

25 January 2019

**Rounds 1 & 2**  
**Dubai Autodrome, Dubai – 25 / 26 January 2019**

**RACE 1**

**TCR Middle East Series - René Münnich claims the season opener.**

René Münnich has taken victory in the first race of the 2019 TCR Middle East Series at the Dubai Autodrome after a commanding performance in the #77 ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport Honda Civic FK7 TCR.

Münnich netted pole position for the first race of the opening event earlier this morning, and carried that momentum into race one by setting the race's fastest lap, a 1m 47.791s. The former World Touring Car Championship and FIA World Rallycross Championship star was delighted at such a strong start to not only his but the team's debut outing in the TCR Middle East Series, though this is far from the German's first time at the Dubai Autodrome.

"Yeah, it's a great result!" René Münnich explained. "I lost a little bit of time on the start line, but I managed to get back in front into the first corner. I've done the Hankook 24H DUBAI three or four times now, so you get a lot of mileage that way at this circuit!"

"Now with race two and the reverse grid, it's not going to be easy to overtake, but there is a lot of pace in the Honda, so we will see what happens."

Luc Breukers finished an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> in the #101 Red Camel-Jordans.nl CUPRA TCR. This weekend marks the very first international race weekend for the young Dutchman – younger brother of Rik, the overall winner of the Hankook 24H DUBAI 2019 – who capped off a strong start to his weekend with his maiden international podium finish. Turns out he's also learnt several lessons from the vastly experienced René Münnich heading into race two as well...

"This result for sure gives me a lot of confidence," said Luc. "This is my first race in a TCR car, which is much more powerful than anything else I've raced in the last few months, so I'm very happy with 2<sup>nd</sup> place. I also noticed that René, into the first corner, was using much more of the track on the left side, so I'm definitely going to try that!"

Zoltán Zengő meanwhile completed the overall podium with a solid run in the eponymously entered #8 Zengő Motorsport Cupra TCR. A reverse grid for the second race of the afternoon – set to get underway at 17.15pm local time – will see the Hungarian start from pole position.

Live timing of the races will be available on <http://tcr-series.tv/>. Further information about the TCR Middle East Series, including championship standings and race results, can be found at <http://middleeast.tcr-series.com>



UAE National Race Day

Sorted on Laps

|                                       |                                |  |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| TCR ME                                | International Circuit 4.290 km |  |
| Race 1                                | 25/01/2019 14:45               |  |
| Race (30:00 Time) started at 14:46:14 |                                |  |

| Pos | No. | Class | Name         | Laps | Total Tm  | Diff   | Gap    | Best Tm  |
|-----|-----|-------|--------------|------|-----------|--------|--------|----------|
| 1   | 77  | TCR   | Rene MUNNICH | 17   | 30:48.240 |        |        | 1:47.791 |
| 2   | 101 | TCR   | Luc BREUKERS | 17   | 31:25.482 | 37.242 | 37.242 | 1:49.549 |
| 3   | 8   | TCR   | Zoltan ZENGO | 17   | 31:42.706 | 54.466 | 17.224 | 1:49.686 |

Announcements  
# PROVISIONAL RESULT

| Margin of Victory   | Avg. Speed | Best Lap Tm | Best Speed | Best Lap by       |
|---------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------------|
| 37.242              | 142.053    | 1:47.791    | 143.277    | 77 - Rene MUNNICH |
| Chief Time Keeper   |            |             |            | Orbits            |
| Clerk of the Course |            |             |            |                   |



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