



DTM
Race 9, Zandvoort (NL), Qualifying

DTM champion Wittmann starts from front row in Zandvoort – Tomczyk and Hand also qualify in the top ten for BMW.

Zandvoort (NL), 27th September 2014. Marco Wittmann (DE) of BMW Team RMG produced another strong display in his first qualifying since winning the DTM title with races to spare. The 24-year-old's fastest time of 1:30.739 minutes in the Ice-Watch BMW M4 DTM was enough to see him qualify second in Zandvoort (NL). He came up just 26 thousandths of a second short of claiming pole, which went to Mike Rockenfeller (DE, Audi), who will start Sunday's ninth race of the season from the front of the grid.

Wittmann was joined in the third qualifying session by Martin Tomczyk (DE). The BMW Team Schnitzer driver finished eighth fastest at the wheel of the BMW M Performance Parts M4 DTM – the second best qualifying result of the season for him. Joey Hand (US) missed out on Q3 by just 0.060 seconds in the Crowne Plaza Hotels BMW M4 DTM. The BMW Team RBM driver starts from ninth place.

Timo Glock (DE, DEUTSCHE POST BMW M4 DTM), Bruno Spengler (CA, BMW Bank M4 DTM) and Maxime Martin (BE, SAMSUNG BMW M4 DTM) will line up in 14th, 15th and 17th on the grid. Last year's winner Augusto Farfus (BR) in the Castrol EDGE BMW M4 DTM failed to progress beyond the first session, and had to settle for 20th. António Félix da Costa (PT) suffered a similar fate, qualifying 19th in the Red Bull BMW M4 DTM. The race at the 4.307-kilometre circuit nestled in the dunes on the North Sea coast gets underway at 13:30 on Sunday (live on ARD).

Jens Marquardt (BMW Motorsport Director):

"We have witnessed another very impressive qualifying from Marco Wittmann, who missed out on pole position by the blink of an eye. He did an absolutely fantastic job once again. After all, he still has a heavier car than the opposition. That makes his performance all the more impressive. Martin Tomczyk and Joey Hand also enjoyed a good qualifying. Apart from that, we were unfortunately unable to get the maximum out of the remaining cars. There are differing reasons for that. The key now is to make the most of this situation with a good strategy in tomorrow's race."

Marco Wittmann (car number 23, BMW Team RMG, 2nd):

"I can be really happy with second place. We still had a few problems here and there in free practice. However, we were able to solve these and now start from

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the front row. That is great, particularly when you consider that we are carrying extra weight compared to the other cars. I came into the pits quite early in Q3. Tyre degradation is really bad here in Zandvoort, so the tyres only work well for the first one or two laps before they start to wear. You cannot clock a quick lap time then. That was the case with me, and why we came into the pits and watched to see what on to see what unfolded. Tomorrow's race will definitely not be easy, but we do start from a good position."

Martin Tomczyk (car number 10, BMW Team Schnitzer, 8th):

"I am very happy with eighth place in qualifying today. I did not have a fresh set of tyres in the third qualifying session. As I had old tyres on the car, I was well aware that I could not hope for any more. After a number of difficult qualifying recently, it was important for me to get back into Q3 again. That was my goal for today, and we did it. I did not really see it coming. That is also the reason for me not having a new set of tyres left in the final session of qualifying. I always enjoy coming to Zandvoort. It will be an interesting race tomorrow."

Joey Hand (car number 4, BMW Team RBM, 9th):

"It is a real shame that I missed out on Q3 by just six hundredths of a second. However, I was still able to show that I feel very comfortable on this track. Having said that, it didn't look great in practice. I now hope that my car will run that little bit better in the race, and that I can finish in the points."

Timo Glock (car number 17, BMW Team MTEK, 14th):

"I could have gone quicker today. The car was okay and we were fast in free practice. However, everyone else then seemed to get quicker in qualifying, while we stayed where we were. That is hard to understand, and is obviously a shame, as the car felt good. However, the lap times were not what they should have been."

Bruno Spengler (car number 9, BMW Team Schnitzer, 15th):

"I am obviously not happy with the performance in qualifying. We did not manage to find the right balance for the car. That has been a bit of an on-going story throughout the entire season. We will have to keep looking for the causes. One thing is clear: the BMW M4 DTM has the potential to be on pole. Unfortunately my team and I are not finding the right set-up. The only thing that remains for me is to push really hard tomorrow and attack the field from behind in order to finish in the points. For that to happen, however, I will have to hope for a bit of luck in the race."

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Maxime Martin (car number 24, BMW Team RMG, 17th):

"P17 is definitely not the grid position we were after. We had a few minor problems with the car and were simply not able to get the most out of it. We must now take a close look at what happened in qualifying and do as well as possible from this position in the race."

