# # 16 - 25 April 2008

#### **SEAT DRIVERS TOP BALLAST LIST**

As a consequence of their domination in the first two events of the season, SEAT drivers will carry the heaviest success ballasts in their home race meeting at Valencia.

Rickard Rydell, who climbed to the top of the Drivers' Championship after obtaining two second places in Mexico, will have 56 extra kilos on board his León TDI car; 16 and 17 kilos more than his team-mates Jordi Gené who won the first race in Puebla and Gabriele Tarquini who is currently second in the classification with a gap of 2 points. SEAT Sport's two other drivers, Yvan Muller (third in the championship) and Tiago Monteiro (Puebla's Race 2 winner) will be given a 32 kg ballast, while Tom Coronel with 20 extra kilos completes a SEAT sextet on top of the list.

Following their disappointing weekend in Mexico, where only Andy Priaulx managed to score a point, the BMW drivers have lost weight: Priaulx from 33 to 14, Jörg Müller from 26 to 11 and Félix Porteiro from 14 to 9. A total of sixteen drivers will have success ballasts in Valencia, including the race-by-race entries Pérez-Aicart, Lvov and Smetsky who will receive 30 entra kilos according to article 79 c) of the Sporting Regulations.

## Success ballast - Spain

56 kg R. Rydell 40 kg J. Gené

39 kg G. Tarquini

32 kg Y. Muller, T. Monteiro

30 kg J. M. Pérez-Aicart, A. Lvov, A. Smetsky

20 kg T. Coronel

14 kg A. Priaulx

11 kg J. Müller

9 kg F. Porteiro

6 kg N. Larini

3 kg A. Farf us, A. Menu

1 kg O. Tielemans

### **SEAT CHAMPION TO RACE IN VALENCIA**

The 2007 SEAT León Supercopa champion Josè Manuel Pérez-Aicart will make his FIA World Touring Car Championship debut in the next race meeting at Valencia's Circuit Ricardo Tormo on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The 26-year old Spaniard will drive a petrol-powered SEAT León run by SUNRED Engineering and entered by SEAT Sport. Pérez-Aicart is the fourth young driver who has been given the chance to race in the WTCC as a reward for the brilliant results achieved in SEAT's own trophy, after Marc Carol (in 2005), Florian Gruber (in 2006) and Oscar Nogués (twice in 2006 and 2007).

The young Spaniard had his first drive in the León WTCC last week, during the official test days in Valencia. "It was the best gift I've ever had. I had the chance to complete 45 laps and discovered that the car is fantastic. Everything has been perfect in the test and I hope to have as much fun in the races as I can," he said.

### **GOLDEN MOTORS JOIN IN SPAIN**

Golden Motors Honda Dealer Team from St.Petersburg, Russia will take part in the WTCC Spanish event at Valencia with two Honda Accord Euro R cars built by JAS Motorsport and run by the Estonian team Artman Racing. Alexander Lvov and Andrey Smetsky, who were classified first and second in the 2007 Russian Touring Car Championship, will be at the wheel of the two Japanese machines. They had already participated in last year's WTCC round at Anderstorp.

Golden Motors have planned to take part in four other WTCC events.

## **TESTING TIME FOR MELVIN CHOO**

Singapore driver Melvin Choo completed his first test in the Thunder Asia BMW 320si car that he will drive in this year's Asian Touring Car Series and the two last rounds of the FIA WTCC at Okayama and Macau. During a three-day testing on Sepang's Grand Prix circuit's north course, Choo clocked some encouraging times, including a fastest lap of 1:08.898 that smashed the previous record for Super 2000 cars set by WTCC regular Franz Engstler.

Choo will take part in a few other test sessions before the start of the Asian series, at Sepang on May 18<sup>th</sup>. "We hope that we will be competitive by the time we make our first WTCC appearance, in October at Okayama," team manager Raja Zaini said.