

20 October 2018

Barcelona, Spain – 19 / 21 October 2018

RACE 1 REPORT

Attila Tassi wins and the title fight goes down to the wire Azcona, Borković, Vernay and Tassi in a four-way battle

It will be a four-way fight for the TCR Europe Series Drivers' title, as the battle will be decided in tomorrow's Race 2.

Mikel Azcona is still the leader of the pack, but Dušan Borković, Jean-Karl Vernay and Attila Tassi have managed to keep themselves in contention with some remarkable exploits in today's Race 1.

Tassi took an authoritative lights-to-flag victory, the second for him in the season, as he sprinted from pole position and bid farewell to the rest of the pack, while Files protected his back.

Borković knew he had to stay ahead of Azcona to keep his hopes alive and overtook him at the start; then put the pressure on Files until the Englishman's pace faded because of a tyre issue, which promoted the Serbian to second.

Vernay was able to recover from 13th on the grid despite driving the heaviest car of the pack and finished sixth; he also won the TCR Benelux Trophy.

As for Azcona, he gave away a couple of places in the final laps in order to avoid the lesser risk; an eighth place in Race 2 will be enough for him to be crowned champion.

The battle for the Teams' title is even hotter, with Hell Energy Racing with KCMG leading Target Competition by just three points.

The second race will start tomorrow at 15:55 with an all-German front row on the top-ten reverse grid: Peter Terting's Hyundai on pole and Mike Halder's Honda alongside.

Live streaming at www.tcr-series.com and www.tcr-series.tv.

Key facts

Grid – Abreu is dropped from 19th to 29th for having received three reprimands during the season

Start – Tassi sprints from the pole ahead of Files, Borković and Azcona who keeps Michelisz and Sutton at bay

Lap 1 – Miljković's Cupra stops at the end of the pit straight and the safety car is deployed

Lap 2 – Abreu retires in the pit with technical issues

Lap 4 – the race resumes; Potty drops from 14th to 18th after driving wide at the last turn

Lap 5 – Vernay overtakes Nagy for 7th; Kroes stops after an incident; Comini retires with a broken front splitter

Lap 6 – Paulsen and Berthon make contact while fighting for 13th, the latter pits and retires

Lap 7 – Briché overtakes Halder for 10th; the latter retires with a flat front tyre

Lap 8 – Tassi pulls away, while Files tries to defend the second position from Borković; Azcona keeps third place that would give him the title but is under pressure from Michelisz and Sutton

Lap 9 – Files is in trouble with the front left tyre, he opens the door and drops by six positions altogether; Borković moves up to second ahead of Azcona, Michelisz, Sutton and Vernay

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Lap 10 – Michelisz and Sutton overtake Azcona who drops to fifth ahead of Vernay
Lap 11 – Files pits and retires with a flat front tyre
Lap 12 – Tassi wins from Borković, Michelisz, Sutton, Azcona and Vernay

Driver quotes after the first race

Attila Tassi (winner): *"It has been a perfect day for me, for sure! The car was simply perfect since qualifying and it's nice to be able to reward the team for all their hard work. We really made a lot of progress throughout the season and now it pays off. Clearly, it would have been nice to be at this stage of competitiveness earlier in the season, but it's good to finish so strong. Tomorrow, we still have a job to finish and we will see..."*

Dusan Borković (second): *"The result is not too bad, but it was not an easy race. I lost a lot of time in the initial laps behind the Honda cars, which I understand given the championship situation, and my tyres got destroyed in the fight with Files. In the final laps, I even thought I had a slow puncture in one of the rear tyres, but then there was a strange noise coming from the back and there was a lot of oversteer, so there must be something mechanical, we need to check. I was lucky to finish. Tomorrow, we will see, the objective is to keep at least the runner-up position."*

Norbert Michelisz (third): *"It was an interesting race, especially at the beginning were I got hit a couple of times, notably during the safety-car period. I think the guy behind me did not notice the board... All in all, I am very satisfied and confident for tomorrow. The team is doing a good job and it is always a pleasure to drive for M1RA !"*

In Qualifying Tassi and Files made a Honda front row for Race 1

The Hell Energy Racing with KCMG duo of Attila Tassi and Josh Files monopolised the front row for this afternoon's Race 1, the penultimate round of the TCR Europe Series at Circuit de Barcelona Catalunya.

