

29 October 2017

Adria International Raceway, Italy – 28 / 29 October 2017**RACE REPORT****Comte grabs the TCR Europe Trophy in a Peugeot 308
Files (Honda) and Tarquini (Hyundai) share race victories**

The TCR Europe Trophy at the Adria International Raceway delivered an unexpected result, as Aurélien Comte was able to grab the title at the wheel of his DG Sport Compétition Peugeot 308, the smallest car in the field with its 1.6 litre engine and standard bodywork.

Comte did not cross the line first in any of the two races that were won by Josh Files (Target Competition Honda Civic) and Gabriele Tarquini (BRC Racing Hyundai i30 N). And yet the young Frenchman benefited from the fact that Tarquini was not allowed to score points – because his car is still racing under a temporary homologation form – and that Files took what seemed to be an unnecessary risk in Race 2, which resulted in a penalty. However, Comte was a worthy winner as he led the second race until halfway before surrendering to Tarquini and then he was able to keep Giacomo Altoè (Target Competition Honda Civic) at bay until the chequered flag.

They finished on equal points, but Comte was awarded the title thanks to his better results, while Files was classified third in the Trophy, only two points behind Comte and Altoè.

The Teams' Trophy went to Target Competition; DG Sport Compétition was placed second, and is worth to remember that the Belgian outfit had already won last year's TCR Europe Trophy with Pierre-Yves Corthals in an Opel Astra.

Today's second race delivered a thrilling show, with six drivers involved in a close battle for the lead. And – most important – they were at the wheel of cars from five different brands: Hyundai, Peugeot, Honda, Audi and Volkswagen.

Race 1 – Files wins from Tarquini and Altoè

Josh Files took a great victory in Race 1 in the Target Competition Honda Civic; the Briton pipped pole sitter Gabriele Tarquini at the start and led from lights-to-flag. Tarquini was chasing him for most of the race, even knocking on the Honda's rear bumper, but in the final laps the Hyundai driver lost contact from the leader and had to defend the second position from Files' teammate Giacomo Altoè.

"I had a fantastic car. I took a great start and was able to keep Tarquini at bay. The old guy is still very quick and tough! He also hit me a few times," said Files.

Aurélien Comte drove his Peugeot 308 home in fourth place, ahead of Antti Buri's Audi that was closely followed by Maxime Potty's Volkswagen Golf.

Luigi Ferrara kept the fourth position in the first half of the race in the V-Action Alfa Romeo Giulietta, but he was dropped by a drive-through penalty. *"I don't understand it, actually I was hit by Buri and sent wide,"* complained the Italian.

Luca Engstler's hope vanished because of a shifting problem that prevented him from taking a good start and eventually forced him back to the pits.

Giovanni Altoè won the DSG class in his Volkswagen Golf ahead of Sandro Pelatti in a similar car.

Key facts

Grid – Kevin Giacon's Opel Astra is missing following a turbocharger failure

Start – Files sprints to the lead ahead of Tarquini, Giacomo Altoè and Ferrara; Engstler and Kralek take a bad start

Lap 1 – Grigoriev is punted into a spin; Comte overtakes Buri for fifth

Lap 3 – Tarquini is chasing Files

Lap 4 – Giovanni Altoè overtakes Tolkachev for the lead of the DSG class

Lap 5 – Tarquini posts the fastest lap of 1:20.367

Lap 6 – Abreu overtakes Engstler for 9th; Pelatti overtakes Tolkachev for 2nd of DSG

Lap 7 – Giovanni Altoè overtakes Engstler for 10th

Lap 9 – Ferrara who was 4th, observes a drive-through for trespassing the track limits at Turn 2 and rejoins in 11th position

Lap 11 – Giovanni Altoè and Abreu swap positions while fighting for 8th

Lap 12 – Engstler slows down and pits

Lap 13 – Cappellari pits with a flat tyre

Lap 14 – Ferrara overtakes Abreu for 9th

Lap 15 – Dionisio overtakes Kralek for 13th

Lap 16 – Pelatti overtakes Abreu for 10th

Lap 17 – Files pulls away from Tarquini and Giacomo Altoè

Lap 18 – Abreu goes straight on T3 and then observes a drive-through for track limits

Lap 19 – Kangas and Tolkachev make contact but continue

Lap 20 – Files wins from Tarquini and Giacomo Altoè; Comte finishes fourth; Giovanni Altoè ranks 8th overall and wins the DSG class; Kangas hits Tolkachev who spins and drops to 14th

Race 2 – Tarquini wins, but Comte is the champion

In a breathtaking second race, Gabriele Tarquini claimed victory at the wheel of his BRC Racing Hyundai i30 N, but Aurélien Comte in the Peugeot 308 finished second and scored the 25 points for the TCR Europe Trophy.

