

ROUNDS 19 & 20 – SUZUKA, JAPAN RACE REPORT

Weather: sunny, with a dry track for Race 1; drizzly with a damp track for Race 2

MENU AND CORONEL SHARE WINS

Alain Menu and Tom Coronel claimed one victory apiece in WTCC's first visit to Suzuka that was blessed by a couple of close races and a good crowd.

In the first one, after four of his potential competitors were eliminated in a couple of crashes and thanks to his fair play agreement with Yvan Muller, Menu was able to pull out and created a gap that nobody was able to fill.

In the second race Coronel managed to resist the pressure from Muller and finally clinched his first victory in the ROAL Motorsport BMW. The second one for him in WTCC after that he scored in 2008 at Okayama, which proved that racing in Japan provides him with some extra motivations.

In terms of the championship fight Huff cut his gap from Muller by three points; the latter has still a 13-point lead with 100 points to be awarded.

Michel Nykjær won both races in the Yokohama Trophy and, most important, claimed his first, and well deserved WTCC podium.

The championship will resume in Shanghai, China, on November 6th for rounds 21 and 22.

MICHELISZ DEMOTED AFTER RACE 2

Norbert Michelisz lost his ten place in the first race after the Stewards of the meeting imposed him a 30-second time penalty for overspeeding during the rolling start.

The same penalty was awarded to Tarquini, Barth, Villa and Oriola, even if they have all finished out of the points.

RACE 1 – MENU WINS FROM HUFF AND NYKJÆR

Alain Menu and Rob Huff claimed another 1-2 finish for Chevrolet, but they were definitely helped by the happenings of the race's early stages.

At first, most of their main contenders – Robert Dahlgren, Tom Coronel, Gabriele Tarquini and Tiago Monteiro – were eliminated in two different incidents at the start. Later, Yvan Muller lost the lead and eventually dropped to fourth because of a wrong set up choice.

This made things easier for Menu (who pocketed his fourth victory of the season), Huff (who reduced the gap in the standings to ten points), and Nykjær (who claimed his first WTCC podium besides winning the Yokohama Trophy).

In front of his home crowd Yukinori Taniguchi too obtained his best result ever in the world championship by finishing seventh behind Colin Turkington.

Key moments

Start – two different incidents call the safety car in; Nykjær hits Dahlgren who spins and crashes; seconds after Coronel and Tarquini come together and cause a pile up that involves Monteiro, Villa, Barth and Yoshimoto. Only Tarquini and Villa can rejoin.

Lap 7 – the race resumes, Muller leads from Menu and Huff

Lap 8 – Menu overtakes Muller for the lead

Lap 9 – Oriola pits and rejoins after four laps

Lap 10 – Muller drops from second to fourth behind Huff and Nykjær, after a mistake



Lap 14 – Turkington overtakes Taniguchi for sixth
Lap 15 – Tarquini overtakes Michelisz for ninth
Lap 16 – Dudukalo spins at the exit of the final turn and avoids hitting the pit wall by inches
Lap 20 – Muller closes in on Nykjær who defends his third position
Lap 23 – Tarquini tries one last attempt to steal eighth place from Bennani, but in vain

Withdrawals

R. Dahlgren: race incident; T. Monteiro: race incident; H. Yoshimoto, DNC: race incident; T. Coronel, DNC: race incident; F. Barth: race incident

RACE 2 – CORONEL CLAIMS FIRST VICTORY

Finally Tom Coronel came back to the WTCC winning circle, claiming his first WTCC victory in the ROAL Motorsport BMW. The second one for him in the World Championship.

Chevrolet drivers focused on the championship and did not take the risk to try hazardous overtaking manoeuvres; Yvan Muller, Rob Huff and Alain Menu filled the positions from second to fourth, while Robert Dahlgren's hopes were frustrated once again with a fifth place that could have been a podium without a misfiring problem.

