

Amici a man for all seasons

Imperiale driver claims third successive win in challenging wet conditions at Spa

Spa Francorchamps, July 27, 2013. Autocarrozzeria Imperiale driver Andrea Amici delivered a third successive Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo win in a challenging wet race at Spa Francorchamps today, underscoring his consistency in all conditions. His points haul was insufficient to take a series lead, but he and Adrian Zaugg have closed the distance to Cédric Leimer, setting up a thrilling conclusion to the season at the Nürburgring in three weeks time.

Race 2

With bolts of lightning and teeming rain, race two was started under the Safety Car as the conditions at the hot and humid Spa circuit quickly changed in the minutes prior to the start. After two laps, the race proper got underway as the Safety Car left the track, with Andrea Amici, Adrian Zaugg and Leonardo Geraci edging away from the rest of the field in the first few racing laps.

The form followed much the same initial course as race one, with the two leading cars opening up a gap, albeit this time it was Amici in front, with Zaugg making the chase. Visibility in the spray was forcing drivers to keep gaps, but Zaugg, keen to employ his race strategy of taking a decent time advantage to the pit window, was urgently trying to find away past Amici for the lead.

Behind the leading pack, a man on the march in the wet conditions was another Imperiale driver, Andrea Palma, who was clearly relishing the blend of the weather and the demands of the 7km Spa circuit. Having started the race in 9th, within a handful of laps had found his way into fifth place with a series of audacious overtaking moves.

Leonardo Geraci held station in third, but all eyes were on Richard Chlad, who after a confident job in race one, was holding fourth place in spite of the conditions. Immediately behind was the ever-present Cédric Leimer and Fabian Hamprecht.

With a shortened first stint as a result of the Safety Car, Zaugg eventually found his way past Amici on lap 5 to take the race lead, but one lap later, the pit window opened. Consistent with the different strategies they employed in yesterday's race, Amici elected to box early, while Zaugg pressed on, eager to build a cushion to pass on to his team-mate.

As the race approached the halfway stage, a brightening horizon suggested drier conditions might prevail, especially with warm ambient temperatures that would allow the track to dry quickly. In the event, however, it was a brief interlude as more rain arrived and remained falling until the end of the race.

By the time the pit window had closed, Zaugg's team-mate Federico De Nora emerged in the lead, but only by a small margin of around 3 seconds. Amici immediately set about closing down the advantage and by lap 10, the Italian was once again at the head of the field. De Nora progressively slipped into the grasp of Geraci, Chlad and Leimer in the challenging conditions.

Behind the leaders, Composit Motorsport's Alberto Viberti was also having a storming race in the wet, having advanced six positions to 6th overall as the clock counted down the final ten minutes of race.

The focus turned to the midfield just behind Viberti, with a closely bunched tussle between Palma's team-mate, Roberto Tanca, series leading amateur driver, Laurent Jenny and Fabian Hamprecht.

As the flag fell, Viberti held a comfortable lead amongst this group to finish 5th, followed by Fabian Hamprecht who had also managed to pass De Nora for 6th, and Laurent Jenny finished in 8th. The #27 car of Palma/Tanca was unable to sustain its early form and succumbed to Fran Bugliotti, who took 9th place.

However, the racing was not concluded as in the final stages of the race, Cédric Leimer had been pressing Richard Chlad hard for the final podium place. On the last corner of the last lap, Leimer spun as a mark of his strenuous efforts to overcome the young Czech driver. Amici took a double race win at Spa, followed by Leonardo Geraci and Richard Chlad who was third and winner in the Amateur category, with Leimer in fourth place.



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Cédric Leimer, with 92 points, takes an 11 point advantage into the final pair of races in Germany, with a further 30 points available in the two races at the Nürburgring in September. Andrea Amici has 81 points, and Leonardo Geraci's second place today means that he is tying with Adrian Zaugg/Federica De Nora on 74 points. All three crews retain title potential.

In the Amateur championship, Laurent Jenny retains a healthy 24 point lead over Bonaldi Motorsport's Mirko Zanardini and AutoVitesse Garage R. Affolter lead both teams' points tables, although they only hold a solitary one point lead in the PRO-AM team series.

The final round of the 2013 Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo European season takes place at the Nürburgring on the 21st & 22nd of September.

Driver Quotes

P1 Andrea Amici #54, Autocarrozzeria Imperiale

"It was a great race today, it all started well and I managed to stay ahead of Adrian, but he got the better of me just before the pit window, but I pitted very early and came out at the front. In the second stint, Geraci was on my heels all the way to the flag, which was a little unnerving, but I managed to stay ahead, thank God. The result has taken me to 2nd in the championship, just 11 points behind."

P2 Leonardo Geraci #69, Touring Auto 2000 SRL

"The weekend didn't start so well with qualifying, but the race this morning was very good. Amici and I were very close, especially in the second half of the race and I really enjoy battling with him on a great track like Spa. So hopefully we can progress another stage and move to a win at the Nürburgring."

