



REVIEW VALLELUNGA 12-14 SEPTEMBER 2014

Gaidai struggles at Vallelunga

Alex experimented with the car setup all weekend but struggled to perform at his best in the roman circuit. The Ukrainian returns from Vallelunga with a P12 and a P8 finish.



The racing weekend at Vallelunga was the 5th for Porsche Carrera Cup Italia 2014. During Free Practice, Alex lapped at 1'40"266 in FP1 and at 1'39"773 in FP2 but he was far away - at least 2 seconds - from top drivers (Fulgenzi in FP1 and Cairoli in FP2). Alex was only 11th fastest among 15 drivers in FP1 and 12th in FP2 despite he improved his lap by half second. Alex explained that the reason for his low performance was his absence from races in Vallelunga: *"I haven't raced here for the last two and a half years (my last race was in May 2012) and this year we didn't have any test days to improve the car setup"*.

Gaidai was not fighting for the podium in Vallelunga but he improved progressively during the weekend.

Qualifying

Gaidai was only 13th fastest during the qualifying session for Race 1 and as a result he was out of Q2 (8 fastest drivers). As Alex said, *"I found traffic during my fast laps that made me get off the gas in both times. Apart this, I struggled to bring the front tyres in the right temperature and as a result the car was understeering"*.

Race 1

Gaidai did a honest race and for some moments he believed - and made us believe - that he was capable of a 6th finish, that would grant him the pole position for Race 2. The Tsunami RT driver started from 13th and managed to finish 8th, which he considers the right position for the instance: *"In the end I said that I'd better not risk anything"*, said Alex. *"The race was not the best it could be. The car was understeering, I had a small exit behind de Amicis, so it is just OK"*. The race started with a delay - because Cairoli - who would win the race - had an accident during warm-up lap and delayed to be on the grid. So the race director ordered a

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OLEKSANDR GAIDAI, AFTER RACE 2

second warm up lap after the cars were already on the grid - a decision that was debatable by most. Right after the race there was a regrettable episode - a violent attack from Roda to Melnikov in the pard ferme'. The race director eliminated Roda from the race results and banned him from participating in Race 2. The incident was shocking for everybody in the Carrera Cup Paddock, so nobody noticed that Gaidai was penalised with 25" - and finally classified 12th - for a race incident with De Amicis. Alex was not very happy with the decision: *"The racing rules forbid to change trajectory more than once. I was faster and was trying to overtake Alberto on the outside but he slowed down, and I started to move inside. Then he began to press me inside, which led to contact that caused De Amicis' spin. I just had no space to move. I do not agree with this decision. In a similar situation in Misano last year, when the Italian driver pushed me the same way, he was not penalised. But I just have to accept this situation and prepare for tomorrow's race..."*

Race 2

Even if he started from 12th, Gaidai did a pretty consistent race and took the flag 8th. Our driver had a fight with Liberati (who started last) in the first lap - a fight that the Ukrainian won - and afterwards was behind Berton and Negra. The latter was tricky to get passed so Alex lost precious time and couldn't stay with Berton for the rest of the race. In the end Alex said: *"Not bad! I did a race on the safe side, at 4/5 - never on 5/5. All the passes I did were very clean. I lost a lot of time with Negra who did some crazy things for not letting me pass - otherwise I could have stayed with Berton. The car was improved in every aspect, so was my driving today, in comparison to yesterday's race"*.



In Vallelunga Gaidai seemed to be looking from a distance the drivers he was against for the podium at Paul Ricard. The Ukrainian definitely needs more testing in the roman circuit.

PCCI Standings: 1. Cairoli 149; 2. Giraudi 95; 3. Postiglione 78; 4. Liberati 76; 5. De Amicis 54; 6. Gaidai 48;

Carrera Cup Italia takes a 25 days break till the next race at Imola, on October 11-12th. Before that, Tsunami RT and Alex Gaidai will race at Nogaro, France on September 26-28th, the penultimate round of the Porsche Carrera Cup France 2014.



From left: 1. Alex and Irina talking with Ilya Melnikov, the Russian driver who was violently attacked by Roda the previous day; 2. Keeping Tsunami people happy: Fabio, our mechanic made his choice; 3. Alex was stoic with his results and doesn't seem to lose his confidence for the next races.