

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

18 – 9 May 2008

ROUTE TO: VALENCIA, SPAIN

The 5th and 6th rounds of the FIA WTCC will take place in Spain, at Valencia's Circuit Ricardo Tormo on May 17th and 18th. This is the fifth consecutive visit of the FIA Touring Cars to the Spanish stadium-like racetrack.

Alfa Romeo dominated the 2004 FIA European Touring Car Championship meeting, with Fabrizio Giovanardi and Gabriele Tarquini who took one victory apiece. The following year, on the FIA WTCC inaugural season, local hero Jordi Gené started from pole position to give the new SEAT León its first win, while Jörg Müller won Race 2 for BMW. In 2006 Alfa Romeo won again with Augusto Farfus in the first race and Jörg Müller in the second. Last year's event was the Italian manufacturer's swan song as James Thompson claimed a double victory after two breathtaking races.

Thompson will make his first appearance in the 2008 WTCC at the wheel of the brand new Honda Accord Euro R built by N.technology and JAS Motorsport.

The Valencian event will mark the beginning of WTCC's European season after the first two race meetings held in Brazil and Mexico. The activities on the track will start on Friday, May 16th, with a 30-minute test session at 3.00pm giving the teams the opportunity to shake their cars down after they were shipped from Mexico.

YVAN MULLER FASTEST IN OSCHERSLEBEN

SEAT Sport's Yvan Muller set the fastest time in the official test at Oschersleben on Tuesday and Wednesday. With a lap of 1:35.227 clocked on Wednesday afternoon, the Frenchman managed to beat Robert Huff's fastest time of 1:35.324 from the previous day. Most of the drivers who took part in the test were able to be faster than last year's pole position set by Alain Menu's Chevrolet at 1:36.291.

Huff and team-mate Nicola Larini emerged as second and third fastest behind Muller with a gap of only one tenth of a second behind the leader. BMW Team Germany's men Augusto Farfus and Jörg Müller were classified fourth and fifth respectively, one further tenth behind.

James Thompson continued to develop the new Honda Accord Euro R car built by N.technology and JAS Motorsport. After clocking up an impressive third fastest time on day one, the Briton focused on the race set up. *"With only free practice left at Valencia before we race, it was essential that we focused on assessing the car under race conditions,"* he explained.

On their first appearance alongside their fellow WTCC competitors, Russian Bears Motorsport were also impressive. Their LADA 110 car driven by Viktor Shapovalov completed only 15 laps on Tuesday before being halted due to an engine failure. However, the Russian machine hit the track again on day two and Shapovalov managed to dramatically improve his lap times, reducing the gap to 2.5 seconds, while his Dutch team-mate Jap van Lagen set a fastest lap of 1:36.476, which was only 1.2 seconds off Yvan Muller's fastest time of the day.

This was a very encouraging performance in view of LADA's maiden races at Valencia next week.

OFFICIAL TIMING – TWO DAYS COMBINED

Y. Muller	SEAT León TDI	1:35.227 / 130 laps
R. Huff	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:35.324 / 93 laps
N. Larini	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:35.349 / 71 laps
A. Farfus	BMW 320si	1:35.487 / 212 laps
J. Müller	BMW 320si	1:35.535 / 199 laps
A. Priaulx	BMW 320si	1:35.814 / 191 laps
G. Tarquini	SEAT León TDI	1:35.795 / 84 laps
F. Porteiro	BMW 320si	1:35.834 / 154 laps
J. Thompson	Honda Accord	1:35.840 / 89 laps
A. Zanardi	BMW 320si	1:36.072 / 179 laps
R. Rydell	SEAT León TDI	1:36.150 / 98 laps
J. Gené	SEAT León TDI	1:36.355 / 73 laps
J. van Lagen	LADA 110	1:36.476 / 39 laps
T. Monteiro	SEAT León TDI	1:36.546 / 62 laps
V. Shapovalov	LADA 110	1:37.753 / 48 laps

BUREAU LIMIT TDI ENGINE SPEED

The Touring Car Bureau have issued a decision to limit the engine speed of the SEAT León TDI cars. From the next event in Valencia and until further notice, the engine speed of the turbo-diesel SEAT cars will be limited to 4100 revs per minute. At the same time the Bureau confirmed the decision issued before the previous meeting in Puebla to limit the supercharged air pressure, the fuel rail pressure and the fuel/air ratio to the average maximum values measured with the FIA homologated data logger during the Curitiba event. This supercharged air pressure limit will be corrected by the atmospheric pressure ratio between Curitiba and Valencia.

