race 2, however, Vervisch went the other way through the field and, despite starting from tenth thanks to the reversed top-ten, he finished third



MONZA - RACE 1, SATURDAY 13 MAY 2017

DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1 Roberto Colciago	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	11 laps in 22:14.954
2 Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	1.613
3 Pepe Oriola	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	2.258
4 Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	2.408
5 Frédéric Verusch	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	Comtoy Racing	5.881
6 Hugo Valente	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	8.591
7 Mat'ò Homola	Opel Astra TCR	DG Sport Compétition	10.686
8 Stefano Comini	Audi RS 3 LMS TCR	Comtoy Racing	13.338
9 Dušan Borković	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	14.005
10 Ferenc Ficza	SEAT León TCR	Zeke Racing	15.209

Fastest lap: Frédéric Verusch, 2:00.106, average 173.63 kph, lap 7

MONZA - RACE 2, SUNDAY 14 MAY 2017

DRIVER	CAR	TEAM	
1 Stefano Comini	Audi RS 3 LMS TCR	Comtoy Racing	11 laps in 22:14.501
2 Roberto Colciago	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	0.170
3 Frédéric Verusch	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	Comtoy Racing	1.273
4 James Nash	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	1.797
5 Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	Leopard Racing WRT	2.052
6 Mat'ò Homola	Opel Astra TCR	DG Sport Compétition	2.240
7 Davit Kajaia	Alfa Romeo Giulietta TCR	GE-Force	2.369
8 Pepe Oriola	SEAT León TCR	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo	2.789
9 Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R TCR	M1RA	3.361
10 Ferenc Ficza	SEAT León TCR	Zeke Racing	3.754

Fastest lap: Attila Tassi, 1:59.958, average 173.85 kph, lap 5

and so claimed his first podium finish. The race saw a series of tense battles within the top ten, with the scrap between Comini and Colciago being one of the highlights. Comini started from the second row of the grid and, in spite of carrying the maximum 30kg of Success Ballast following Spa, he soon took the lead. Colciago steadily carved his way through the field and moved into second place on lap 7 when he overtook the SEAT of James Nash. The final three laps then saw a tremendous tussle for the lead, with Comini just holding on to take his second win of the year by a margin of just 0.17 second.

Leaving Italy, Vernay still leads the Drivers' series, but his advantage over second-placed Colciago has narrowed to 16 points. The wins in Spa and Monza have catapulted Comini into third place, two points behind Colciago, while Tassi is fourth (+37) and Oriola fifth (+47). In the Teams classification, M1RA leads Comtoy Racing by 24 points, with Lukoil Craft-Bamboo in third place, a further 3 points adrift.

The focus next shifts to the Salzburgring in Austria for rounds 9 and 10, which take place on Sunday June 11th.



Tarquini, a spectator with an interest...

Touring Car legend Gabriele Tarquini was a very attentive spectator in the Monza paddock and in the pit lane, 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!"

After Saturday's race, Tarquini presented the winning trophy to his former Alfa Romeo teammate Roberto Colciago.



Josh Files makes a winning start

TCR Germany's second season began with a stunning 41-car field that packed into the Oschersleben Motorsport Arena for two eventful races.

The reigning champion Josh Files resumed his winning ways at the wheel of his Target Competition Honda Civic; the Briton won the first race, was classified third in the second and took the lead in the standings with a margin of 14 points. In the first race, Files made a great start from fourth on the grid and chased his teammate, pole-sitter Kris Richard. By the start of lap 2, Files had snatched the lead, with Steve Kirsch having taken second place in another Honda and the Audi of Sheldon van der Linde up to third ahead of Richard.

Two incidents within moments of each other on lap 5 then brought out the Safety Car for the first time. Files controlled the restart beautifully and led Kirsch by nearly a second, but the Safety Car was again deployed after another collision.

When racing resumed, Files and Kirsch had a close fight, but frustratingly for Kirsch, another incident again brought out the Safety Car and the clock had run down by the time the race could restart, which meant one last lap in which to dash for the line.

Kirsch wasn't close enough to benefit and so Files got his title defence off to the best possible start by winning the opening round. Kirsch was second and van der Linde third, In Race 2, the 21-year old Florian Thoma started from pole in a Junior

Team Engstler Volkswagen Golf and controlled the race from the front, holding off the challenge from the Target Competition Audi RS3 LMS of Tim Zimmermann.

Files started from seventh on the grid, but another good start meant he was fourth going into Turn 1. He then passed José Rodrigues on lap 2 for third place and held onto the position to claim the final podium place.

