

Andrew Palmer takes Lamborghini World Crown for North America

Young drivers claim World Titles in their debut racing seasons

23 November 2013, Vallelunga. The Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo World Finals commenced in fitting style with all three series represented on the podium for race one and a dominant performance from Autocarrozzeria Imperiale's Andrea Amici extending his run of consecutive wins to five. The smart money was thus on the Italian to take the inaugural World Title, but instead race two delivered a thrilling climax that saw Andrew Palmer, a recent addition to the ranks of Super Trofeo racers in North America, adding a win to his second place from the morning race, and with it, the young star claimed the 2013 season Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo World Title for GMG Racing and the USA against stern and experienced opposition.

Race One

Race One started under the Safety Car in deference to the wet conditions, and Adrian Zaugg led the field away, conscious that the short lap might not enable him to open a significant lead to pass on to his Amateur team-mate for the second half of the race. In pursuit, Andrea Amici played a well-rehearsed waiting game, followed by Composit Motorsport's Andrea Gagliardini, who was in imperious form for almost the entire duration of the race.

The two drivers who were noted for being out of position - Dimitri Enjalbert and Kevin Conway - made some significant progress in the early stages of the race, moving from the back of the field to as high as 13th for the American, and Enjalbert making it as far as P7 before the pit window opened on lap 12.

As the top five cars rejoined the race after their stops, the race leading Bonaldi #3 car was now in the hands of Federico De Nora, who had a slender 3s advantage at the front of the field.

As the second half of the race unfolded, Andrea Amici - the European Champion - made swift work of despatching De Nora and taking on the race lead on lap 16. US sensation Andrew Palmer, in only his fourth race, followed Amici through and in the process climbed into second position, and the Japanese driver, Manabu Orido took up the final podium position as Andrea Gagliardini tumbled out of the leading positions.

Alberto Viberti saved some honour for Composit Motorsport, reclaiming fourth position after a drive through penalty, ahead of a hard-charging Dimitri Enjalbert who had made up 18 positions to finish in fifth, just ahead of Federico De Nora. But at the front of the field, Andrea Amici was ordained as the winner when a late race Safety Car took him to the flag, giving Europe a win while Andrew Palmer's amazing early career achievements were supplemented with a second place for the US, and in fitting World Final style, Manabu Orido's sterling drive to third ensured that the Asian series was also represented on the podium.

Race Two

Huge anticipation and continuous rain greeted the start of the second 50-minute race, but the weather could not dampen the electric action on track. After the Safety Car had relinquished control of the race on lap 3, Amici attempted to open a gap from the front, but Andrew Palmer stuck to the Italian's tail while fighting a rearguard action to defend from a committed Manabu Orido, who was pushing the American deep into the braking zones and getting half a length inside the GMG #114 car at every corner.

Palmer eventually lost P2 to Orido on lap six, and the Lamborghini Djakarta driver set about challenging Amici for the lead, while Zaugg and Enjalbert closed up on the leading trio. As the front pair scrapped for the lead, the front five bunched up tightly before the pit window intervened.

Once the order had shaken out after the stops, Amici found himself pegged back in P7, with De Nora leading the field until Alberto Viberti snatched first position, but then fell foul of a stop go penalty. That left Manabu Orido in the lead, while behind him a struggling Amici attempted to recover his position but disastrously slipped off the track with technical problems, ending his race, his run of wins and his hopes for a World Title.



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Back on track, Andrew Palmer first closed down the experienced Dimitri Enjalbert and robbed him of second place, then set about challenging the leader. Two short laps later, the American had caught and passed Orido to take the lead, and pushed hard for the final four laps to edge out a 3.8s lead ahead of Japanese driver, who had been sucked into a defensive battle with Aviatrax's Enjalbert. Orido did just enough to hang onto second, and his French challenger followed him over the line in third to deliver the World Final's second podium, once again with every step populated by a driver from each of Super Trofeo's three championships. Behind the top three was Composit Motorsport's Alberto Viberti, who recovered from his earlier setbacks to score a second fourth place overall finish and his second successive Amateur win. His achievements were ample to claim the Amateur World Final title.

Driver Quotes

Andrew Palmer #114, GMG Racing (NORTH AMERICA) Race 1 - P2/Race 2 - P1

Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo World Champion

"It's such a surreal feeling to be Champion and the whole of this weekend has been amazing - I am not sure that the reality has really sunk in just yet! What happened today was the best possible outcome we could have hoped for and I am thrilled with what we have achieved here together with GMG Racing. I hope it will be a springboard for more racing with Lamborghini in the US and all over the world, but I must also remember that on Monday, I have to go back to school! That's going to be quite weird after this unbelievable finish to the season."

Alberto Viberti #47, Composit Motorsport (EUROPE) Race 1 - P4, 1st Amateur/Race 2 - P4, 1st Amateur

Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo Amateur World Champion

"It's such a good feeling to be Lamborghini's Amateur World Champion, although I reckon we could have done better than fourth in the two races, it was so close. This finishes a season that has been an incredible experience, during which my abilities have grown with every race, especially since deciding to race on my own from Spa onwards. Already I am itching to get back to it and keep improving and I won't be able to wait for the start of next season!"



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Blancpain

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 Manufacture 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.

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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