

Amici Claims Back-to-Back Wins

Richard Chlad races to an impressive Amateur win

Spa Francorchamps, July 26, 2013. Adrian Zaugg claimed first blood on the majestic Spa circuit by taking pole position this morning, an achievement that he translated into a fastest lap in this afternoon's race, as well as a healthy lead which enabled his team-mate, Federico De Nora, to claim second place at the chequered flag. But ahead of them, Andrea Amici drove a superbly judged solo race to claim a second successive win for Autocazzzeria Imperiale SRL, with Leonardo Geraci scything through the field from P13 to join them on the podium.

Qualifying

The morning qualifying session was run in high ambient temperatures but wet conditions, with rain falling throughout the 40 minute session. Bonaldi's Adrian Zaugg immediately set provisional pole at around a 19s deficit to his best dry times in practice. As the session progressed, some intermediate timesheets showed Gravity Charouz's Richard Chlad, Fran Bugliotti and Fabian Hamprecht in the top five, trading positions with the anticipated front runners, Andrea Amici, Leonardo Geraci and by his sixth lap, Cédric Leimer had also joined the fray.

As the session edged towards a conclusion, Zaugg's performances indicated an improving track despite continuing light rain as the South African managed to strip over two seconds off his provisional pole time. Prospering in the changeable conditions were Imperiale's Andrea Amici, who claimed a front row position and a storming lap from Matteo Zucchi put the Italian and his team-mate Alessandra Brena into P3. Emmebi's Fran Bugliotti, driving with a strapped wrist after sustained a squash injury, maintained the impressive qualifying performance he showed at Paul Ricard by qualifying in fourth.

Cédric Leimer was perhaps the most notable casualty of these performances, sliding from a best position of P2 on his sixth lap and starting race one from fifth position, and Leonardo Geraci, who uncharacteristically could deliver nothing better than the 13th best time.

Other notable performances came from Composit's Alberto Viberti, who looked likely to trouble the top handful of positions and ultimately set the sixth quickest time, and the Czech driver Richard Chlad, who qualified in 8th place. Mirko Zanardini, racing in memory of his team-mate Andrea Mamé with a special tribute livery on the #34 Bonaldi car, claimed 9th place.

Race 1

It was a dry start to race 1, and Adrian Zaugg led the rolling start down towards La Source, taking Andrea Amici with him in a breakaway. The pair opened up a 16s lead in the first six laps, but as they pulled away, so Zaugg distanced himself from the Imperiale driver, with almost 9 seconds separating the pair in a pattern that has been repeated on a number of occasions this season.

Behind the leading pair who were locked in their own fight, Fabian Hamprecht and Leonardo Geraci made the best starts, both claiming four places in the early stages of the race while Matteo Zucchi (P3) and Fran Bugliotti (P4) both held onto their hard won qualifying positions.

The solitary retirement was that of Composit Motorsport's Andrea Gagliardini on the opening lap, but by lap 6, he was joined by the third placed Matteo Zucchi, who suffered a lone accident at turn 8 that ended his hope of a podium.

As the pit window approached, the Bonaldi car of Adrian Zaugg had built out a 17s lead and consistent with his strategy, he stayed out while series leader, Cédric Leimer opted for an early stop from fourth place.

As the pitstops shook out, Leimer had climbed a place to third, while Zaugg's team-mate, Federico De Nora, held a slender 9.5s lead over Andrea Amici. But Amici - with the benefit of 12 additional laps of track time - quickly ate into De Nora's advantage while the amateur runner acclimatised to the conditions and the gap reduced by 6 seconds on the first lap after the stops.



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SQUADRA CORSE

The big loser in the pit window was Emmebi's Fran Bugliotti, who was penalized for pit lane speeding and a short pit stop, and he tumbled from fourth to outside the top ten once he had served his penalties. Meantime, Amici had caught and passed De Nora for the lead, with the Bonaldi driver then turning his attentions to the man behind him - the hard charging Leonardo Geraci who had climbed from 13th on the grid to 3rd, passing Cédric Leimer on the way.