Almost inevitably, the Safety Car reappeared and it was duly deployed twice, first to recover a car from the gravel trap and again following an oil fire involving the Honda Civic of Moritz Oestreich; there were just two





Results

Oschersleben, Round 1, Saturday 29 April
 1. Josh Files (Honda Civic); 2. Steve Kirsch (Honda Civic); 3. Sheldon van der Linde (Audi RS3 LMS)

Oschersleben, Round 2, Sunday 30 April
 1. Florian Thoma (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Tim Zimmermann (Audi RS3 LMS); 3. Josh Files (Honda Civic)



racing laps remaining when the race restarted. The result means that Josh Files leads the series on 72 points with van der Linde second, 14 points adrift. Zimmermann (56 points) is third, Thoma (54) fourth and Richard (49) fifth. Next event: Rounds 3 & 4, Red Bull Ring, Austria, 10/11 June.

Estoril



Lobato wins the inaugural race

The new TCR Ibérico started at Estoril with a grid of twelve cars that may also compete for the TCR Portugal and TCR Spain titles.

Rafael Lobato (Velo Motorsport Audi RS3 LMS) and Francisco Mora (Velo Motorsport SEAT León) claimed one race victory apiece and the latter – the 2016 TCR Portugal champion – tops the classification with a margin of two points ahead of Lobato. In Race 1, pole sitter Francisco

Abreu's Volkswagen Golf stalled at the start; Manuel Gião (SEAT) took the lead, but Lobato overtook him on lap 2 and pulled away from the rest of the field.

Behind him there was a fierce fight for second place; eventually Gião handed second to Abreu and third to Mora. Abreu tried to chase Lobato, but the latter upped his pace and won with a 6-second margin on Abreu. Mora was classified third ahead of

Gião, Manuel Pedro Fernandes and Amalia Vinyes.

José Pedro Faria was classified tenth in the CRM Motorsport KIA cee'd; it was the first appearance of the Korean car that is running under a temporary homologation.

In the second race, Mora sprinted from pole position and consistently opened a gap, finishing the 30-minute race with a winning margin of nearly eight seconds.



Results

Estoril, Round 1, Saturday 29 April
 1. Rafael Lobato (Audi RS3 LMS); 2.
 Francisco Abreu (Volkswagen Golf);
 3. Francisco Mora (SEAT León)

Estoril, Round 2, Sunday 30 April
 1. Francisco Mora (SEAT León); 2.
 César Machado (SEAT León); 3.
 Francisco Abreu (Volkswagen Golf)

Patrick Cunha who had replaced Lobato in the Race 1 winning Audi retired in the early stages after a collision with Gustavo Moura's SEAT. César Machado (SEAT) held onto second position for the entire race, while Abreu overtook the SEAT cars of Nuno Batista and Amalia Vinyes to move up to third. Vinyes finished a respectable fourth, ahead of Batista. Next event: Rounds 3 & 4, Jarama, Spain, 10/11 June.





STCC's successful conversion



The conversion of the Scandinavian Touring Car Championship to TCR rules has proved to be extremely successful. After the 'silhouette' seasons, in which the STCC struggled to put together a decent grid, about twenty drivers have taken part in the TCR Scandinavia's first events at Knutstorp in Sweden and Alastaro in Finland. Among them the cream of Nordic Touring Cars: Fredrik Ekblom, Robert Dahlgren, Johan Kristoffersson, Daniel Haglöf and many more.

Dahlgren emerged as the guy to beat at Knutstorp. The PWR Racing driver and his SEAT León won the first two races and finished second in the third behind Ekblom's Kristoffersson Motorsport Volkswagen Golf GTI. In the first race, Dahlgren benefitted



Results

Knutstorp, Round 1, Saturday 6 May
 1. Robert Dahlgren (SEAT León); 2. Fredrik Ekblom (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Daniel Haglöf (SEAT León)

Knutstorp, Round 2, Saturday 6 May
 1. Robert Dahlgren (SEAT León); 2. Fredrik Ekblom (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Tobias Brink (Audi RS3 LMS)

Knutstorp, Round 3, Saturday 6 May
 1. Fredrik Ekblom (Volkswagen Golf); Tobias Brink (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Robert Dahlgren (SEAT León); 3. Daniel Haglöf (SEAT León)

Alastaro, Round 4, Saturday 20 May
 1. Johan Kristoffersson (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Fredrik Blomstedt (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Fredrik Ekblom (Volkswagen Golf)

Alastaro, Round 5, Saturday 20 May
 1. Johan Kristoffersson (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Fredrik Ekblom (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Robert Dahlgren (SEAT León)

Alastaro, Round 6, Saturday 20 May
 1. Johan Kristoffersson (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Fredrik Blomstedt (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Fredrik Ekblom (Volkswagen Golf)

from Ekblom's poor start and took the lead from the Kristoffersson Motorsport duo of Fredrik Blomstedt and Ekblom; the latter managed to overtake his teammate and closed the gap, but could not find a way to pass the leader.