Michel Nykjær encored in the Yokohama Trophy after a race-long close fight with Colin Turkington and Javier Villa. For the whole 23 laps the Dane was able not to open the least of a gap.

Gabriele Tarquini had another unlucky race and was stopped by a drive-through after a collision with O'Young at the start.

Key moments

A few minutes before the start a light shower dampens the track

Start – Coronel takes the lead while pole sitter O'Young is hit by Tarquini and spins off at Turn 1

Lap 1 – Dahlgren overtakes Menu for fourth

Lap 4 – Muller and Huff put the pressure on Coronel

Lap 6 – Dahlgren tries to overtake Huff for third, in vain

Lap 8 – Tarquini is given a drive through for hitting O'Young at the start

Lap 10 – Nykjær is chased by Turkington and Villa

Lap 12 – Tarquini retires after observing the drive through

Lap 15 – Menu overtakes Dahlgren for fourth

Lap 16 – Bennani is given a drive through for overtaking Dudukalo under yellow flag

Lap 22 – Dahlgren dives inside Menu at Turn 5 but doesn't find a gap

Lap 23 – Coronel wins beating Muller by inches; Nykjær wins the Yokohama Trophy from Turkington

Withdrawals

T. Monteiro, DNS: race 1 incident; F. Barth, DNS: race 1 incident; D. O'Young: race incident; G. Tarquini: withdrawn

FLASH NEWS

RECORD FINE FOR CHARLES NG

Liqui Moly Team Engstler's Charles Ng was inflicted a record fine by the Stewards of the meeting for overtaking under the red flag during the warm up session.

The Hong Kong driver was fined by 5,000 euros and was also given a drop of five positions on the grid for Race 1, which demoted him to the very last spot.

Other fines were awarded to Kristian Poulsen (1,000 euros for overtaking under yellow) and Robert Dahlgren (250 euros for trespassing the white line at pit exit).

THE WORD TO THE WINNERS

Alain MENU – winner of Race 1

“I had not a quick reflection at the start and Yvan took the lead. However we had made a kind of agreement before the start to avoid incidents. He knew that my car was faster and let me pass. It was very fair of him. Then it was easy, I had the best car and was able to pull out for good.”

Tom CORONEL – winner of Race 2

“It was a very tough race for me, as Yvan put me under pressure for most of the time and I had a lot of oversteering problems with my car, especially in the first corner. It is great to win, for me, because I love Japan, and for the team. They really deserved, as they have done a great job for the whole season.”

2011 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 1 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	8		Alain MENU	CHE	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	25:50.919	25		129.46	54.521
2	2		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	25:54.052	25	3.133	129.20	54.630
3	17	Y	Michel NYKJAER	DNK	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	25:54.685	25	3.766	129.14	54.567
4	1		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	25:55.360	25	4.441	129.09	54.653
5	11	Y	Kristian POULSEN	DNK	BMW 320 TC	25:55.770	25	4.851	129.05	54.630
6	29	Y	Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320 TC	25:59.520	25	8.601	128.74	55.155
7	10	Y	Yukinori TANIGUCHI	JPN	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	26:04.391	25	13.472	128.34	54.922
8	25	Y	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320 TC	26:04.649	25	13.730	128.32	54.912
9	3		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	26:04.964	25	14.045	128.30	54.755
10	12	Y	Franz ENGSTLER	DEU	BMW 320 TC	26:06.869	25	15.950	128.14	55.205
11	9	Y	Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	26:11.752	25	20.833	127.74	55.276
12	68	Y	Masaki KANO	JPN	BMW 320 TC	26:16.808	25	25.889	127.33	55.696
13	31		Toshihiro ARAI	JPN	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	26:17.686	25	26.767	127.26	55.341
14	51	Y	Charles NG	HKG	BMW 320si	26:30.217	25	39.298	126.26	55.736
15	5	Y	Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	BMW 320 TC	26:35.397	25	44.478	125.85	55.160
16	20	Y	Javier VILLA	ESP	BMW 320 TC	26:41.473	25	50.554	125.37	55.258
17	4	Y	Aleksei DUDUKALO	RUS	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	27:06.950	25	1:16.031	123.41	55.431
18	74	Y	Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	26:49.368	20	5 LAPS	99.67	55.168