This was enough for him to grab the European title.

Starting from tenth of the reverse grid, Tarquini put in a great show to recover and managed to take the lead in the ninth of the 20 laps. It was not an easy task, because the fight for the lead saw a close battle between Comte, Antti Buri (LMS Racing Audi) and Maxime Potty (WRT Volkswagen), while the Target Competition duo of Josh Files and Giacomo Altoè was chasing the Hyundai.

Eventually, Tarquini used all his experience to overtake Comte, while Files took a risk to pass Potty and Buri, which he paid dearly. In fact, he was given a penalty that spoiled his chances of winning the trophy.

With Tarquini well ahead, Comte and Giacomo Altoè had a close fight for the second place that was worth the title. They finished in the order and on equal points, but Comte was crowned the champion for the better results (third and first, against Altoè's two second places).

Giovanni Altoè took a second victory in the DSG class and won the special trophy, while Target Competition won the Teams' Trophy.

Key facts

Start – Thoma starts well from pole, but Comte overtakes him at Turn 1

Lap 1 – Buri, Potty and Ferrara overtake Thoma who drops to fifth; Thoma retakes fourth from Ferrara

Lap 2 – Tarquini and Files climb to fifth and sixth ahead of Ferrara and Giacomo Altoè

Lap 4 – Tarquini and Files overtake Thoma for fourth and fifth

Lap 5 – Tarquini joins the leading trio of Comte, Buri and Potty

Lap 6 – Giacomo Altoè overtakes Thoma for sixth; Pelatti overtakes Tolkachev for 2nd in the DSG class

Lap 7 – The top five – Comte, Buri, Potty, Tarquini and Files – are covered by 1.8 seconds

Lap 8 – Tarquini overtakes Potty for third

Lap 9 – Tarquini overtakes Buri for second

Lap 10 – Files dives inside Potty at Turn 1, but hits Buri who spins and retires

Lap 11 – Tarquini takes the lead from Comte who is chased by Files; Giacomo Altoè overtakes Potty for fourth

Lap 12 – Dionisio overtakes Tolkachev for third in DSG

Lap 13 – Files overtakes Comte for second

Lap 14 – Files is given a drive-through for his incident with Buri and rejoins in 9th position

Lap 16 – Files overtakes Engstler for 8th

Lap 17 – Kraleev stops on the track with a technical issue

Lap 18 – Files overtakes Abreu for 7th

Lap 19 – Comte defends his second position from Giacomo Altoè

Lap 20 – Tarquini wins the race, Comte keeps Giacomo Altoè at bay for second, Potty is fourth ahead of Thoma and Ferrara; Giovanni Altoè wins again in the DSG class

Drivers' quotes after the two races

Aurélien Comte (1st in the TCR Europe): *"The car is still lacking something in terms of performance, but it has really good race pace so I was not surprised to have been running at the front in the race. I had planned to make the best start I could and create a gap at the front. It was quite difficult at the end of the race to keep Giacomo Altoè behind, but in the end everything was OK and we took the title."*

Giacomo Altoè (2nd in the TCR Europe): *"I'm very happy with the result, although I am also a little bit disappointed too. As Aurélien and I finished on the same points, but he won the race so he became the champion. It was a really tough second race and I have to overtake a lot of cars, but at the same time I didn't want to take too many risks. Even so, it was still a good race for me. I asked the team on the radio about the points and they said that I was leading, so I could stay in 2nd place. If I'd known, I could have tried to overtake."*

Josh Files (3rd in TCR Europe and winner of Race 1): *"I believe my move at Turn 1 in Race 2 was a calculated risk. I actually made the apex, but it was just unfortunate that Antti Buri turned in. But, this is motorsport – I didn't come here to finish 2nd and just score points. I came here to win races. My goal was to get past Comte, which I did and then the team told me I had a drive through penalty, because I wanted to hunt down Tarquini for the win. I remember meeting Gabriele when I was three years old, in 1994 when he was racing in the BTCC. Not only did I get to race against him but also beat him in Race 1, so overall I'm very happy with the weekend."*

Gabriele Tarquini (winner of Race 2): *"It wasn't a bad weekend for us at all! I enjoyed it a lot and had the chance to experience lots of different types of tyres. It was a tough race, the Honda is very fast car and they did a great job to make the best starts. Even if I had a small problem, I still found it pretty tough to overtake Files. I tried to push as hard as possible during the race, but without any mistake from him it was impossible for me to overtake in Race 1. The second race was much more fun because by starting 10th, I had some great fights and overtaking with the other cars. Even though it wasn't easy to take the win, I definitely enjoyed it."*