Dahlgren sprinted from pole position in Race 2; just like in the first race, Ekblom was chasing Dahlgren, but his hopes were frustrated by the Safety Car that was deployed after an incident and circulated until the end of the race. In Race 3 Ekblom made up for the disappointment and led for the whole distance, followed by Dahlgren, while Brink, Haglöf and Blomstedt delivered a good fight for third place.

The next event at Alastaro welcomed back Kristoffersson to the championship and the World Rallycross star proved to be in a league of his own. After setting pole position for all three races, the Swede made a clean sweep, claiming three lights-to-flag victories and inflicting big gaps to the rest of the field.



The Volkswagen Golf GTI cars run by Johan's father's Kristoffersson Motorsport conquered five podium positions out of six, with Blomstedt finishing second in Races 1 and 3, while Ekblom was classified second in Race 2 and third in the other two races. Only the PWR Racing SEAT of

Dahlgren disrupted their monopoly with a third in Race 2. Ekblom took the lead in the standings with 111 points, five more than Dahlgren; Kristoffersson squeezed into third position with 78, while Blomstedt moved up to fourth (69).



Plenty of emotion at Zandvoort

The four Sprint Races at Zandvoort provided plenty of emotion with three different winners and a number of incidents. 2016 champion Stéphane Lémeret again savoured the sweet taste of victory in Race 1 at the wheel of his Boutsen Ginion Racing Honda Civic. Italian teenager Giacomo Altoè provided a surprise in Race 2, driving his Delahaye Racing Volkswagen Golf to an authoritative win. Races 3 and 4 went to a local hero, Jaap van Lagen, in an Audi RS3 LMS run by Certainty Racing. But the Dutchman had to fight to overcome the resistance of Aurélien Comte's Peugeot 308.

After two events, Guillaume Mondron leads the standings with 159 points, 47 more than his new teammate Altoè; together they won the Qualifying Race on Saturday. Benjamin Lessennes (Boutsen Ginion Racing) is third, a further two points adrift.

Race 1 – Altoè was fastest away from the grid, but Lémeret overtook him after Turn 1 and took the lead. After a Safety Car intervention

following an incident, Lémeret successfully defended his lead from Altoè's attempts that culminated in a contact on the last lap.

Lessenes and Detry finished third and fourth after passing Abbring's Peugeot.

Race 2 – Pole sitter Lémeret stalled his engine and Altoè sprinted into the lead, chased by Lessennes and Detry. The young Italian was able to create a gap and from mid-race onwards the first four cars were running in a stretched line on their way to finish in that order. On lap 6 Lémeret, who was lying seventh, slowed after contact with another car and retired, while the Audi cars of Meijer and Reicher collided as they were fighting for seventh position.

Race 3 – Van Lagen sprinted from the pole and rejected an attempt from Comte who dropped to fourth behind Coronel and Mondron. The leader built a comfortable gap; behind him Comte was able to overtake Mondron for third and during the final laps even tried to steal second place from Coronel.

Results

Zandvoort, Round 5, Sunday 21 May
1. Stéphane Lémeret (Honda Civic); 2. Giacomo Altoè (Volkswagen Golf); 3. Benjamin Lessennes (Honda Civic)

Zandvoort, Round 6, Sunday 21 May
1. Giacomo Altoè (Volkswagen Golf); 2. Benjamin Lessennes (Honda Civic); 3. Mathieu Detry (Volkswagen Golf)

Zandvoort, Round 7, Sunday 21 May
1. Jaap van Lagen (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Tom Coronel (Honda Civic); 3. Aurélien Comte (Peugeot 308)

Zandvoort, Round 8, Sunday 21 May
1. Jaap van Lagen (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Aurélien Comte (Peugeot 308); 3. Mika Morien (Audi RS3 LMS)

Race 4 – This time Comte managed to take the lead ahead of van Lagen; the latter attempted an overtaking manoeuvre at the Tarzan on lap 2, and then successfully completed it on lap 3. Comte stuck to the Audi's tail, while Coronel defended second place from Morien. On lap 8 Coronel's car had a puncture and crashed at the final bend; Potty (who was sixth) also crashed while taking avoiding action. The race finished behind the Safety Car, with van Lagen first, ahead of Comte and Morien. Next event: Rounds 9 to 12, Zolder, 3/4 June.