António Félix da Costa (car number 18, BMW Team MTEK, 19th):

"We struggled in the free practices and knew that it was going to be difficult. We are just not getting the set-up of the car 100 per cent how I need it. Generally speaking, the circuit is great fun, even though I have not been able to mix it at the front of the field yet."

Augusto Farfus (car number 3, BMW Team RBM, 20th):

"I don't know exactly why things are not running as well this year in Zandvoort as they did last year. I won here and proved that I am generally strong at this circuit. Looking ahead to the race, we must now determine what is going wrong this time."

Facts and figures from Zandvoort:

Circuit / Date	Zandvoort, 28 th September 2014
Laps / Distance	44 laps, 4.307 km
2014 Pole Time	Mike Rockenfeller (DE), 1:30.713 minutes
2013 Winner	Augusto Farfus, (BR), BMW
2013 Fastest Lap	Marco Wittmann (DE), 1:32.296 minutes

Driver	FAR	HAN	SPE	TOM	GLO	DAC	WIT	MAR
Country	BR	US	CA	DE	DE	PT	DE	BE
Number	3	4	9	10	17	18	23	24
Team	BMW Team RBM	BMW Team RBM	BMW Team Schnitzer	BMW Team Schnitzer	BMW Team MTEK	BMW Team MTEK	BMW Team RMG	BMW Team RMG
Practice 1	10 th	6 th	7 th	19 th	3 rd	20 th	1 st	12 th
Practice 2	17 th	22 nd	8 th	12 th	5 th	19 th	13 th	15 th
Qualifying	20 th	9 th	15 th	8 th	14 th	19 th	2 nd	17 th
Race	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2014 points	39	7	42	28	33	4	128	39
Current position	9 th	20 th	6 th	16 th	13 th	21 st	1 st	8 th
Weights	+7.5kg	+2.5kg	+5kg	+7.5kg	+5 kg	+/-0kg	+7.5kg	+7.5kg

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DTM standings after 8 of 10 races.

Drivers' Championship.

1. Marco Wittmann (128 points), 2. Christian Vietoris (59), 3. Mattias Ekström (56), 4. Edoardo Mortara (56), 5. Mike Rockenfeller (54), 6. Bruno Spengler (42), 7. Pascal Wehrlein (40), 8. Maxime Martin (39), 9. Augusto Farfus (39), 10. Robert Wickens (35), 11. Adrien Tambay (36), 12. Timo Scheider (34), 13. Timo Glock (33), 14. Miguel Molina (28), 15. Jamie Green (28), 16. Martin Tomczyk (28), 17. Paul di Resta (17), 18. Daniel Juncadella (22), 19. Nico Müller (10), 20. Joey Hand (7), 21. António Félix da Costa (4), 22. Gary Paffett (4).

Team Championship.

1. BMW Team RMG (167 points), 2. Audi Sport Team Abt (92), 3. Audi Sport Team Phoenix (88), 4. Audi Sport Team Abt Sportline (84), 5. Original-Teile Mercedes AMG (83), 6. BMW Team Schnitzer (70), 7. BMW Team RBM (46), 8. EURONICS / FREE MAN'S WORLD Mercedes AMG (41), 9. gooix Mercedes AMG (40), 10. Audi Sport Team Rosberg (38), 11. BMW Team MTEK (37), 12. Petronas Mercedes AMG (22).

Manufacturers' Championship.

1. BMW (320 points), 2. Audi (302), 3. Mercedes-Benz (186).

2014 calendar.

4th May – Hockenheim (DE), 18th May – Oschersleben (DE), 1st June – Budapest (HU), 29th June – Norisring (DE), 13th July – Moscow (RU), 3rd August – Spielberg (AT), 17th August – Nürburgring (DE), 14th September – Lausitzring (DE), **28th September – Zandvoort (NL)**, 19th October – Hockenheim (DE).

About the DTM.

The German Touring Car Masters – DTM for short – is the most popular touring car series in the world. Last season, over 700,000 spectators flocked to renowned racetracks in Germany and around Europe to watch the ten races live. The series pits the three premium automobile manufacturers BMW, Audi and Mercedes-Benz against each other in a sporting contest. BMW fielded its first works teams from 1984 to 1992, during which time it claimed 49 race victories and won the Drivers' Championship on three occasions (1984, 1987 and 1989). In 2012, the manufacturer returned to the DTM with the BMW M3 DTM, three teams and six drivers. BMW promptly won five races and topped the driver, team and manufacturer standings at the end of the season. In 2013, BMW Motorsport managed to defend the Manufacturer's title with four teams and eight drivers. The 2014 DTM calendar once again consists of ten races. The schedule includes four trips abroad, to Budapest (HU), Spielberg (AT), Moscow (RU) and Zandvoort (NL). The season traditionally ends in Hockenheim (DE) on 19th October. TV station ARD is broadcasting each qualifying and every race live. Tickets for all the DTM races are available here: <http://www.bmw-motorsport.com/en/fan-area/dtm-tickets.html>

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