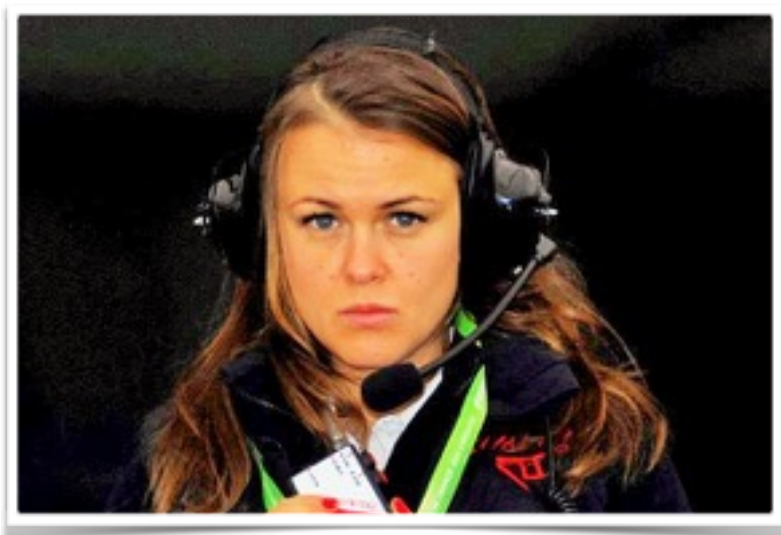
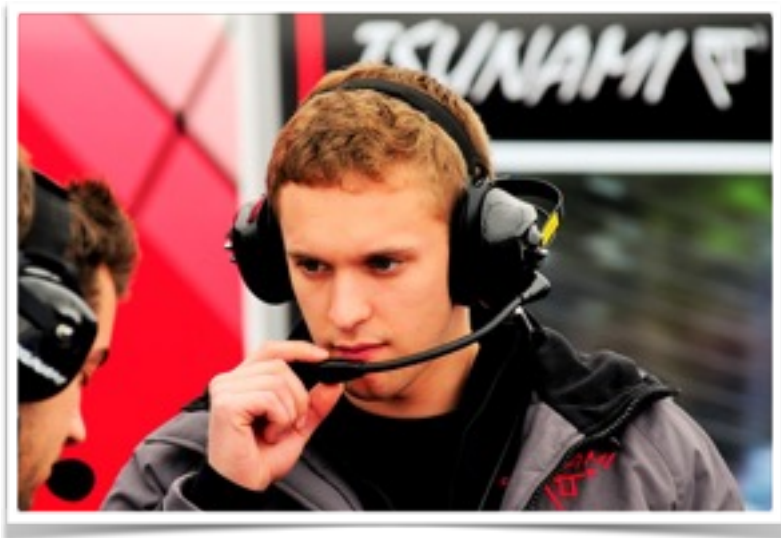




A weekend of lessons for Gaidai

RACE **LEDENON**
18-19 APRIL 2015

The Tsunami RT driver had a complicated race 1 on Saturday in Ledenon and couldn't prove his potential on Sunday because race 2 was cancelled due to torrential rain.



2014 Carrera Cup France champion was honorable guest of the Tsunami RT in Ledenon.

Irina Kolomeitseva watching carefully her husband - driver before the start of Race 1

The very first lap of the first race of the 2015 season for Gaidai and Tsunami RT

The weekend in Ledenon started positively for Gaidai. The car was quite good but the driver didn't feel confident for Q1, because the track was semi-dry during free practice.

On Saturday's Q1, the Ukrainian driver faced problems with the tyres temperature. As a result he was 12th overall and only 3rd in Cat B in the end of the session. Alex said right after: *"It was bad as i could not prepare the tyres enough. My front tyres were cold and the rear overheated as i was not able to bring the temperature in the right moment. The car didn't turn well and I lost much time in the corners. I usually feel quite well during the races but it's still difficult for me to give my best in 10 minutes. Despite the fact that I drive a lot, the problem of long warm-up for me still exists"*

Alex was confident he would give it all in Race 1 but things didn't go as expected either. His start was not bad. As the Ukrainian said after the race, *"I was trying to make as much overtaking as possible, bearing in mind that is the only way to get up in the front and put much more risk than usual. After some small touches the car was a bit damaged and also my position was 5 seconds away from P1 already so the only way was to overdrive the car which was the reason I skid on lap 13. The result was lost 2 laps before the end because I ended on the gravel..."*

In the end of the race Alex was very analytical: *"there are such days when the races go badly from the very beginning. And today, starting with qualifying, everything went bad. It is the first race of the season so everybody on the track drives rather aggressive. I wanted to move forward as far as possible on the first two laps. After I had a touch with a rival I spun, and the front wheel rim was broken. I think it affected the handling and I was driving on my maximum. And somewhere on the 13th or 14th lap I went into a corner a little faster. The rear part of the car began to slide, touched the dirt, and that was such a place, where if only one leaves the trajectory, he's dragged to the gravel and nothing will help to avoid it. Then I was pulled out and I tried to drive the remaining laps of the race".*

Steven Palette - the Carrera Cup France young talent of the year 2014 - won the race in front of two other youngsters, Jim Pia and Jules Gounon. Christophe LaPierre dominated the gentlemen's class.

For the Sunday Q2 and Race 2, Gaidai was determined to avoid the same mistakes. *"I really, really want to drive well on this track - to drive as I really can"*, he said before leaving the circuit on Saturday night.

Sunday was a different story though. It rained till 5 minutes before the start of Q2 and gentlemen drivers started the session on damp track and finished it on almost dry. A-drivers drove later on dry and consequently were pretty much faster. Waiting for the Race 2 Gaidai seemed fearless to drive on the slippery tarmac of Ledenon, since it was raining before the scheduled time: *"I prefer ambiguity! Usually, when everything is strange, uncertain and slippery, all professional drivers leave the usual lines and begin to rush here and there. And I just enjoy the situation. I know how to drive, so I just need to do it faster than the others".*

The weather was contrary to the Ukrainian's ambitions and the Race director decided to cancel the race. So, Alex will need to wait for another week to prove his form in Porsche Carrera Cup France. The rendez vous for the second racing weekend of the series is at Le Mans, on 2-3 May.

PORSCHE CARRERA CUP FRANCE 2015 CALENDAR

Date	Circuit	Racing Series
2-3 May	Le Mans	GT Tour
4-5 July	Val de Vienne	GT Tour
22-26 July	Spa Francorchamps	ELMS, 24 h support race
29-30 August	Magny Cours	GT Tour
26-27 September	Navarra (Spain)	GT Tour
24 - 25 October	Paul Ricard	GT Tour