Six winners out of six races

The TCR Asia Series returned to Zhuhai after a gap of three weeks and delivered the fifth and sixth different winners from the six races held so far.

Abdul Kaathir (R Engineering Honda Civic) and Eric Kwong (Elegant Racing Team SEAT León) shared the victories in two races that were full of thrilling moments and saw the championship leaders hit by bad luck.

Kaathir's teammate Lai Wee Sing took the lead in the standings with 93 points, four and eight points ahead of the Liqui Moly Team Engstler duo of Diego Moran and Kantadhee Kusiri, while Kaathir lies fourth with a gap of 12 points from the leader.

Race 1 - Pole sitter Kusiri stalled at

the start due to an electrical bug; Kaathir and Lai were fighting for the lead, but Kaathir ran wide and dropped to third behind Jasper Thong's Audi. On lap 3 Shaun Thong overtook Kaathir for second; the leading quartet of Lai, the Thong brothers and Kaathir was covered by only 1.5 seconds. However, J. Thong had a drive through penalty for a grid infringement and rejoined at the back.

On the last lap S. Thong attacked Lai, they ran abreast, made contact and went off together; Thong's Audi remained stranded in the gravel, while Lai rejoined but finished second behind Kaathir and ahead of Moran and J. Thong.

Race 2 - Viper Niza Racing's William

O'Brien and Douglas Khoo filled the front row on the reverse grid as rain hit the track. O'Brien went off during the first lap, while Kwong and Alex Liu – on wet tyres – overtook Lai and J. Thong and pulled away.

J. Thong pitted for wet tyres, while his brother Shaun climbed to fifth and then to third, overtaking Khoo and Lai. But Kwong and Liu had built too big a gap and managed to make a 1-2 finish for SEAT and the Elegant Racing Team.

Next event: Rounds 7 & 8, Bagsaen, Thailand, 1/2 July.

Results

Zhuhai, Round 5, Sunday 23 April
1. Abdul Kaathir (Honda Civic); 2. Lai Wee Sing (Honda Civic); 3. Diego Moran (Volkswagen Golf)

Zhuhai, Round 6, Sunday 23 April
1. Eric Kwong (SEAT León); 2. Alex Liu (SEAT León); 3. Shaun Thong (Audi RS3 LMS)





Honda and SEAT win one apiece

The TCR Thailand series began at Buriram's Chang International Circuit, where Honda and SEAT claimed one win apiece.

On Saturday, Chariya Nuya dominated the first race at the wheel of the Billionaire Boy Racing Honda Civic, but in the Sunday race he had to bow to Kittipol Pranoj Na Ayudhya, a newcomer to the series who drives a SEAT León run by Singha Motorsport Thailand.

Race 1 - Pole sitter Nattachak Hanjtkasen stalled at the start and was passed by Pasarit Promsombat. However Nuya managed to take the lead from Promsombat during the first lap and pulled away. Behind him, there was a close fight for second between Promsombat, Hanjtkasen, lady driver Nattanid Leewattanavaragul and Rattanin

Leenutaphong. Eventually, Promsombat claimed the second position ahead of Hanjtkasen, while Leenutaphong overtook Leewattanavaragul for fourth. After the race Leenutaphong was demoted to sixth by a 30-second time penalty for a jump-start.

Race 2 - The track was wet after a morning shower and Leewattanavaragul made the best start from second on the grid. Again Nuya came from the third row and stole the lead from the Morin Racing lady before the end of the first lap. On lap 2, Leewattanavaragul went wide at the last turn and dropped to fourth, behind Kittipol Pranoj and Hanjtkasen.

It seemed as though Nuya was on his way to encore his Saturday success, but in the second part of the race

and on a drying track, Pranoj closed in on him. The two final laps saw the pairing locked in a close battle. Eventually, Pranoj overtook Nuya a few turns from the end and won by only three tenths of a second. Hanjtkasen took third ahead of Leewattanavaragul.
Next event: Rounds 3 & 4, Bangsaen, 1/2 July.

Results

Buriram, Round 1, Saturday 29 April

1. Chariya Nuya (Honda Civic);
2. Pasarit Promsombat (SEAT León);
3. Nattachak Hanjtkasen (Honda Civic)

Buriram, Round 2, Sunday 30 April

1. Kittipol Pranoj Na Ayudhya (SEAT León);
2. Chariya Nuya (Honda Civic);
3. Nattachak Hanjtkasen (Honda Civic)





A double victory for Eric Scalvini

Eric Scalvini of MM Racing began his maiden season in the TCR Italy series by claiming a double victory at the wheel of his Honda Civic Type-R on the occasion of the season opener at Adria International Raceway.