Giovanni Altoè (1st in the DSG class): *"I think I made a very good start in the race. For me it was the first time I've raced and started a TCR car, so I didn't know how to do it properly. Fortunately I was more consistent in the race, I managed to look after my tyres better and make the move for the lead. I'm very happy to finish so well with a lot of the sequential gearbox cars behind me, so it was very nice for me to score a good result."*

Further information, results and HD pictures at www.europe.tcr-series.com

TCR

Race 1
RESULTS FINAL

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Rnk	No.	Competitor	Driver	Nation	Time	Laps	Gap	Interv.	Best Lap	Class	Penalty	Made
1	▲ ¹	99	Target Competition	Files Josh		27:10.940	20			1:20.534	TCR	Honda
2	▼ ¹	30	BRC Racing Team *	Tarquini Gabriele		27:12.920	20	1.980	1.980	1:20.367	TCR	Hyundai
3	▬	21	Target Competition	Altoè Giacomo		27:13.435	20	2.495	0.515	1:20.385	TCR	Honda
4	▲ ⁵	7	DG Sport Compétition	Comte Aurélien		27:39.725	20	28.785	26.290	1:21.500	TCR	Peugeot
5	▲ ²	10	LMS Racing	Buri Antti		27:42.400	20	31.460	2.675	1:21.545	TCR	Audi
6	▬	88	WRT Racing Team	Potty Maxime		27:42.891	20	31.951	0.491	1:21.608	TCR	Volkswagen
7	▲ ³	39	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Thoma Florian		27:45.515	20	34.575	2.624	1:21.516	TCR	Volkswagen
8	▲ ⁴	52	Giovanni Altoè	Altoè Giovanni		27:47.683	20	36.743	2.168	1:21.695	DSG	Volkswagen
9	▼ ⁴	16	Ferrara Luigi	Ferrara Luigi		27:52.998	20	42.058	5.315	1:21.473	TCR	Alfa Romeo
10	▲ ⁷	53	Sandro Pelatti	Pelatti Sandro		27:57.093	20	46.153	4.095	1:21.922	DSG	Volkswagen
11	▲ ⁷	54	Ermanno Dionisio	Dionisio Ermanno		28:07.777	20	56.837	10.684	1:22.688	DSG	Audi
12	▼ ¹	44	Kraf Racing	Kralev Plamen		28:15.411	20	1:04.471	7.634	1:22.122	TCR	Audi
13	▲ ¹	15	Innocenti - AMG Motorsport	Tolkachev Lev		28:19.472	20	1:08.532	4.061	1:22.723	DSG	Seat
14	▲ ¹	4	LMS Racing	Kangas Olli		28:14.058	20	1:13.118	4.586	1:22.811	TCR	+10.000 Seat
15	▲ ¹	77	Innocenti - AMG Motorsport	Grigoriev Denis		28:30.476	20	1:19.536	6.418	1:22.855	DSG	Seat
16	▼ ⁸	11	Team NOVADRIVER	Abreu Francisco		28:47.345	19	1 Lap	1 Lap	1:21.550	TCR	Volkswagen
17	▲ ²	76	Capellari Daniele	Capellari Daniele		28:28.164	18	2 Laps	1 Lap	1:22.089	DSG	Seat
18	▼ ¹⁴	8	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Engstler Luca		27:40.101	17	3 Laps	1 Lap	1:21.494	TCR	Volkswagen

No.4 Kangas Olli : PENALTY +10" SEC. DECISION N° 1 STEWARDS DECISION

Not Classified

	5	Giacon Kevin	Giacon Kevin				DNS			TCR		Opel
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Leaders : No.99 Files Josh (1-20)

