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## REVIEW NOGARO 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2014

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### Gaidai steps up to a next level

Alex took a class win in Race 2, climbed up to P6 overall in Race 2 but a last lap accident deprived him of the double.



This was the first race for Tsunami RT and Alex Gaidai in the classic Paul Armagnac circuit of Nogaro. Alex had tested there for two days last December coached by Patrick Pilet and for the race he was supported by two engineers, Michael Ruhs and Giovanni Rizzo. Kevin Estre was invited to coach our driver during the weekend, so the team was in its strongest ever form.

**Gaidai celebrates his Cat. B win in the first race in front of the cheerful Tsunami RT members.**

#### Qualifying 1

Alex Gaidai was 2nd fastest in Q1 (1'29"542) among gentlemen drivers and 14th overall, 0,852" from pole setter Maxime Jousse (1'28"690). The fastest driver in Cat.B was Christoph Lapierre who lapped at 1'29"266. Alex was satisfied with his pace and the car setup right from the start but as always he knew he could have done a little bit better in the session.

#### Race 1

Keeping a very good pace throughout the 25' race and with Christoph Lapierre out of the equation early on (the French was involved in an accident in the first lap), Gaidai won the Gentlemen class B, in front of Glorieux and Lindland. Alex, who was cheered enthusiastically by Tsunami RT members on the podium, was delighted with the result: *"the hottest part of the race was lap 1. I did a good start to gain positions and overtook Lapierre quickly. Then It was all OK. The safety car was good for me but in the end of the race I felt I was losing pace, possibly because of overheated rear tyres. For this reason I lost 11th place from Monti. I understood I was loosing since he was 1,5"-2" behind me and then I locked the wheels and he overtook me. The car setup was good. Thanks to Michael for this!"*



## ***“I am happy after all because I gave fights with top drivers”***

OLEKSANDR GAIDAI, AFTER NOGARO WEEKEND

### **Qualifying 2**

The Tsunami RT driver was by far fastest among gentlemen marking the 9th fastest time overall (1'29"278) and improving his Q1 time by 0,3". Fastest overall was Tom Dillman (1'28"546) in front of Ledogar. With his performance Alex seemed to be the favourite Cat. B driver to win Race 2. In the end of the Qualifying session, Alex said: *“The good thing is I could find the right pace with only two fast laps available - not three this time. I am very happy to get into the top 10, this is what I really wanted!”*

### **Race 2**

Race 2 was a race to forget for Alex. Our driver had an accident in the very last lap, in the second corner of the Nogaro circuit. The Ukrainian returned to the paddock pretty disappointed with the car in bad shape.

*“I was pushed out in a very dangerous point. Maybe I should have left him overtake me”,* said Alex without any knowledge of the other driver's identity (he was No3, Cougnaud). After Gaidai inspected the on board video together with Kevin Este, he realised that there was nobody to blame for his road exit - it was just a racing incident.

It was disappointing for the team because Alex had done one of his strongest races ever. He fought for top 10 positions throughout the race, he was P8 on the first lap, he got up to P6 and he challenged drivers like Maroc, Martins, Castelli and Jousse. *“The car setup was perfect and the help I got from Kevin was precious during the weekend. I didn't expect I could fight with professional drivers”,* said the Ukrainian on his way home. Kevin Este was impressed by Gaidai's performance but as a coach points out to his weaknesses: *“Alex is very fast now when he is alone in the track but he needs to gain more self control when fighting with other drivers”.*

The final race for the French Carrera Cup 2014 will be at Paul Ricard, on October 25th-26th. Two weeks before, 10-12 October, Tsunami RT will be at Imola for the penultimate race of the PCC Italy. Depending on the results of that race, Alex Gaidai will decide whether he will race at Paul Ricard (PCCF) or at Monza (PCCI) as the two races coincide in the calendar. *“My heart tells me to race at Paul Ricard to see where am I among the best French drivers”,* said Alex.



***“Alex is not a just a gentleman driver any more but he is not a pro as well. He is somewhere in the middle”, said Irina Kolomeitseva in the end of the Nogaro race.***

**PCCF, Gentlemen Standings: 1. Glorieux 159; 2. Lindland 138; 3. Gaidai 131; 4. Hamon 128; 5. Pasquali 121**



**From left:** 1. Alex could keep behind for several laps Maxime Jousse in the second race; 2. Kevin Este was next to Alex during the weekend giving him precious advise for the race strategy; 3. Race 2 finished like this for Gaidai but the race was a great lesson for the future.