Tassi set the fastest lap of 1:53.861 on his second attempt in Q2 and demoted to second his teammate Files who had clocked a provisional fastest lap of 1:53.902 in his first run. The gap between them was just 41 thousandths.

In the battle for the European crown, current points leader Mikel Azcona moved another small step closer to the title as he qualified in third position and scored three points against the two points awarded to Dušan Borković for the fourth place. Azcona was not able to repeat his Q1 exploit and settled in third with a lap of 1:54.167, followed by Borković (1:54.186), while Norbert Michelisz (1:54.198) and Ashley Sutton (1:54.367) filled the third row of the grid for Race 1.

The third title contender, Jean-Karl Vernay failed to make the cut for Q2 and ranked 13th; the Frenchman was kicked out of the top-twelve by Mike Halder and dropped behind Reece Barr by just 45 thousandths. The second Audi car of Berthon was eliminated as well after sitting in the pits for most of the time due to a broken turbo pipe.

Peter Terting and Halder qualified tenth and ninth respectively and will share the front row of the reverse grid for tomorrow's Race 2.

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Grid penalty for Kris Richard in Race 2

Target Competition's Kris Richard had his fastest Qualifying time disallowed by the Stewards because of a track limit infringement between turns 1 and 2.

The Swiss had qualified in seventh position with a lap of 1:54.385 that was under investigation and finally deleted; his second best lap in Q2 of 1:54.530, placed him tenth in the final classification.

However, in order to avoid that the penalty would turn into an advantage, placing him on pole position on the reverse grid for Race 2, the Stewards handed him a drop of ten positions.

Consequently, Richard will start Race 1 from tenth and Race 2 from 11th.

2018 TCR Europe Series – calendar

5/6 May – Circuit Paul Ricard, France (International GT Open)

19/21 May – Circuit Zandvoort, Netherlands (Jumbo Racing Days) *

9/10 June – Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium (International GT Open) *

7/8 July – Hungaroring, Hungary (International GT Open) *

18/19 August – TT Circuit Assen, Netherlands (Gamma Racing Days) *

22/23 September – Autodromo di Monza, Italy (International GT Open)