Start Time : 29/10 - 12:33:47

Best Lap : No.30 Tarquini Gabriele 1:20.367 121,03 Kph

Weather : Cloudy Air : 16°C Track : Dry

Event Record : No.30 Tarquini Gabriele 1:19.341 122,59 Kph

No.16 07:42
Lap 5

No.8 15:02
Lap 10

No.11 15:04
Lap 10

No.54 20:25
Lap 14

TCR Driver & Team Trophy (ITA) 27-29/10/2017

TCR Race 2 RESULTS FINAL Document 5.1 OFFICIAL

Rnk	No.	Competitor	Driver	Nation	Time	Laps	Gap	Interv.	Best Lap	Class	Made	
1	▲ ⁹	30	BRC Racing Team *	Tarquini Gabriele		27:33.997	20			1:21.040	TCR	Hyundai
2	▬	7	DG Sport Compétition	Comte Aurélien		27:35.789	20	1.792	1.792	1:21.478	TCR	Peugeot
3	▲ ⁵	21	Target Competition	Altoè Giacomo		27:36.175	20	2.178	0.386	1:21.033	TCR	Honda
4	▲ ¹	88	WRT Racing Team	Potty Maxime		27:37.872	20	3.875	1.697	1:21.418	TCR	Volkswagen
5	▼ ⁴	39	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Thoma Florian		27:41.656	20	7.659	3.784	1:21.423	TCR	Volkswagen
6	▬	16	Ferrara Luigi	Ferrara Luigi		27:42.478	20	8.481	0.822	1:21.982	TCR	Alfa Romeo
7	▲ ²	99	Target Competition	Files Josh		27:43.544	20	9.547	1.066	1:21.197	TCR	Honda
8	▼ ⁵	11	Team NOVADRIVER	Abreu Francisco		27:47.986	20	13.989	4.442	1:22.028	TCR	Volkswagen
9	▼ ²	8	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Engstler Luca		27:50.193	20	16.196	2.207	1:22.038	TCR	Volkswagen
10	▲ ²	52	Giovanni Altoè	Altoè Giovanni		27:51.588	20	17.591	1.395	1:22.240	DSG	Volkswagen
11	▲ ⁶	53	Sandro Pelatti	Pelatti Sandro		28:03.957	20	29.960	12.369	1:22.759	DSG	Volkswagen
12	▲ ⁶	54	Ermanno Dionisio	Dionisio Ermanno		28:04.235	20	30.238	0.278	1:22.416	DSG	Audi
13	▲ ¹	15	Innocenti - AMG Motorsport	Tolkachev Lev		28:12.605	20	38.608	8.370	1:22.784	DSG	Seat
14	▲ ²	77	Innocenti - AMG Motorsport	Grigoriev Denis		28:17.688	20	43.691	5.083	1:23.118	DSG	Seat
15	▬	4	LMS Racing	Kangas Olli		28:20.230	20	46.233	2.542	1:23.209	TCR	Seat
16	▲ ³	76	Capellari Daniele	Capellari Daniele		28:23.651	20	49.654	3.421	1:23.337	DSG	Seat
17	▼ ⁶	44	Kraf Racing	Krlev Plamen		23:47.628	17	3 Laps	3 Laps	1:22.393	TCR	Audi

Not Classified

	5	Giacon Kevin	Giacon Kevin				DNS			TCR	Opel
	10	LMS Racing	Buri Antti		14:28.004		Not Classified		1:21.518	TCR	Audi

Start Time : 29/10 - 14:33:08

Weather : Slightly cloudy Air : 18°C Track : Dry

Leaders : No.7 Comte Aurélien (1-10) / No.30 Tarquini Gabriele (11-20)

Best Lap : No.21 Altoè Giacomo 1:21.033 120,03 Kph

Event Record : No.30 Tarquini Gabriele 1:19.341 122,59 Kph

No.99 13:53 Lap 10

No.10 13:55 Lap 9

No.39 22:17 Lap 16

TCR Driver & Team Trophy (ITA) 27-29/10/2017

LSTiming

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Apex Timing

2017 TCR EUROPE - DRIVERS' TROPHY

pos	driver	Pre-qualifying	Qualifying	Race 1	Race 2	TOTAL
1	Aurélien COMTE (FRA)	5	0	15	25	45
2	Giacomo ALTOÈ (ITA)	5	4	18	18	45
3	Josh FILES (GBR)	5	5	25	8	43
4	Maxime POTTY (BEL)	5	1	10	15	31
5	Florian THOMA (SUI)	5	0	8	12	25
6	Luigi FERRARA (ITA)	4	2	4	10	20
7	Antti BURI (FIN)	5	0	12	0	17
8	Luca ENGSTLER (GER)	5	3	0	4	12
9	Francisco ABREU (POR)	5	0	0	6	11
10	Giovanni ALTOÈ (ITA)	0	0	6	2	8
11	Plamen KRALEV (BUL)	5	0	0	0	5
11	Lev TOLKACHEV (RUS)	5	0	0	0	5
11	Olli KANGAS (FIN)	5	0	0	0	5
11	Denis GRIGORIEV (RUS)	5	0	0	0	5
11	Daniele CAPPELLARI (ITA)	5	0	0	0	5
11	Kevin GIACON (ITA)	5	0	0	0	5
17	Sandro PELATTI (ITA)	0	0	2	1	3
18	Ermanno DIONISIO (ITA)	0	0	1	0	1
	Giovanni BERTON (ITA)	0	0	0	0	0

2017 TCR EUROPE - TEAMS' TROPHY

pos	team	Race 1	Race 2	TOTAL
1	Target Competition	43	26	69
2	DG Sport Compétition	15	25	40
3	WRT Racing Team	12	15	27
4	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	8	16	24
5	V-Action Racing Team	6	10	16
6	LMS Racing	14	0	14
7	Team Novadrivier	0	6	6
8	Innocenti-AMG Motorsport	1	3	4
9	Kraf Racing	2	0	2