In both races, Scalvini was joined on the podium by Jonathan Giacon – who had set pole position in the TecnoDom Sport Opel Astra – and Nicola Baldan in the PitLane Competizioni SEAT León. On Saturday evening, in pouring rain, Scalvini drove his Honda to a lights-to-flag victory, while pole sitter Giacon had to settle with second after a mistake at the start that was caused by a faulty anti-mist system of his Opel.

Pit Lane Competizioni teammates Baldan and Massimiliano Mugelli were classified in third and fourth, while Bulgarian driver Plamen Kralev lost his sixth place as he was excluded for not observing a drive through penalty. The second race on Sunday morning was run on a drying track and provided a thrilling fight between the same trio of Scalvini, Giacon and Baldan who exactly replicated the podium of Race 1. Giacon was on pole, but made a poor start and was pipped to the first corner by Scalvini and Baldan. Scalvini led for the whole distance and was able to create a gap in the second half of the 20-lap race. Baldan kept the second

position until the last lap, when Giacon managed to overtake him. The two Audi cars of Mugelli and Kralev were eliminated in a contact on lap 6. Next event: Rounds 3 & 4, Misano, 3/4 June.

Results

Adria, Round 1, Saturday 6 May
1. Eric Scalvini (Honda Civic); 2. Jonathan Giacon (Opel Astra); 3. Nicola Baldan (SEAT León)

Adria, Round 2, Sunday 7 May
1. Eric Scalvini (Honda Civic); 2. Jonathan Giacon (Opel Astra); 3. Nicola Baldan (SEAT León)





Results

Fort Grozny, Round 1, Saturday 13 May
 1. Kirill Ladygin (LADA Vesta); 2. Vladimir Sheshenin (LADA Vesta); 3. Aleksey Dudukalo (SEAT León)

Fort Grozny, Round 2, Sunday 14 May
 1. Dmitry Bragin (Audi RS3 LMS); 2. Vitaliy Dudin (SEAT León); 3. Aleksey Dudukalo (SEAT León)



Reigning champion Bragin leads

TAIF Motorsport's 2016 champion Dmitry Bragin began the season as the early points leader with a fourth place and a win in the two TCR Russia races at Fort Grozny.

Bragin – who has switched from last year's SEAT León to an Audi RS3 LMS – lost a possible podium in Race 1 after a collision with Lukoil Racing's Nikolay Karamyshev. But in the second race he made a great start and managed to keep at bay Vitaliy Dudin's SEAT.

The first race was dominated by Kiril Ladygin and Vladimir Sheshenin of LADA Sport Rosneft. The LADA Vesta cars ran with a temporary homologation and before the second race were given a 45-kilo BoP extra weight and had their power reduced to

95%. Bragin leads the standings with 38 points, two more than Ladygin; Aleksey Dudukalo and Dudin are third and fourth with gaps of 5 and 7 points respectively.

Race 1 – Ladygin made a perfect start from pole, while Sheshenin was fighting with the SEAT cars of Dudukalo and Karamyshev and with Bragin's Audi.

Sheshenin was able to build a gap and Karamyshev overtook Bragin for third, the two made contact and Bragin dropped to fifth behind Dudukalo. Positions did not change until lap 10, when Dudukalo overtook Bragin and climbed to fourth. In the final part of the race Dudukalo advanced one more

place by passing Karamyshev who was being chased by Bragin. On the last lap Karamyshev was black flagged for the incident with Bragin, who advanced to third.

Race 2 – Bragin made a great start from fifth on the grid and led from Tolkachev and Dudin who moved up to second on lap 2. After stalling the engine at the start, Sheshenin was recovering, while Dudukalo climbed to third.

Bragin and Dudin had a close fight for the lead and eventually Bragin crossed the line with a 0.6-second margin; Dudukalo and Karamyshev followed in third and fourth.

Next event: Rounds 3 & 4, Smolensk Ring, 27/28 May.



Modena Motorsports wins 24H Paul Ricard

Six teams took part in the TCR class of the 24H Paul Ricard, the fourth round of the 24H Series.

The Modena Motorsports SEAT León driven by Wayne Shen, John Shen, Francis Tjia and Benny Simonsen led for most of the race and won by a three-lap margin from the Car Collection Motorsport Audi RS3 LMS TCR DSG of Monika Parhofer, Dirk Vorländer, Christian Kranenberg, JM Littman and Rik Breukers.

