



BMW Sports Trophy

51st BMW Sports Trophy Award Ceremony in Maisach: Thomas Biagi is the most successful BMW privateer of the 2012 season.

Maisach (DE), 1st December 2012. This year's trophy for the most successful BMW privateer goes to Italy: BMW Motorsport Director Jens Marquardt and Alessandro Zanardi (IT) presented Thomas Biagi (IT) with the winner's cheque for 30,000 Euros at the 51st BMW Sports Trophy Award Ceremony in Maisach near Munich. Biagi can also look forward to a drive in the BMW M3 DTM – which was the special reward for the winner of the 2012 BMW Sports Trophy.

Biagi's success came courtesy of overall victory in the Italian GT Championship at the wheel of a BMW Z4 GT3 run by BMW Team Italia, as well as third place in the International Superstars Series in a BMW M3, again representing ROAL Motorsport. Biagi claimed four race wins and 14 podiums in the two series.

"Congratulations to Thomas Biagi," said Marquardt. "Together with his team-mates he really made his mark on the 2012 Italian GT Championship. Over the course of last season we once again witnessed countless magnificent performances from BMW drivers in high-class racing series. The fact that Biagi has come through to win the BMW Sports Trophy against such strong opposition underlines just how consistent he has been this year. He can now look forward to a drive in the BMW M3 DTM."

Biagi, who won the BMW Sports Trophy with a score of 434.23 points, said after the Award Ceremony: "First place in the BMW Sports Trophy is a huge honour for me. I had been invited to the ceremony for the top 25 BMW privateers for the last two years. I would like to thank the fantastic team at ROAL Motorsport for enabling me to win it at the third attempt. We had an amazing year. I am proud to be a part of the BMW family. I will soon be even prouder when I get behind the wheel of the BMW M3 DTM. That is the stuff of dreams for any BMW driver."

The 51st BMW Sports Trophy saw a total of 243 participants – more than ever before in the long history of this competition – do battle for a share of the 250,000 Euros prize money. Marquardt said: "Even after over half a century, the BMW Sports Trophy still remains extremely attractive to drivers all over the world. This year we had 243 entrants from 24 countries on four continents. They represented BMW in 47 racing series around the world. Every driver who enters the BMW Sports Trophy is part of the BMW Motorsport family. Our privateers are fantastic ambassadors for the BMW brand."

Second place behind Biagi, and a cheque for 25,000 Euros, went to Maxime Martin (BE). Among the 26-year-old's achievements were second place overall in the Blancpain Endurance Series with the BMW Z4 GT3. He narrowly missed out on winning the DTM test by just 25 points in the BMW Sports Trophy. However, Martin had already completed a test at the wheel of the BMW M3 DTM just a few weeks ago. Third place, and 21,000 Euros in prize money, went to Norbert Michelisz (HU) with his BMW 320 TC. He won the Independents' Trophy in the FIA World Touring



Car Championship (WTCC). He also claimed one of three BMW race wins in the 2012 WTCC at his home event in Budapest (HU).

As well as the prospect of winning a healthy amount of prize money at the end of the year, participation in the BMW Sports Trophy also comes with many other advantages. Particularly attractive are the many cooperations that BMW Motorsport enjoys with selected companies within its Customer Racing programme.

Result of the 2012 BMW Sports Trophy.

Pos.	Name	Country	Car	Points	Race Series
1.	Thomas Biagi	IT	BMW Z4 GT3 / BMW M3	434.23	Italian GT Championship / International Superstars Series
2.	Maxime Martin	BE	BMW Z4 GT3 / BMW Alpina B6 GT3	409.87	Blancpain Endurance Series / ADAC GT Masters
3.	Norbert Michelisz	HU	BMW 320 TC	391.07	FIA WTCC Independents' Trophy
4.	Tom Coronel	NL	BMW 320 TC	334.00	FIA WTCC
5.	Franz Engstler	DE	BMW 320 TC	322.67	FIA WTCC Independents' Trophy
6.	Henry Walkenhorst	DE	BMW M3 GT4	314.55	VLN Endurance Championship
7.	Robert Thiele	DE	BMW 328	296.07	Pro IT Series / North Atlantic Road Championship
8.	Yelmer Buurman	NL	BMW Z4 GT3	276.67	FIA GT1 World Championship
9.	Matthias Lauda	AT	BMW Z4 GT3	274.13	FIA GT1 World Championship / Blancpain Endurance Series
10.	Stefano D'Aste	IT	BMW 320 TC	273.60	FIA WTCC Independents' Trophy
11.	Steve Jans	LU	BMW M3	269.10	VLN Endurance Championship
12.	Michael Bartels	DE	BMW Z4 GT3	261.33	FIA GT1 World Championship
13.	Rob Servers	NL	BMW 120d	255.95	Burando Production Open
14.	Markus Palttala	FI	BMW Z4 GT3	253.87	Blancpain Endurance Series
	Bas Leinders	BE	BMW Z4 GT3	253.87	Blancpain Endurance Series
16.	Ralf Oeverhaus	DE	BMW M3 GT4	246.55	VLN Endurance Championship
17.	Hajo Müller	DE	BMW M3 E36	242.00	VLN / 24h Nürburgring
18.	Emin Akata	DE	BMW M3 E46	239.90	VLN / 24h Nürburgring
	Wolf Silvester	DE	BMW M3 E46	239.90	VLN / 24h Nürburgring
20.	Jörg Weidinger	DE	BMW M3 GT4	239.00	VLN Endurance Championship
21.	Nick Catsburg	NL	BMW M3 GT4 / BMW Z4 GT3	236.53	Dutch GT Championship
22.	Robert Collard	GB	BMW 320si	231.67	British Touring Car Championship
23.	Christian von Rieff	DE	BMW M3	230.65	VLN Endurance Championship
24.	Carsten Knechtges	DE	BMW M3 CSL	225.90	VLN / 24h Nürburgring
	Tim Scheerbarth	DE	BMW M3 CSL	225.90	VLN / 24h Nürburgring



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