20/21 October – Circuit de Barcelona Catalunya, Spain (International GT Open) *

* With TCR Benelux

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



Circuit de Barcelona

TCR Europe

Race - 1

Final Results



Cls	Nº	Driver	Nat	Team	Nat	Vehicle	Laps	Total Time	Gap	Interval	Km/h	Best	Time	Km/h
1	9	Attila Tassi	HUN	Hell Energy Racing with KCMG	HUN	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	12	25:27.908			131.6	5	1:55.413	145.2
2	62	Dušan Borkovic	SRB	Target Competition	SRB	Hyundai i30 N TCR	12	25:31.330	3.422	3.422	131.3	4	1:55.611	144.9
3	555	Norbert Michelisz	HUN	M1RA	HUN	Hyundai i30 N TCR	12	25:31.807	3.899	0.477	131.2	4	1:55.449	145.1
4	116	Ashley Sutton	GBR	WestCoast Racing	GBR	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	12	25:33.242	5.334	1.435	131.1	4	1:55.466	145.1
5	25	Mikel Azcona	ESP	PCR Sport	ESP	Cupra TCR	12	25:34.001	6.093	0.759	131.0	4	1:55.547	145.0
6	69	Jean-Karl Vernay	FRA	Leopard Lukoil Team	FRA	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	12	25:34.574	6.666	0.573	131.0	4	1:55.352	145.2
7	999	Dániel Nagy	HUN	M1RA	HUN	Hyundai i30 N TCR	12	25:35.252	7.344	0.678	130.9	4	1:55.482	145.1
8	94	Kris Richard	SUI	Target Competition	SUI	Hyundai i30 N TCR	12	25:35.924	8.016	0.672	130.9	5	1:55.906	144.5
9	4	Julien Briché	FRA	JSB Compétition	FRA	Peugeot 308 TCR	12	25:37.264	9.356	1.340	130.8	5	1:55.716	144.8
10	8	Reece Barr	IRE	Target Competition	IRE	Hyundai i30 N TCR	12	25:37.957	10.049	0.693	130.7	5	1:55.744	144.7
11	15	Peter Terting	GER	Target Competition	GER	Hyundai i30 N TCR	12	25:39.273	11.365	1.316	130.6	8	1:56.304	144.0
12	34	Stian Paulsen	NOR	Stian Paulsen Racing	NOR	Cupra TCR	12	25:41.663	13.755	2.390	130.4	5	1:55.864	144.6
13	19	Andreas Bäckman	SW	WestCoast Racing	SW	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	12	25:42.741	14.833	1.078	130.3	4	1:56.432	143.9
14	32	Oliver Taylor	GBR	Pyro Motorsport	GBR	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	12	25:44.733	16.825	1.992	130.1	4	1:56.531	143.8
15	88	Maxime Potty	BEL	Comtoy Racing	BEL	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	12	25:45.763	17.855	1.030	130.0	11	1:57.119	143.0
16	126	Jessica Bäckman	SW	WestCoast Racing	SW	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	12	25:49.629	21.721	3.866	129.7	5	1:57.114	143.0
17	10	Viktor Davidovski	MKD	PSS Racing Team	MKD	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	12	25:50.857	22.949	1.228	129.6	5	1:57.055	143.1
18	17	Martin Ryba	SVK	Brutal Fish Racing Team	SVK	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	12	25:58.203	30.295	7.346	129.0	4	1:56.961	143.2
19	35	M. Sathienthirakul	THA	Monlau Competición	THA	Cupra TCR	12	25:58.676	30.768	0.473	129.0	6	1:57.718	142.3
20	27	Enrique Hernando	ESP	Sports & You	ESP	Peugeot 308 TCR	12	26:00.500	32.592	1.824	128.8	6	1:57.653	142.4
21	22	Petr Fulín	CZE	Fulin Race Academy	CZE	Cupra TCR	12	26:01.476	33.568	0.976	128.7	8	1:57.860	142.1
22	21	Marie Baus-Coppens	FRA	JSB Compétition	FRA	Cupra TCR DSG	12	26:03.163	35.255	1.687	128.6	6	1:58.192	141.7
23	28	Jean-Laurent Navarro	FRA	MN Développement	FRA	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	12	26:03.679	35.771	0.516	128.6	6	1:57.424	142.7
24	5	Klim Gavrilov	RUS	LTA Rally	RUS	Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR	12	26:10.286	42.378	6.607	128.0	7	1:57.146	143.0
25	99	Josh Files	GBR	Hell Energy Racing with KCMG	GBR	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	10	21:57.327	2 Laps	2 Laps	127.2	4	1:55.555	145.0
26	11	Jens Reno Møller	DEN	Reno Racing	DEN	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	9	20:21.473	3 Laps	1 Lap	123.4	6	1:57.030	143.1
Not classified: (Requirements: 75% of number laps of leader = 9 Laps)														
909	Mike Halder	GER	Hell Energy Racing with KCMG	GER	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	8	18:15.606	4 Laps	1 Lap	122.3	5	1:55.848	144.6	
223	Nathanaël Berthon	FRA	Comtoy Racing	FRA	Audi RS3 LMS TCR	6	14:06.839	6 Laps	2 Laps	118.7	4	1:56.399	143.9	
42	Stefano Comini	SUI	Autodis Racing by THX	SUI	Honda Civic Type R FK7 TCR	5	12:13.352	7 Laps	1 Lap	114.2	4	2:00.840	138.6	
38	Danny Kroes	NED	PCR Sport	NED	Cupra TCR	4	10:12.540	8 Laps	1 Lap	109.4	4	1:58.236	141.7	
23	Francisco Abreu	POR	Sports & You	POR	Peugeot 308 TCR	1	2:55.832	11 Laps	3 Laps	95.3	1	2:55.832	95.3	
111	Nikola Miljković	SRB	LEIN Racing	SRB	Cupra TCR									

Fastest lap VERNAY in 1:55.352 at 145.3 Km/h in lap 4

Published at:.....