The Cadspeed Racing Audi RS3 LMS – winner of the season-opening 24H Dubai – settled for third; James Kaye, Ricky Coomber, Paul White, David Drinkwater and Thomas Gannon took turns at the wheel of the German car. In the points standings, Modena Motorsports leads by three points ahead of Cadspeed Racing; Car Collection Motorsport lies third, a further nine points adrift.

Next round: 12H Imola, 30 June/2 July.



Honda cars claim another 1-2 at Sugo

The second round of the Super Taikyu endurance series took place at Sugo. The cars of the ST-TCR class raced in Group 1 together with the GTs over a distance of three hours.

Just as in the season-opening race at Motegi, the Team DreamDrive Audi RS3 LMS shared by Shozo Tagahara, Takuya Shirakasa and Naoto Takeda led in the first part of the race, but then dropped down following an incident.

The Modulo Racing Project Honda Civic Type-R driven by Shinichi Ito, Shinichi Ebisawa and Shinji Nakano inherited the lead and won the class, finishing a brilliant eighth overall, eleven laps behind the winning Nissan GT-R.

Second in class and ninth overall was the Motul Dome Racing Project Honda of Hiroki Kato, Keiji



Ishikawa and Takuya Kurosawa, that crossed the line only 48 seconds behind the sister car. The Team

DreamDrive Audi completed the podium in third position.

Next round: Suzuka 10/11 June.

TCR International Series

(after rounds 8 of 20)



Drivers			
1	Jean-Karl Vernay	Volkswagen Golf GTI	113 pts
2	Roberto Colciago	Honda Civic Type-R	97
3	Stefano Comini	Audi RS3 LMS	95
4	Attila Tassi	Honda Civic Type-R	76
5	Pepe Oriola	SEAT León	66
6	Dušan Borković	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	53
7	Davit Kajala	Alfa Romeo Giulietta	53
8	Frédéric Verwisch	Audi RS3 LMS	52
9	James Nash	SEAT León	50
10	Hugo Valente	SEAT León	46
11	Benjamin Lessennes	Honda Civic Type-R	31
12	Ferenc Ficza	SEAT León	31
13	Rob Huff	Volkswagen Golf GTI	27
14	Mat'o Homola	Opel Astra	20
15	Pierre-Yves Corthals	Opel Astra	19
16	Edouard Mondron	SEAT León	18
17	Gianni Morbidelli	Volkswagen Golf GTI	10
18	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTI	7
19	Tom Coronel	Honda Civic Type-R	4

Teams			
1	M1RA		175 pts
2	Comtoy Racing		151
3	Lukoil Craft-Bamboo Racing		148
4	Leopard Racing Team WRT		140
5	GE-Force		106
6	DG Sport Compétition		40
7	Boutsen Ginion Racing		37
8	Zeke Racing		32
9	WestCoast Racing		22
10	Delahaye Racing		18
11	Icarus Motorsports		1

Model of the year			
1	Honda Civic Type-R		216 pts
2	SEAT León		178
3	Volkswagen Golf GTI		160
4	Audi RS3 LMS		155
5	Alfa Romeo Giulietta		112
6	Opel Astra		46

TCR Asia

(after rounds 6 of 12)



Drivers			
1	Lai Wee Sing	Honda Civic Type-R	93 pts
2	Diego Moran	Volkswagen Golf GTI	89
3	Kantadhee Kusiri	Volkswagen Golf GTI	85
4	Abdul Kaathir	Honda Civic Type-R	81
5	Jasper Thong	Audi RS3 LMS	70
6	Tin Sitrai	Honda Civic Type-R	67
7	Eric Kwong	SEAT León	48
8	Alex Liu	SEAT León	44
9	Douglas Khoo Kok Hui	SEAT León	30
10	Shaun Thong	Audi RS3 LMS	16

TCR Asia Cup			
1	Abdul Kaathir	Honda Civic	132 pts
2	Jasper Thong	Audi RS3 LMS	112
3	Alex Liu	SEAT León	75

Teams			
1	R Engineering		174 pts
1	Liqui Moly Team Engstler		174 pts
3	Audi Hong Kong		88

TCR Benelux

(after rounds 8 of 24)



Drivers			
1	Guillaume Mondron	SEAT León/Volkswagen Golf GTI	159 pts
2	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTI	112
3	Benjamin Lessenes	Honda Civic Type-R	110
4	Stefano Comini/Sheldon van der Linde	Audi RS3 LMS	105
5	Aurélien Comte/Kevin Abbring	Peugeot 308 RC	94
6	Maxime Potty/Mathieu Detry	Volkswagen Golf GTI	73
7	Tom Coronel	Honda Civic Type-R	70
8	Edouard Mondron	SEAT León	69
9	Jaap van Lagen/Simon Reicher	Audi RS3 LMS	67
10	Jean-Karl Vernay/Rob Huff	Volkswagen Golf GTI	64