NOT CLASSIFIED

88	Y		Hiroki YOSHIMOTO	JPN	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	25:28.849	11	D.N.F.	57.38	55.726
15			Tom CORONEL	NLD	BMW 320 TC	26:08.102	5	N.C.F.	25.05	57.067
7	Y		Fredy BARTH	CHE	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	3:15.744	2	D.N.F.	76.96	1:04.076
30			Robert DAHLGREN	SWE	Volvo C30 Drive		0	D.N.F.	N/A	
18			Tiago MONTEIRO	PRT	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T		0	D.N.F.	N/A	

FASTEST LAP

8			Alain MENU		Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	54.521	9	92.02mph	148.10kph
17	Y		Michel NYKJAER		Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	54.567	7	91.95mph	147.98kph

Suzuka

Cars 4,5,7,20,74 - drive through penalties applied (+30s), Stewards' decisions 24,25,26,27,28.

Circuit Length = 2.2430 km.

Weather/Track: Sun 26C/Dry 38C

Start: 14:32 End: 14:57

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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2011 FIA World Touring Car Championship
RACE 2 RESULT

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER / TEAM	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH	BEST
1	15		Tom CORONEL	NLD	BMW 320 TC	21:10.854	23		145.28	54.328
2	1		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	21:11.412	23	0.558	145.22	54.231
3	2		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	21:11.694	23	0.840	145.19	54.210
4	8		Alain MENU	CHE	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	21:12.430	23	1.576	145.10	54.350
5	30		Robert DAHLGREN	SWE	Volvo C30 Drive	21:12.911	23	2.057	145.05	54.116
6	17	Y	Michel NYKJAER	DNK	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	21:18.251	23	7.397	144.44	54.540
7	29	Y	Colin TURKINGTON	GBR	BMW 320 TC	21:18.584	23	7.730	144.40	54.628
8	20	Y	Javier VILLA	ESP	BMW 320 TC	21:19.146	23	8.292	144.34	54.621
9	5	Y	Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	BMW 320 TC	21:19.460	23	8.606	144.30	54.622
10	11	Y	Kristian POULSEN	DNK	BMW 320 TC	21:19.755	23	8.901	144.27	54.661
11	12	Y	Franz ENGSTLER	DEU	BMW 320 TC	21:20.331	23	9.477	144.21	54.848
12	4	Y	Aleksei DUDUKALO	RUS	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	21:26.598	23	15.744	143.50	54.690
13	74	Y	Pepe ORIOLA	ESP	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	21:33.522	23	22.668	142.74	55.203
14	10	Y	Yukinori TANIGUCHI	JPN	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	21:34.117	23	23.263	142.67	55.164
15	31		Toshihiro ARAI	JPN	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	21:34.395	23	23.541	142.64	55.087
16	68	Y	Masaki KANO	JPN	BMW 320 TC	21:36.431	23	25.577	142.41	55.222
17	88	Y	Hiroki YOSHIMOTO	JPN	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	21:37.780	23	26.926	142.27	55.256
18	25	Y	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320 TC	21:44.464	23	33.610	141.54	54.609
19	51	Y	Charles NG	HKG	BMW 320si	21:44.946	23	34.092	141.49	55.699

NOT CLASSIFIED

3			Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	10:35.789	11	D.N.F.	138.00	54.438
9	Y		Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Cruze 1.6T	3:42.194	1	D.N.F.	31.46	

FASTEST LAP

30			Robert DAHLGREN		Volvo C30 Drive	54.116	4	92.71mph	149.21kph*	
17	Y		Michel NYKJAER		Sunred SR Leon 1.6T	54.540	3	91.99mph	148.05kph	

Suzuka

* Correction of overall fastest lap from that shown in Provisional Classification.

