**MACAU GRANDPRIX Friday Report**

14th November 2014

### Macau Road Sport Challenge

The “Macau Road Sport Challenge” category saw a large number of sports cars following from yesterday’s Free Practice. Qualifications started today.

The 30 minute qualification began from 11:20am with 33 machines gathered on the circuit. 22 out of the 33 machines raced using YOKOHAMA Tires.

However when the top group finished timing the race at 11:28am, there was a big crash at Fisherman’s Bend and the session was stopped by a red flag. At this point, LEONG Ian Veng, Lancer Evolution9, claimed to the top position with 2’39”184. However when the session restarted with 20 minutes to go, however a machine suddenly stopped along the straight course and started on fire and Tatsuya Tanigawa, Mazda RX-8, was stopped at the tip of the first corner too and the session was red-flagged again.

After the session restarted at 11:54am, LEONG Ian Veng claimed the top time at 2’34”891, but WONG Wan Long knocked LEONG Ian Veng out with 2’34”833 on the final qualifying lap and won pole position. LO Kai Fung, Lancer Evolution7, took third. In this category as well, YOKOHAMA tire users qualified in the top 3.

### Macau GT Cup

The “Macau GT Cup” doubles as the GT Asia Finals with YOKOHAMA One-Make Tire, and the first qualifying session was held today.

The 30 minute qualifier started at 1:10pm under bright sunshine. Maro ENGEL, Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3, who had marked the fastest lap time yesterday during the free practice session, started a timed lap. However Renger VAN DER ZANDE, Mercedes-Benz SLS AMG GT3, marked 2’21”311 and claimed the second fastest lap time.

Later that day, the drivers fought over a lap time around 2’20”, but the fastest lap time entered in was 2’18”. Maro ENGEL finished his time attack at 2’19”732, and remained in second until the final stage. Only one machine was able to claim a better time than his, so he finished the qualification in third. Augusto FARFUS, BMW Z4 GT3, ended sixth, and Renger VAN DER ZANDE followed in seventh.

Along with this first qualifying result, the second qualification will be held tomorrow and its grid will be determined by the fastest time total.

### Macau Touring Car Cup

The lightweight sports car “CTM Macau Touring Car cup” had its official qualification with 33 machines. This includes tire competitions, with a full 29 YOKOHAMA tire users in this large group.

The clouds cleared and the sun started peeking out in the afternoon. The 30 minute qualifying session started from 12:15pm, but a number of machines were stopped with the trouble right after they dashed onto the circuit. Luckily, the red flag stayed down and the race continued on with YAN Cheuk Wai, Peugeot RCZ, in front, recording 2’47”704.

Charoensukhawatana NATTAVUDE, Peugeot RCZ, climbed to second, marking faster times every lap with 2’50”674 as his fastest. However, there was a major crash involving two machines on the mountain side. Because of this, the qualifying session was red-flagged with 13 minutes to go.

At 12:44pm, the session restarted again. And while Charoensukhawatana NATTAVUDE marked his fastest lap time at 2’48”813, but couldn’t turn his position around. In the end, YAN Cheuk Wai, Peugeot RCZ, claimed the pole position with Patrick CHAN, Peugeot RCZ in third. Once again, YOKOHAMA tire users qualified in this category’s top 3.

### WTCC (FIA World Touring Car Championship)

FIA WTCC with YOKOHAMA One-Make Tires. In this category, the second practice was held at 9:25am and the first, second and third qualifying sessions all began from 3:10pm.

At 9:25am, all machines were coursed in together for the 30 minute second practice. Honda machines seemed to have a good start of the session yesterday, however Citroen machines picked up their pace quickly in this session. Yvan Muller marked the closest to yesterday’s top time at 2’27”811 on his first lap, then Jose Maria LOPEZ marked 2’26”965 in the following lap – claiming the fastest lap time in this category.

Soon after that, Pepe Oriola, Chevrolet, crashed on the mountain side and another red flag came out.