Junior			
1	Giacomo Altoè	Volkswagen Golf GTI	86 pts
2	Benjamin Lessenes	Honda Civic Type-R	82
3	Sheldon van der Linde	Audi RS3 LMS	55

Teams			
1	Delahaye Racing		50 pts
2	DG Sport Compétition		28
3	Boutsen Ginion Racing		24

ADAC TCR Germany

(after rounds 2 of 14)



Drivers			
1	Josh Files	Honda Civic Type-R	72 pts
2	Sheldon van der Linde	Audi RS3 LMS	58
3	Tim Zimmermann	Audi RS3 LMS	56
4	Florian Thoma	Volkswagen Golf GTI	54
5	Kris Richard	Honda Civic Type-R	49
6	Steve Kirsch	Honda Civic Type-R	46
7	Pascal Eberle	SEAT León	46
8	José Rodrigues	Honda Civic Type-R	30
9	Jürgen Schmarl	Honda Civic Type-R	29
10	Tom Lautenschlager	Audi RS3 LMS	28
10	Sandro Kaibach	Audi RS3 LMS	28

Teams			
1	Target Competition UK-SUI		72 pts
2	Junior Team Engstler		60
3	Target Competition GER		59

TCR Ibérico

(after rounds 2 of 8)



Drivers			
1	Francisco Mora	SEAT León	37 pts
2	Rafael Lobato/Patrick Cunha	Audi RS3 LMS	35
3	Francisco Abreu	Volkswagen Golf GTI	35
4	César Machado/Manuel Pedro Fernandes	SEAT León	25
5	Amalia Vinyes	SEAT León	16
6	Manuel Gião/Ricardo Gomes	SEAT León	16
7	Nuno Batista/Edgar Florindo	SEAT León	14
8	José Monroy/Francesc Gutiérrez	SEAT León	12
9	Max Llobet/Lluís Llobet	SEAT León	12
10	Gustavo Moura/Faust Salom	SEAT León	8

TCR Portugal

(after rounds 2 of 12)



Drivers			
1	Francisco Mora	SEAT León	44 pts
2	Francisco Abreu	Volkswagen Golf GTI	39
3	César Machado/Manuel Pedro Fernandes	SEAT León	34
4	Rafael Lobato/Patrick Cunha	Audi RS3 LMS	29
5	Amalia Vinyes	SEAT León	26
6	Nuno Batista/Edgar Florindo	SEAT León	22
7	Eduardo Leitão/João Carvalho	SEAT León	16
8	Gustavo Moura/Faust Salom	SEAT León	14
9	João Baptista/José Pedro Faria	KIA cee'd	12

TCR Italy

(after rounds 2 of 14)



Drivers		
1	Eric Scavini	Honda Civic Type-R 41 pts
2	Jonathan Giacon	Opel Astra 33
3	Nicola Baldan	SEAT León 24
4	Andrea Argenti	SEAT León 15
5	Massimiliano Mugelli	Audi RS3 LMS 8
6	Massimiliano Gagliano	Volkswagen Golf GTI 8
7	Samuel Piccin/Davide Nardilli	Honda Civic Type-R 8
9	Daniele Cappellari	SEAT León 7
10	Vincenzo Montalbano/Giuseppe Montalbano	SEAT León 7

Manufacturers		
1	Honda	40 pts
2	Opel	30
3	SEAT	24

TCR Middle East

(after rounds 6 of 6)



Drivers		
1	Josh Files	Honda Civic Type-R 110 pts
2	Brandon Gdovic	Volkswagen Golf GTI 105
3	Luca Engstler	Volkswagen Golf GTI 79
4	Davit Kajala	Alfa Romeo Giulietta 56
5	Giacomo Altoè	Subaru WRX Sti/Volkswagen Golf GTI 46
6	Stefan Goede	Volkswagen Golf GTI 38
7	Mat'o Homola	Volkswagen Golf GTI 30
8	James Kaye	Audi RS3 LMS 22
9	Michela Cerruti	Alfa Romeo Giulietta 19
10	Filip Sládečka	Volkswagen Golf GTI 19

Teams		
1	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	210 pts
2	Lap57 Motorsport	121
3	Mulsanne Racing	76

TCR Russia

(after rounds 2 of 14)



