



Strong performance but target missed

RACE **VAL DE VIENNE**
4 - 5 JULY 2015

In race 1 Gaidai was knocked by a French competitor after a strong performance valid for a category b win. In race 2, on wet/dry surface, the Ukrainian played it safe and arrived 3rd on the gentlemen drivers' podium.



- The podium of Race 2: Lindland 1st, Lapierre 2nd, Gaidai 3rd after a conservative race from the Ukrainian driver.
- Alex was 7th overall and 1st among gentlemen drivers when a collision with Lapierre obliged him to return to the pit lane like this.
- Gaidai and Lapierre talk about their collision in the first race. The French driver apologised for the incident: "I did everything to avoid it" he said. The collision was unintentional, a racing incidents. True gentlemen both!

PCCF 2015 STANDINGS AFTER VAL DE VIENNE

Drivers (overall): 1. M. Jaminet 80 points; 2. J. Pla 73; 3. J. Gounon & J. Jousse 66; 5. S. Palette 64; 6. V. Beltoise & Saintéloc 57

Gentlemen drivers: 1. C. Lapierre 100 points; 2. R. Lindland 94; 3. O. Gaidai 79



After his incredible victory in Le Mans two months before, Tsunami RT driver Alex Gaidai went to Val de Vienne with a specific target: to fight for victory in the gentlemen class and possibly climb on top of the respective classification. Weather was extremely hot in France with temperatures climbing to 38 degrees all weekend.

On Friday's **Free Practice 1** Alex was stuck at the pit lane for a gearbox failure. Checking the problem the mechanics found out that a simple, 1 cent O-ring used in the pneumatic valve was behind the problem. In **FP2** the Tsunami RT driver had only 10' to test because a track accident provoked an early red flag. As a result Gaidai had problems to find the perfect balance in **Qualifying**. Alex was only 3rd fastest among the gentlemen drivers in both Q1 and Q2 despite his improvement.

On Saturday Gaidai did a very strong **Race 1** but the day finished disappointingly for him. Alex collided with Christoph Lapierre on a right double corner in lap 18. The French gentleman driver could not avoid crashing on the Ukrainian's rear wheel and knocked him out of the race with a flat tyre and the car pretty damaged. Alex had pulled out a fantastic start, passed Lapierre and Lindland - his competitors in gentlemen class - and established himself in P7, keeping a pace not far from the top drivers. Then PCCF leader Jaminet came from the back and had fight with Lapierre and Gaidai. In his fight with Jaminet Alex lost precious time and Lapierre could come closer. Lapierre took his 30th victory in PCCF in front of Lindland to keep his leadership in cat. B standings. Overall winner was J.Gounon followed by Pla and Jousse.

Race 2 on Sunday morning was a tricky one for the competitors. The tarmac was still wet and all drivers - except two on the back of the field - choose to fit slick tyres. The weather was sunny so the tarmac got drier lap after lap. Alex didn't do a good start, played it safe in the first corner and stayed on the back of the field. Afterwards, the Ukrainian overtook several drivers but despite his moderate approach couldn't avoid a mistake and during a battle with Diaz he crashed on the protective tyres, where he lost about 5 seconds. Our driver finished the race in 3rd position among gentlemen drivers behind Roar Lindland and Christophe Lapierre who kept his leadership in the category B classification. M.Jaminet won the race and remains the leader of the overall classification. Pla was second again and Beltoise was third on the podium.

What did Gaidai say

Qualifying 1 & 2
"I think I paid the lack of free practice. I often drove over the limit in order to find the limit so I did some mistakes especially on braking. In the first qualifying I drove 0.25 seconds faster than my best time. In the second qualifying I was 0.5 seconds faster than myself and then I decided to play it safe: I started to brake earlier and lost the first position in the Division B and 7-8 place overall. The race will be very difficult. The winner will be the driver who saves the wheels. In my situation, the most important thing is not to break the car before Mugello. But I will try today to overtake Lapierre and Lindland on the first laps and not to rub the tires".

Race 1
"During the race everything went quite okay. But then, inside the corner while I was already accelerating, Lapierre hit me at the wheel. Bad luck! I'm upset because I was driving well".

Race 2
"I was thinking about Mugello that is next week and If I damaged the car there would be zero time to fix it".

Tsunami RT moves to Mugello next weekend 10-12th July for the third round of the 2015 Carrera Cup Italia.