While the gaps between the first four fluctuated, Andrea Amici drove to back-to-back wins following his victory at Silverstone, with De Nora improving lap by lap and holding a constant gap to Geraci who took the last step of the podium. Cédric Leimer made a valuable contribution to his series title bid with 8 points for fourth place.

While the PRO-AM result was essentially decided once Geraci had passed Leimer, a battle for the first amateur home raged all the way to the line, with Fabian Hamprecht, Gravity Charouz's Richard Chlad, Laurent Jenny and Mirko Zanardini all part of the fight for fifth place. The order oscillated wildly in the closing laps, but as the flag approached, Richard Chlad prevailed, finishing fifth ahead of Laurent Jenny. Mirko Zanardini was also on course to take the commemorative-liveried #34 car to the podium, but at turn 8 in a last lap tussle with Flavio Pierleoni saw the Composit Motorsport driver edge ahead.



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Meet the Drivers



Motor racing has an established family tradition of transferring passion and skill between the generations - look no further than Keke & Nico Rosberg, or the Hill or McRae dynasty. But the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo series at Spa Francorchamps this weekend boasts its own remarkable family story.

While Cédric Leimer has all his attention focused on maintaining - if not extending - his lead in the PRO-AM series in order to claim successive titles, his brother Hervè is a competitive Amateur driver. The family's long relationship with Lamborghini includes a brief interlude when Cédric & Hervè's father, René, took on a substantial shareholding in Automobili Lamborghini in the mid-1970s.

However, with the brothers' focus on racing, another remarkable connection with the Bolognese car company took on another fascinating turn this weekend as cousin Cyril joined the Autovitesse R.Affolter team to race in the Belgian round of the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo series. Cyril's addition to the Swiss squad means that no less than three Leimers will line up on the grid this weekend.

However, it will not all be family squabbles out on the track as Cyril has opted to partner Hervè in the #64 Autovitesse car. Working as a co-director with Hervè at Fila Groupe SA, a multi-franchise automotive business, Cyril from Yverdon-les-Bains in Switzerland has clearly been tempted to join his cousins in stamping another Leimer chapter of history on the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo series. Hervè's son, Julien, who works for Autovitesse, makes it a quartet of family members involved with the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo series.

Cyril said, "Obviously it is an important weekend for Cédric as he is again focusing on winning another championship and Spa is a critical race for him to achieve this goal. For my part, I come to Spa with far less experience than him or Hervè, so my aim is to enjoy myself and to do my best to support my co-pilot."

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Driver Quotes

P1 Andrea Amici #54, Autocazzerria Imperiale SRL

"It was a great race this afternoon which we built from good start to the weekend in the practice sessions, although we struggled a bit in qualifying to close the gap to Adrian Zaugg. When the situation shifted to the racing context, we had tyre issues in the first stint, so I let the gap to Zaugg grow. After the pit window, we were lucky and closed the gap to De Nora and stayed ahead of him for the remainder of the race. Most importantly, I would like to dedicate this race to the memory of Andrea Mamé."

P2 Federico De Nora/Adrian Zaugg #3, Bonaldi Motorsport

"I have mixed emotions today, because of course to finish second on a circuit like this is incredible and I really enjoyed the race. On the other hand, I cannot forget my Bonaldi team-mate, Andrea Mamé, and I would like to dedicate this podium to him. "

"Adrian did a tremendous job again today. I struggled a bit on the first lap simply getting used to the track conditions which were different to the wet we experienced in qualifying, but then I got on with my job."

P5 Richard Chlad #99, Gravity Charouz (1st Amateur)

"It was a great race, although not perfect and I would like to thank my team who worked hard into the night yesterday. It was hard work to try and get ahead of Fabian Hamprecht, he was very quick, but on the last lap, I set the car up well and so managed to get past. So while it was good today, there were still cars in front of me and despite being first Amateur, I won't be satisfied until I am first overall."

The weekend's second Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo race takes place on Saturday at 10:40hrs CET

- Ends -



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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.

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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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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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