Track Temp: **26.0 °C** Air Temp: **23.2 °C** Humidity: **63 %** Track Status: **DRY**

Stewards:

Race Director:

Timekeeper:



2018 TCR EUROPE - DRIVERS' CLASSIFICATION

pos	driver	TOTAL	Le Castellet FRANCE 5 / 6 May			Zandvoort NETHERLANDS 20 / 21 May			Spa-Francorchamps BELGIUM 9 / 10 June			Budapest HUNGARY 7 / 8 July			Assen NETHERLANDS 18 / 19 August			Monza ITALY 22 / 23 September			Barcelona SPAIN 20 / 21 October		
			Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2
			1	Mikel Azcona (ESP)	177	4	15	10	4	25	8	2	15	12	5	12	0	0	2	18	4	18	10
2	Dušan Borković (SRB)	154	5	25	25	1	10	0	0	12	6	2	25	0	0	8	15	0	0	0	2	18	
3	Jean-Karl Vernay (FRA)	153	0	8	18				5	25	0	0	6	0	4	18	6	5	25	25	0	8	
4	Attila Tassi (HUN)	153	0	0	8	3	18	15	0	0	0	4	0	12	0	10	25	3	10	15	5	25	
5	Dániel Nagy (HUN)	120	3	18	15	0	6	0	0	4	8	0	15	18	2	25	0	0	0	0	0	6	
6	Josh Files (GBR)	113	1	12	0	0	12	25	0	0	0	3	0	15	5	1	0	2	15	18	4	0	
7	Kris Richard (SUI)	88	0	0	0	2	0	10	0	8	18	0	10	6	1	15	8	0	0	6	0	4	
8	Maxime Potty (BEL)	76	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	18	15	0	0	0	3	6	4	1	12	12	0	0	
9	Stian Paulsen (NOR)	60	2	4	0	0	8	0	1	0	10	0	18	1	0	4	10	0	2	0	0	0	
10	Francisco Mora (POR)	44	0	0	12	0	2	4	0	0	1	0	0	25									
11	Stefano Comini (SUI)	41	0	0	1				0	0	0	0	4	4	0	12	12	0	8	0	0	0	
12	Julien Briché (FRA)	40				0	0	0	3	10	25	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	2	
13	Jaap van Lagen (NED)	38				5	15	18															
14	Danny Kroes (NED)	30	0	0	4	0	4	12	0	6	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15	Reece Barr (IRE)	27	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	1	
16	Jens Reno Møller (DEN)	25	0	2	6	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
17	Norbert Michelisz (HUN)	16																			1	15	
18	Francisco Abreu (POR)	14	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
19	Ashley Sutton (GBR)	12																			0	12	
20	Peter Terting (GER)	12													0	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	
21	Fabrizio Giovanardi (ITA)	10																0	6	4			
22	Igor Stefanovski (MKD)	6	0	6	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
23	Loris Cencetti (LUX)	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0						
23	Ferenc Ficza (HUN)	2										0	0	2									
25	Oliver Taylor (GBR)	2																0	1	1	0	0	
26	Nicola Baldan (ITA)	1	0	1	0													0	0	0			
26	Cedric Piro (GER)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0									
26	Márk Jedlőczy (HUN)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	1	0									
	Viktor Davidovski (MKD)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Gustavo Moura (POR)	0	0	0	0																		
	Giovanni Altoè (ITA)	0	0	0	0				0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Andrea Larini (ITA)	0	0	0	0																		
	Enrico Bettera (ITA)	0	0	0	0																		
	Marie Baus Coppens (FRA)	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	
	Martin Ryba (SVK)	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	
	Munkong Sathienthirakul (THA)	0							0	0	0				0	0	0				0	0	
	Salvatore Tavano (ITA)	0																0	0	0			
	Cosimo Barberini (ITA)	0																0	0	0			
	Roberto Russo (ITA)	0																0	0	0			
	Benjamin Lessennes (BEL)	0																0	0	0			
	José Manuel Sapag (ARG)	0																0	0	0			
	Petr Fulín (CZE)	0																			0	0	
	Enrique Hernando (ESP)	0																			0	0	
	Andreas Bäckman (SWE)	0																			0	0	
	Mike Halder (GER)	0																			0	0	
	Klim Gavrilov (RUS)	0																			0	0	
	Nikola Mijković (SRB)	0																			0	0	
	Nathanaël Berthon (FRA)	0																			0	0	
	Jean-Laurent Navarro (FRA)	0																			0	0	
	Jessica Bäckman (SWE)	0																			0	0	

