

33 CARS ON THE GRID FOR THE WTCC BERU RACE OF FRANCE

A field of 33 cars will make the grid for the second race meeting of the 2006 FIA World Touring Car Championship, that will take place in Magny-Cours on April 29/30.

BERU, the German company that was founded in 1912 and today is the world's leading specialist for ignition, diesel cold start, electronics and sensorics will be partner of the event that is named WTCC BERU Race of France.

Compared to the season's opening in Monza, only two cars are missing, Jens Edman's Peugeot 407 and Jiří Janák's Alfa Romeo 156 Gta.

Roberto Colciago of SEAT Sport Italia, is due to switch from the SEAT Toledo Cupra he drove in Monza to a new SEAT León; however the Italian driver is still recovering after the thoracic trauma he suffered in a crash with Edman during the first race at Monza.

MAN OF THE WEEK: AUGUSTO FARFUS

Augusto Farfus is 22 years old and from Curitiba, Brazil. He finished last season with a win in Macau and began the new season by winning Race 2 in Monza.

Sitting second in the drivers' championship at these early stages, could this be Farfus' year to shine?

Monza was a great start for the season for you and somewhat unexpected?

"It was like a dream. I had a hard winter unsure about this year so I went there simply to drive. We planned to fight hard but didn't think we would be as good as the BMW and SEATs. The car was competitive, I drove to my best and the whole experience was a pleasure."

How did it feel to be on the podium with the fans below you?

"That was something special and it looked as though over half the people were supporting Alfa Romeo. I really hope they do it like this throughout the season because it means a lot to the drivers to be able to see the fans and share the win."

So you will compete with + 55 kg in Magny-Cours, are you worried?

"Well, I think it is a lot for the car and for the tyres. However, I would be happy to have such weight and even more for the rest of the season because it means I did well in the previous races!"

STEWARDS ALLOW BMW TEAMS TO CHECK ENGINES

Further to their collision during Monza Race 2, Andy Priaulx's and Dirk Müller's BMW cars spun off into the gravel trap.

Both BMW Team UK and BMW Team Germany applied to the Stewards for authorization to check the engines that were sealed before the first race in compliance with art. 73 of the Sporting Regulations, which reads that each engine must be used for a minimum of four consecutive races.

The Stewards allowed the requested checking and the eventual replacement of certain parts, under the control of the FIA Technical Delegate.

THOMPSON WINS TWO AT BRANDS HATCH

James Thompson and his SEAT León dominated the British Touring Car Championship's opening meeting at Brands Hatch. The Yorkshireman, who will only contest part of the BTCC season for the SEAT Sport UK team, won Race 1 and Race 2, while victory in Race 3 went to his team-mate Jason Plato.

Thompson and SEAT also took the lead in the Drivers and Manufacturers championships respectively.

James said: *"We knew the León would be very strong around the Brands Hatch Indy Circuit in race trim. It's been a perfect start to the season for SEAT and I'm really happy."*

WOMEN'S ACROBATIC TEAM PERFORM IN MAGNY-COURS

The Patrouille Tranchant, the first women's acrobatic flying team in the world, will take part in the FIA WTCC race meeting at Magny-Cours.

The team, established in 2003 by Benjamin Tranchant and formed by five Russia-built Yakovlev Yak-54 aircrafts, will perform a 15-minute spectacular stunt-flying-show on Sunday at 2.45 PM, immediately before the start of the first WTCC race.

On Saturday afternoon the Patrouille Tranchant will also give four lucky drawn people their maiden flight.

THE PEN AND THE HELMET, PART 2

After last year's successful première, "The Pen and the Helmet" karting contest returns in Magny-Cours. On Saturday afternoon, teams formed by one driver and one journalist will fight in a 40-minute karting race.

The 2005 edition was won by Jörg Müller and Italian cameraman Cristiano Beretta.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR THE SECOND MEETING

Rounds 3 and 4 of the 2006 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Magny-Cours, France, on 29th and 30th April.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 18 April.

Accreditations Procedure and Accreditation Form may be downloaded from the websites www.fia.com and www.fiawtcc.com.

- **International Press** must send applications to:
Fabio Ravaioli – FIA WTCC Media Delegate
tel +39 06 39729497, fax +39 06 39729470, email: media@fiawtcc.com
- **French Press** must send applications to:
Hubert Arriat – Circuit de Nevers Magny-Cours
tel: +33 3 86218254, fax +33 3 86218209, email: h.arriat@magnyf1.com
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to:
Julien Boinet – Eurosport
Tel +33 1 40938213, Fax +33 1 40938169; email: jboinet@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 16 DAYS



to the 2006 FIA WTCC BERU Race of France – 29th/30th April, in Magny-Cours