



RACE REVIEW MAGNY COURS 5 - 7 SEPTEMBER 2014

Gaidai on top of his class

Without previous testing, the Tsunami RT driver couldn't fight for top 10 overall at Magny Cours but took a win and a 2nd place in Cat. B!



"I think I am different after Paul Ricard. I am more relaxed than before", said Alex Gaidai as soon as he joined the team at Magny Cours. Alex's cool approach was obvious during FP1: our driver was 7th fastest among 24 drivers with 1'45"128 and pretty satisfied with the setup of the car prepared by Greek Engineer Giannoulis Kafetzis for the specific race. In FP2 Alex did even better: he improved his lap time by 7 tenths and was 5th fastest overall. In the end, a pretty sweat Alex said: *"I could have done better. The car is still oversteering in slow corners and with the new tyres it gets very extreme in its reactions"*.

The key moment in Race 2: Alex overtakes Lindland on the last chicane but the latter cuts the corner to stay ahead till the flag. The Norwegian stepped on the podium first but Gaidai was declared winner after our team's protest.

Qualifying 1

Alex improved his lap time from FP2 despite he spun before Estoril corner. But the French competition managed to go two seconds lower than before, so our driver was only 18th fastest overall and 4th fastest in the Gentlemen's class. Oleksandr was visibly disappointed in the end : *"I really feed bad for the 2" difference from Come (Ledogar). To tell you the truth - I have no words! Perhaps we'll need to change something for the second qualifying... When you start 18th, the best thing you can do is fight for the top ten"*.

Race 1

Starting pretty back on the grid (18th) Alex Gaidai did a strong race to 12th overall and 2nd in the gentlemen class after Christophe Lapierre. Alex started good, gained two positions in the first lap, passed Pasquali, had his moment on turn 1 - when he lost the line and got in the gravel - and then chased for long Lindland and passed him to take the 2nd place on the Category B podium, after Christophe Lapierre. Ledogar controlled the race from the start and won impressively in front of Maxime Jousse and 2013 champion Gael Castelli.

“The race was nice but Roar Lindland has cut off the track twice to overtake me”

ALEX GAIDAI, AFTER RACE 2 PODIUM

Qualifying 2

In the early Sunday morning qualifying session for Race 2, Alex was much stronger than in Q1 thanks to a revised - more aggressive - setup but he was only 16th overall - with 1'43"848 - and 2nd fastest among Gentlemen. Lindland had lapped better by just 0,048". At least, the gap from pole man Ledogar was closed to 1,4" (from 2,2"). In the end Alex was not 100% satisfied by his performance: *"The car was improved today but I could have lapped at least 0,3" better - the time I lost in the last sector"*.

Race 2

Alex did a very strong race with a lot of drama involved till the end. Our driver had a tough fight with Roar Lindland for the victory in Category B. Alex had a touch with Lindland in the second lap -and overtook him twice during the race. The Norwegian passed Alex again but going off circuit limits. Then Gaidai pressed Roar and passed him in before the right chicane but Roar cut the left, last chicane deliberately to stay ahead without giving his position to our driver right after - as he should. Despite the strong pressure in the following few laps, Alex couldn't regain the lead in his class and stepped 2nd on the podium, where he looked rather disappointed. Right after the race Tsunami RT handed a protest to the Race Director, providing video and photo material from the race. After the hearings, Lindland was penalised with a 30 seconds and as a result Alex became officially the winner in Category B. and was classified 13th overall. Come Ledogar dominated Race 2 in front of Tom Dillman and Alexander Cougnaud and is now the absolute favorite for the PCCF 2014 title.

Tsunami RT travels directly to Vallelunga for the 5th racing weekend of the Porsche Carrera Cup Italia on September 12-14th. Porsche Carrera Cup France transfers to Nogaro circuit on September 26th - 28th. The PCCF race is included in one more GT-Tour French Championship weekend.



The collaboration with Giannoulis Kafetzis was rewarding for Alex at Magny Cours. Our driver poses with our engineer holding the cups won during the weekend.



From left: 1. Tsunami RT posing with the Porsche Carrera Cup girls out of the Magny Cours box; 2. *"Now I am happy with Alex's race", said Irina after race 1. She was even more delighted after race 2 verdict;* 3. Alex squeezed between Lindland and Pasquali (right) during race 2.