2018 TCR EUROPE - TEAMS' CLASSIFICATION

pos	team	TOTAL	Le Castellet FRANCE 5 / 6 May			Zandvoort NETHERLANDS 20 / 21 May			Spa-Francorchamps BELGIUM 9 / 10 June			Budapest HUNGARY 7 / 8 July			Assen NETHERLANDS 18 / 19 August			Monza ITALY 22 / 23 September			Barcelona SPAIN 20 / 21 October		
			Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2	Q	R1	R2
			1	Hell Energy Racing with KCMG	266	1	12	8	3	30	40	0	0	0	7	0	27	5	11	25	5	25	33
2	Target Competition	263	5	35	25	3	10	10	0	20	24	3	35	14	1	23	23	0	0	8	2	22	
3	PCR Sport	209	4	15	14	4	29	20	2	21	16	5	14	0	0	2	18	4	18	10	3	10	
4	Leopard Lukoil Team	191	0	8	18	5	15	18	5	25	0	0	6	0	4	18	6	5	25	25	0	8	
5	M1RA	181	3	18	27	0	8	4	0	4	10	0	15	43	2	25	0	0	0	0	1	21	
6	Comtoy Racing	76	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	18	15	0	0	0	3	6	4	1	12	12	0	0	
7	Stian Paulsen Racing	61	2	4	0	0	8	0	1	0	10	0	18	1	0	4	10	0	2	0	0	1	
8	JSB Compétition	41				0	0	0	3	10	25	0	0	0	0	0	1				0	2	
9	Autodis Racing by THX	40							0	0	0	0	4	4	0	12	12	0	8	0	0	0	
10	Reno Racing	25	0	2	6	0	1	6	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	
11	Sports & You	15	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12	Autodis Racing by Piro Sports	15	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	8	0	0	
13	WestCoast Racing	12																			0	12	
14	Team Mulsanne	10																0	6	4			
15	Stefanovski Racing Team	6	0	6	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
16	Zengó Motorsport	2										0	0	2									
17	Pyro Motorsport	2																0	1	1	0	0	
18	Pit Lane Competizioni	1	0	1	0				0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0			
18	Race Republic	1	0	0	1													0	0	0			
18	JLG Sport	1	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	1	0									
	PSS Racing Team	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	Speedy Motorsport	0	0	0	0																		
	Brutal Fish Racing Team	0				0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	
	Monlau Competición	0							0	0	0				0	0	0				0	0	
	Baporo Motorsport	0																0	0	0			
	Scuderia del Girasole	0																0	0	0			
	Fullin Race Academy	0																			0	0	
	LTA Rally	0																			0	0	
	MN Développement	0																			0	0	
	LEIN Racing	0																			0	0	

2018 TCR EUROPE DSG CHALLENGE

pos	driver	TOTAL	Le Castellet 5 / 6 May		Zandvoort 20 / 21 May		Spa-Francorchamps 9 / 10 June		Budapest 7 / 8 July		Assen 18 / 19 August		Monza 22 / 23 September		Barcelona 20 / 21 October	
			R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2	R1	R2
			1	Giovanni Altoè (ITA)	200	25	25			25	25			25	25	25
2	Marie Baus-Coppens (FRA)	165			0	25	18	18	25	18	18	18			25	
3	Ferenc Ficza (HUN)	25							0	25						