Circuit Length = 2.2430 km.

Weather/Track: Sun 24C/Dry 31C

Start: 15:52 End: 16:13

Steward:	Steward:	Steward:	Issued at:
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2011 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	driver	Curitiba (BRA) 20 March		Zolder (BEL) 24 April		Monza (ITA) 15 May		Budapest (HUN) 5 June		Brno (CZE) 19 June		Porto (PRT) 3 July		Donington (GBR) 17 July		Oschersleben (DEU) 31 July		Valencia (ESP) 4 September		Suzuka (JPN) 23 October		Shanghai (CHN) 6 November		Macau (CHN) 20 November		TOTAL
1	Yvan MULLER (FRA)	18	15	15	0	18	18	10	25	18	25	18	18	25	25	25	10	25	25	12	18					363
2	Robert HUFF (GBR)	25	12	25	8	25	25	12	18	25	12	15	25	18	18	18	8	10	18	18	15					350
3	Alain MENU (CHE)	8	25	18	18	0	10	25	0	15	15	25	8	15	10	10	18	18	15	25	12					290
4	Tom CORONEL (NLD)	12	18	0	0	10	0	0	12	12	18	8	10	12	12	1	12	15	6	0	25					183
5	Gabriele TARQUINI (ITA)	6	8	12	25	0	1	8	15	0	8	10	6	10	6	15	15	0	12	2	0					159
6	Tiago MONTEIRO (PRT)	0	6	10	15	15	12	6	10	0	0	12	15	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0					109
7	Kristian POULSEN (DNK)	10	0	8	0	8	15	2	0	10	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	12	10	10	1					92
8	Norbert MICHELISZ (HUN)	-	-	6	4	12	6	18	0	4	0	4	12	0	0	0	0	6	8	0	2					82
9	Franz ENGSTLER (DEU)	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	8	0	0	0	4	8	15	0	25	0	1	1	0					70
10	Robert DAHLGREN (SWE)	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	8	2	6	0	4	8	12	6	2	2	0	10					68
11	Michel NYKJÆR (DNK)	4	0	4	10	0	0	0	0	1	10	2	0	6	0	6	0	0	0	15	8					66
12	Javier VILLA (ESP)	0	4	2	1	4	4	15	6	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	1	8	0	0	4					57
13	Darryl O'YOUNG (CHN)	0	0	1	12	6	8	0	4	6	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0					43
14	Carlos BUENO (BRA)	15	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					25
15	Colin TURKINGTON (GBR)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	8	6					16
16	Stefano D'ASTE (ITA)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	-	8	2	1	0	-	-					12
17	Pepe ORIOLA (ESP)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	4	0	0					10
18	Mehdi BENNANI (MAR)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	4	0					8
19	Fredy BARTH (CHE)	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					7
20	Yukinori TANIGUCHI (JPN)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0					6
21	Aleksei DUDUKALO (RUS)	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0					4

2011 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP - MANUFACTURERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

position	manufacturer	Curitiba (BRA) 20 March		Zolder (BEL) 24 April		Monza (ITA) 15 May		Budapest (HUN) 5 June		Brno (CZE) 19 June		Porto (PRT) 3 July		Donington (GBR) 17 July		Oschersleben (DEU) 31 July		Valencia (ESP) 4 September		Suzuka (JPN) 23 October		Shanghai (CHN) 6 November		Macau (CHN) 20 November		TOTAL
1	CHEVROLET	43	40	43	30	43	43	37	43	43	40	43	43	43	43	43	28	43	43	43	33					810
2	BMW Customer Racing Teams	27	26	18	14	22	25	33	20	27	26	16	22	25	27	16	37	27	22	22	33					485
3	SR Customer Racing	18	22	27	40	23	20	18	25	14	22	27	23	20	14	23	21	16	23	23	16					435
4	VOLVO Polestar Evaluation Team	6	6	6	10	6	6	0	6	10	6	8	6	6	10	12	8	8	6	0	12					138