

### **CHEVROLET SET THE PACE AT VALENCIA**

Alain Menu's Chevrolet Lacetti was the fastest car in the WTCC official test on Tuesday and Wednesday at Valencia. The Swiss driver replaced his team-mate Nicola Larini on the second day and posted the fastest time with a lap of 1:42.886 that was one tenth faster than Farfus' time on Tuesday (1:42.990), and Jörg Müller's best lap (1:42.994) on Wednesday.

*"I worked mainly on different suspension settings, but we haven't decided on anything final yet. The engineers will take the data home and come up with a good package for the race,"* said Menu.

Tom Coronel surprised everyone by posting the fourth best time at the wheel of his SUNRED petrol-powered SEAT León. The Dutchman, who took part for the first time in a WTCC official test, completed his best lap in 1:43.335; only four tenths off Menu's and slightly faster than local heroes Jordi Gené and Félix Porteiro.

James Thompson and the N.technology team worked to set up the brand new Honda Accord Euro R in view of joining the championship from the Valencia meeting in May. Also 26-year old Spaniard José Manuel Pérez-Aicart tested the SUNRED car in preparation for his WTCC debut (at Valencia in May), a very special award for the winner of the 2007 SEAT León Supercopa.

At BMW, Farfus, Müller and Andy Priaulx altogether completed an impressive 643 laps.

### **THOMPSON HAPPY WITH VALENCIA TEST**

The 2008 season got underway for N.technology at the two-day FIA WTCC official test in Valencia. It was a very promising debut for the team's brand new Honda Accord Euro R that James Thompson will drive in the championship from the next race meeting that will take place in Valencia on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

On Tuesday, the test's first day, the team completed 54 laps, working through the fundamental set-ups and paying particular attention to the car's general balance and grip.

*"We had a lot of work to do as this was our first official test,"* said Thompson. *"We were working hard, completing good runs and making sure we'll be competitive for the race debut. I felt like a kid with a new toy!"*

The development programme was completed on a high on Wednesday, with Thompson posting the fastest lap in the afternoon's session (1:43.500), which was also the eighth fastest over the whole two-day test, only six tenths off Alain Menu's best lap of 1:42.886.

*"This week's trackside work has been really encouraging,"* said the Thompson who completed 83 further laps. *"There are a few things that will need working on back at the factory, but otherwise we are really pleased with our progress."*

### **POULSEN IN 2009 WTCC PROGRAMME**

Denmark-based Poulsen Motorsport announced their plans to join the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship. During the current season the team will take part in the Danish Touring Car Championship as well as the FIA European Touring Car Cup and three events of the FIA WTCC with four BMW 320si cars.

Team owner and driver Kristian Poulsen has been joined by reigning Danish Touring Car Champion and FIA European Touring Car Cup winner Michel Nykjær, 1999 DTC champion Jesper Sylvest, and Irish youngster Emmet O'Brien, formerly a regular WTCC competitor.

*"We have a busy programme for this year, but we have more ambitious plans for 2009 as we intend to take part in the full WTCC season with three cars,"* declared Poulsen.

The drivers for Poulsen Motorsport's 2009 WTCC move are O'Brien, Nykjær and Poulsen himself.

### **SIMBIN LAUNCH V-WTCC PADDOCK**

SimBin Studios and Eurosport Events announced that "the paddock" website is online to provide all information about the V-WTCC competition.

For the first time in racing history, the virtual and real worlds meet in a virtual championship: the V-WTCC.

On six European events of the 2008 FIA WTCC, SimBin will organise the V-WTCC: Virtual World Touring Car Championship.

*"This has been a long time goal for SimBin and I'm really excited. The V-WTCC will be a milestone in our company and hopefully in the gaming and motorsport world as well,"* said Henrik Roos, CEO at SimBin Studios.

Through a series of online and onsite events, people from all around the globe may attempt to claim a spot in the season's V-WTCC Grand Finale at the Italian track of Monza on the occasion of the FIA WTCC's last European event.