The session reopened again with 20 minutes to go, and Jose Maria LOPEZ, Citroen, was timed up at 2’26”060, claiming the top position of this session. Ma Qing Hua, Citroen, received second, Gabriele Tarquini, Honda, and Tiago Monteiro, Honda, followed LOPEZ.

All the machines joined the following the 30 minute 1st Qualification at 3:10pm. However Oriola, Chevrolet, Crashed on the mountain side. 1st Qualification was red-flagged.

Q1 restarted with 25 minutes to go, and Sebastien Loeb claimed the fastest lap at 2’26”036, with Team Citroen standing by in the pit right after claiming 2’26”. However Norbert Michelisz, Honda, fought vigorously and blew away their fastest lap time with 2’25”920.

Most of the machines were pitted out at some point the latter stage of the race, aiming to squeeze more time at the last minute with new tires. Mikhail Kozlovskiy, LADA, crashed into a tire barrier at the Lisboa Bend, leading to the 1st Qualification getting a second red flag. 1st Qualification was called after this incident and the top 12 machines made it into to the 2nd Qualification. Unfortunately, Mehdi Bennani, Honda, wasn’t able to clear the 1st Qualification in 13th position.

The 2nd Qualification started at 3:50pm, and saw more exciting racing from the 12 top machines remaining from the 1st Qualification.

In the first attack, Lopez, Citroen, marked 2’24”539 and claimed top position with the Citroen driven by Loeb and Muller close behind. After the checked flag appeared, all machines put in their best, Lopez timed up to 2’24”329 and claimed the fastest lap time of the 2nd Qualification. By the end of Q2, the top 5 racers in this session, including 3 Citroen drivers, Tom CORONEL, Chevrolet, and Norbert MICHELISZ, Honda, got into the 3rd Qualification.

The 3rd Qualification started at 4:12pm. Each of the top 5 machines from Q2 raced 1 lap trial one at a time. Lopez claimed the top position with 2’24”294 and got the pole position for the Final on Sunday. Loeb and Muller followed his time and Citroen swept the top 3 qualifying sessions.

### Formula3 Macau Grand Prix

The “Suncity Group Formula3 Macau Grand Prix” had already finished its 1st Qualification yesterday, and the 40 minute Free Practice 2 was held in the morning and the starting grid for tomorrow’s qualifying race was decided by the results of the 40 minute 2nd Qualification held in the afternoon.

The second free practice began at 10:20am. There was a crash at Fisherman’s Bend right after the start, but the session continued on without a red flag. Nicholas LATIFI marked the fastest lap at 2’13″335 early in this stage of the session, however Felix ROSENQVIST marked 2’12″648 and went up to the top right away.

15 minutes after that, Esteban OCON marked 2’12”200 jockeying to the top. Amazingly though, ROSENQVIST again marked his best time 2’11″743 and wrenched back the top position at 10:48am. Just as things were looking perfect for ROSENQVIST, he crashed on the mountain side and a red flag was waved.

The session was restarted with 5 minutes remaining, ROSENQVIST kept his fastest lap time and position at the top. Jordan KING came back with renewed time in second and Esteban OCON finished in third.

The 2nd Qualification started at 2:05pm. All drivers know the Saturday Qualification Race grid will be determined by the result of the 1st and 2nd Qualifications, so each driver pulled out all the stops, racing with everything they’ve got.

ROSENQVIST, who’d marked the fastest time in the morning, lapped in at the 13 second mark in the early stage. Lucas AUER then marked 2’12″063 at 02:13pm to became third place overall.

AUER marked 2’11″838 at 2:15pm and became the top in overall team, however soon after that OCON marked 2’11″742 again. Everyone thought OCON would get the pole position for tomorrow’s Qualifying race, however ROSENQVIST blasted back into the top with the fastest lap time of 2’11″506. Following this remarkable time, there was another crash on the mountain side and the race was red flagged concluding the 2nd Qualification. ROSENQVIST obtained pole position with OCON and Max VERSTAPPEN following in second and third.

However, both OCON and VERSTAPPEN received a grid-down penalties during the Free Practice 1 the day before, so AUER and BLOMQVIST will jump up to second and third positions.