Drivers		
1	Dmitry Bragin	Audi RS3 LMS 38 pts
2	Kirill Ladygin	LADA Vesta 36
3	Aleksey Dudukalo	SEAT León 33
4	Vitaliy Dudin	SEAT León 31
5	Vladimir Sheshenin	LADA Vesta 30
6	Denis Grigoryev	SEAT León 17
7	Nikolay Karamyshev	SEAT León 13
8	Anton Badoev	SEAT León 13
9	Irek Minnakhmetov	SEAT León 13
10	Lev Tolkachev	SEAT León 12

Teams		
1	LADA Sport Rosneft	66 pts
2	STK TAIF Motorsport	48
3	Lukoil Racing Tim	46

TCR Scandinavia

(after rounds 6 of 21)



Drivers		
1	Fredrik Eklom	Volkswagen Golf GTI 111 pts
2	Robert Dahlgren	SEAT León 106
3	Johan Kristoffersson	Volkswagen Golf GTI 78
4	Fredrik Blomstedt	Volkswagen Golf GTI 69
5	Daniel Haglöf	SEAT León 56
6	Tobias Brink	Audi RS3 LMS 43
7	Dennis Strandberg	Volkswagen Golf GTI 21
8	Mattias Andersson	Honda Civic Type-R 20
9	Joonas Lappalainen	Audi RS3 LMS 18
9	Micke Ohlsson	Audi RS3 LMS 18

Teams		
1	Volkswagen Dealer Team Sweden	228 pts
2	PWR Racing Team - SEAT Dealer Team	172
3	Brink Motorsport	69

TCR Spain

(after rounds 2 of 8)



Drivers		
1	Francisco Mora	SEAT León 38 pts
2	Rafael Lobato	Audi RS3 LMS 36
3	Francisco Abreu	Volkswagen Golf GTI 29
4	César Machado	SEAT León 25
5	Manuel Gão	SEAT León 16
5	Amalia Vinyes	SEAT León 16
7	Nuno Batista	SEAT León 14
7	Manuel Pedro Fernandes	SEAT León 14
9	José Monroy	SEAT León 12
9	Max Lobet	SEAT León 12

TCR Thailand

(after rounds 2 of 12)



Drivers PRO		
1	Pasarit Promsombat	SEAT León TCR 43 pts
1	Kittipol Pranaj Na Ayudhya	SEAT León TCR 43 pts

Drivers AM		
1	Chariya Nuya	Honda Civic Type-R 50 pts
2	Nattachak Hanjtkasen	Honda Civic Type-R 36
3	Nattani Leewattavavragul	SEAT León TCR 30
4	Douglas Khoo	SEAT León TCR 22
4	Rattani Leenutaphong	SEAT León TCR 22

Teams		
1	Billionaire Boy Racing	43 pts
2	Singha Motorsport Team Thailand	31
3	TBN MK Ihere Racing Team	30

24H Series

(after rounds 4 of 6)



Drivers		
1	John Shen/John Shen/Francis Tjia	SEAT León 55 pts
2	James Kaye	Audi RS3 LMS 53
3	Dirk Vorländer	Audi RS3 LMS 42
4	Thierry Blaise/Guillaume Roman/Kim Holmgaard	Peugeot 308 RC 39
5	Thierry Boyer/Stéphane Ventaja	Peugeot 308 RC 33
6	Julian Griffin/Eric Holstein/Finlay Hutchison	Audi RS3 LMS 29
6	Benny Simonsen	SEAT León 29
8	Mathias Beche	SEAT León 26
8	Rik Breukers/JM Litman/Christian Kranenberg	Audi RS3 LMS 26
10	Phillippe Ulivieri/John Allen/JT Coupal/Gosia Rdest/John Weisberg	SEAT León 24
10	Ricky Coomber/Paul White/David Drinkwater	Audi RS3 LMS 24

24H TC Series

(after rounds 2 of 5)



Drivers		
1	Ávaro Bajo/José Manuel Pérez Aicart/Alba Cano Ramirez	SEAT León 39 pts
2	Roberto Ferry/John Filippi/Zach Arnold	Audi RS3 LMS DSG 36
3	Melvin de Groot/Sebastian Bleekemolen/René Steenmetz/Robert Smith	SEAT León 30
4	Enrico Bettera/Alberto Vescovi	Audi RS3 LMS DSG 28
5	Michael Soeryadjaya/Philippe Descombes/Marcel Tjia/Christian Chia	SEAT León DSG 26
6	Günther Wiesmeier/Felix Wimmer/Matthias Kaiser	SEAT León DSG 24
6	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 2 of 6)



Drivers		
1	Motul Dome Racing Project	Honda Civic Type-R 37 pts
1	Modulo Racing Project	Honda Civic Type-R 37
3	Audi Team DreamDrive	Audi RS3 LMS 26
4	BRP	Audi RS3 LMS 26