P3 Richard Chlad #99, Gravity Charouz Team (1st Amateur)

"Today was even better than yesterday, it feels amazing. It's my first time in Spa, but I really enjoyed driving in the wet, I actually find it more relaxing than racing in the dry as with the rain you get that extra possibility of moving to the front. I can see why this track is legendary because after you have driven here, you will never see other tracks in the same way again."

P5 Alberto Viberti #47, Composit Motorsport (2nd Amateur)

"It is my first podium and my first race driving on my own and I'm thrilled. Race 1 didn't go so well for us so it is great to end the weekend on such a good note. It was very emotional to race here on this track, but it took some time to get to know the circuit for the first time and find the finesse it demanded, but ultimately it was fantastic."



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Meet the Drivers



Mirko Zanardini is an Italian entrepreneur and businessman who has held a passion for racing since the tender age of 15. Combining his love for motorsport with his work, and other sporting pursuits from cycling to hunting, Mirko has a long and varied record of competition in disciplines from rally to endurance racing.

Dating back some considerable period, Mirko met and formed both a competitive alliance and a deep friendship with his countryman and fellow businessman, Andrea Mamé. Since 1999, the pair have contested a variety of championships and series including national rallying, but in 2007 the partnership moved to the track and took on the challenge of the Renault Clio Cup. Buoyed by their initial success in claiming the driver's trophy that season, they went on to graduate to the SEAT Leon Cup and from there, it was a natural progression to move to GT racing.

The pair found a common affinity for endurance racing, prospering in a number of races such as the Gulf 24hrs of Abu Dhabi. In 2011, they joined the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo series at Paul Ricard, and became an ever-popular and competitive pairing in the Bonaldi Motorsport camp.

At Spa this weekend, Mirko is commemorating not just a racing partnership, but a friendship that endured for fourteen years. Driving solo and without his team-mate, his #34 car carries the spirit of Andrea Mamé in a race livery that reflects the metallic blue of Andrea's helmet colours including the depiction of a wolf that was integral to Andrea's racing identity.

The Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo community - drivers, staff, mechanics and officials - gathered in the Lamborghini Village on Friday for an address from Automobili Lamborghini's President and CEO, Stephan Winkelmann. He said, "Andrea was not only a race driver to us all, but also a friend. His approach to the sport he loved for me was the very best expression of motorsport and key to the atmosphere we have in the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo."

A minute's silence was then held in Andrea's memory.



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Notes to editors:

Blancpain Series Sponsorship

Founded in 1735 by Jehan-Jacques Blancpain, the watch brand bearing his name is the oldest in the world. Blancpain is currently engaged to the renewal of mechanical watchmaking and to passing on exceptional expertise from one generation to the next through constant investment in human resources, production facilities and research. This approach is its strength and the expression of our long-term vision, even though it goes against the tide of a certain tendency to seek immediate profit.

From the creation of components through to watch design, Blancpain is distinguished by its ability to develop exceptional movements. Over the past 8 years, the manufacturer has indeed developed no less than 29 new calibres.

Through its various models, Blancpain preserves its heritage of precision and elegance, while also displaying an innovative and occasionally provocative spirit. Its range encompasses the sportive L-evolution line, the legendary Fifty Fathoms diver's watch, as well as the classic Villeret collection, the high complication from Le Brassus collection and the Women models.

Pirelli

Founded in 1872, Pirelli is the world's fifth largest tyre manufacturer based on revenues. With a presence in over 160 countries, the company now has 22 tyre manufacturing facilities on five continents and employs some 34,000 people.

Having been involved in motor racing since 1907, Pirelli is currently the single tyre manufacturer for Formula 1™ for the 2011-2013 championship seasons and for the World Superbike Championship. This is an important challenge in terms of technological innovation and is a key means of promoting the Pirelli brand.

In 2013, Pirelli underlines its status as the global tyre manufacturer with the biggest commitment to motorsport. In total, the Italian firm supplies 138 different championships across the world, excluding Formula One, both on the road and on the track. One of the most important engagements is the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo, supplied exclusively by Pirelli, which highlights the strong technical collaboration that the two Italian icons have shared since 1963.

Follow Us

All 2013 season races will be broadcast on Eurosport:

The 2013 series is being broadcast across the extensive Eurosport network, thus reaching all 59 countries - including Italy - in the Eurosport footprint of 129 million households. The Eurosport coverage includes a one-minute teaser shown on the Sunday of each race weekend on "Motorsport Weekend" magazine, followed by a 26-minute summary, highlights and interviews aired on the following Tuesday evening. A 26 minute highlight of the races in Belgium will be broadcast on Tuesday July 30 at 23:15hrs CET on Eurosport (repeated the following day at 08:00hrs CET on Eurosport 2).

Visit the new Squadra Corse website to follow all of Lamborghini's racing activities at

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Contact Us

All media enquiries including requests for additional photography should be directed to: media@supertrofeo.com and please see the official Automobili Lamborghini press website by clicking [here](#)



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