



REVIEW IMOLA 17-18 MAY 2014

Gaidai twice on Gentlemen's podium

Alex managed podium finishes on both races in the second Porsche Carrera Cup France weekend for 2014.



The second meeting of Porsche Carrera Cup France for 2014 was held at the Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari, as a support event to the "4 Hours of Imola", the Endurance race that is valid for European Le Mans Series (ELMS).

26 cars were on the grid of the two PCCF races with many fresh talents among them and 9 Gentlemen drivers, one of which is Oleksandr Gaidai. The compact, two day schedule included two Free Practice and two Qualifying sessions on Saturday and two races (25' and 35' long respectively) on Sunday. A perfect appetiser for the 4 Hours main event of the weekend.

During FP1 Gaidai was 7th fastest overall and 1st among Gentlemen drivers (1'48"764) while M. Jousse was the fastest Porsche (1'47"580). In FP2 Alex improved his lap time by 0,7" (1'48"046) and was still fastest among gentlemen drivers and 7th fastest overall, including Rino Mastronardi who was recruited by Tsunami RT to break-in the new engine fitted in the other 991. Behind Max Jousse, 12 PCCF pilots were in the same second in FP2.

Qualifying

Alex was still fastest among Gentlemen drivers in Qualifying 1 with 1'47"926 and 13th fastest overall, roughly 1" slower than Ledogar who was the only one who broke the 1'47" barrier to snatch the pole position. In Qualifying Practice 2 Alex couldn't get under 1'48, despite eight drivers lapped under 1'47". The Tsunami RT pilot marked 1'48"243, which was only the 5th fastest lap time among Gentlemen and 18th fastest overall. Pole setter for Race 2 was Ledogar (1'46"453). Fastest Gentleman pilot was R. Lindland (1'47"604).

Imola is one of Alex Gaidai's favourite circuits and his performance last weekend confirms this



“Finally I had two podiums in one weekend!”

OLEKSANDR GAIDAI

Race 1

Alex had a strong race but he missed the victory in Gentlemen's class after an exit at the Acque Minerali corner. The Ukrainian started well and fought hard from 12th behind a five car pack but he lost the rear end and got out of the track, spinning on the concrete area outside of the corner. Gaidai re-entered the track swiftly but after having lost the lead in his class. Gaidai arrived to the finish 15th overall and 2nd Gentleman, just 1" behind L. Pasquali. In the end Alex was happy for his podium finish but not fully satisfied: *"If I had 1-2 laps I think I would have passed Pasquali"*, the Ukrainian said holding his cup and a bottle of Pommery champagne.



Next race for Gaidai is at Monza, the 2nd race weekend for PCCI. Alex wants to keep his momentum after a strong performance at Misano without the mistakes that cost him one podium finish.

Race 2

Race 2 was a bit more difficult for the Tsunami RT pilot as he had to start from 9th row the grid. Alex fought hard to gain positions throughout the race without losing on his clean cut driving style. Without committing any mistake he finished 11th overall and 3rd in Category B. (Gentlemen).

After the race Alex looked very tired but seemed satisfied with his result: *"the second race was more difficult"*, the Ukrainian said. *"My starting position was worse and from the first lap I felt the tyres to be worn - which was probably a result of the way I had used them during qualifying. But the car setup was far better than in the first race. Starting on the back I had to drive in a group of pilots from 12th to 17th position and the pace of these drivers was lower than that of rivals in the previous race. But it was difficult to overtake them. It was hot, so it was very hard to drive. But finally I had two podiums in one weekend!"*

Tsunami RT takes a weekend break and then enters the 2nd race for the Italian PCC at Monza, May 31st-June 1st. Given that the 3rd PCCF weekend at Ledenon coincides in the calendar with the Monza race, Alex Gaidai unfortunately will have to skip the French event.

PCCF RACES 3 & 4 - IMOLA RESULTS

Session	Overall	Cat. B	Personal best lap	Best Lap (overall)	Remarks
Free Practice 1	7th	1st	1'48"764	1'47"580	Jousse fastest overall, Mastronardi testing
Free Practice 2	7th	1st	1'48"046	1'47"412	Jousse fastest overall, Mastronardi testing
Qualifying 1	13th	1st	1'47"926	1'46"955	13 pilots in one second behind Ledogar
Qualifying 2	18th	5th	1'48"243	1'46"453	166,0 km/h Ledogar's average speed
Race 1	15th	2nd	1'48"128	1'47"016	Alex spins at Acque Minerali while 12th
Race 2	11th	3rd	1'48"800	1'47"126	Tyre grip problems for Gaidai right from start