OTHER BUREAU'S DECISIONS

The Bureau have issued two other decisions, which are also valid from the next event in Valencia and until further notice:

- reduction of the homologated minimum weight of the BMW 320si car driven by Alessandro Zanardi by 15 kg;
- the possibility to adjust the weight of the N.technology Honda Accord Euro R car at any moment during the events.

THOMPSON'S FIRST PODIUM OF THE SEASON

James Thompson claimed his first podium of the season as he finished third in the Danish Touring Car Championship's Race 1 last weekend at the Jyllandsringen.

On his maiden DTC appearance in the Hartmann Racing's Honda Accord Euro R, Thompson finished all the weekend's races in the points: *"I was very pleased to get some points and finish all three races, because historically the team has not been strong at this track,"* Thompson said. *"There are definitely some tough competitors out there, and I enjoyed the cut and thrust of it and look forward to the next race."*

In Race 1, Thompson made to the end in third behind Tom Pedersen's and Jan Magnussen's BMW 320si cars, and then he was classified sixth and fourth in Race 2 and Race 3 respectively. He will continue racing in the Danish Championship when there is no clash with WTCC.

EUROSPORT LIVE COVERAGE FROM VALENCIA

<i>Saturday, 17th:</i>	Qualifying	Eurosport 2, 16.00/16.30
<i>Sunday, 18th:</i>	Warm up – LIVE	Eurosport International, 09.00/09.30
	Race 1 – LIVE	Eurosport 2, 11.45/12.45
	Race 1 – highlights	Eurosport International, 15.00/15.30
	Race 2 – LIVE	Eurosport International, 15.30/16.30

Times are CET (Central European Time)

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR PAU

Rounds 7 and 8 of the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Pau, France, 31st May and 1st June.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 20th May.

The Accreditation form may be downloaded at 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:
Marie-France Estenave
tel 05 59323689, fax: 05 59325418, email: marie-france.estenave@wanadoo.fr
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to:
Antonios Argyropoulos – Eurosport Events
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 9 DAYS



to the 2008 FIA WTCC Race of Spain – 17th / 18th May in Valencia

2008 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



ROUNDS 5 & 6 - VALENCIA, May 17/18 - ENTRY LIST

#	class	competitor	driver	car
1		BMW Team UK	Andy Priaulx (GBR)	BMW 320si
2		BMW Team Germany	Jörg Müller (GER)	BMW 320si
3		BMW Team Germany	Augusto Farfus (BRA)	BMW 320si
4		BMW Team Italy-Spain	Alessandro Zanardi (ITA)	BMW 320si
5		BMW Team Italy-Spain	Félix Porteiro (ESP)	BMW 320si
6		Chevrolet	Nicola Larini (ITA)	Chevrolet Lacetti
7		Chevrolet	Robert Huff (GBR)	Chevrolet Lacetti
8		Chevrolet	Alain Menu (SUI)	Chevrolet Lacetti
9		SEAT Sport	Jordi Gené (ESP)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
10		SEAT Sport	Rickard Rydell (SWE)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
11		SEAT Sport	Gabriele Tarquini (ITA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
12		SEAT Sport	Yvan Muller (FRA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
13	/	Borusan Otomotiv Motorsport	Ibrahim Okyay (TUR)	BMW 320si
15		N.technology	James Thompson (GBR)	Honda Accord Euro R
16	/	Wiechers-Sport	Olivier Tielemans (NED)	BMW 320si
18		SEAT Sport	Tiago Monteiro (POR)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
20		SUNRED Engineering Development	Tom Coronel (NED)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
21		SEAT Sport	Josè Manuel Pérez-Aicart (ESP)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
23	/	Exagon Engineering	Pierre-Yves Corthals (BEL)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
26	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Stefano D'Aste (ITA)	BMW 320si
28	/	Russian Bears Motorsport	Viktor Shapovalov (RUS)	LADA 110 2.0
29	/	Russian Bears Motorsport	Jaap van Lagen (NED)	LADA 110 2.0
31	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Sergio Hernández (ESP)	BMW 320si
42	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Franz Engstler (GER)	BMW 320si
43	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Andrey Romanov (RUS)	BMW 320si
54	/	Golden Motors	Alexander Lvov (RUS)	Honda Accord Euro R
55	/	Golden Motors	Andrey Smetsky (RUS)	Honda Accord Euro R

/ = Yokohama Independents' Trophy



Rounds 5 & 6 – TRACK FACTS



Circuit Ricardo Tormo, Valencia – SPAIN

Lap distance – 4,005 m
Race distance – 2 x 13 laps

- Location:** 20 km North of Valencia
Contacts: Circuito de la Comunidad Valenciana
Autovía A3 Madrid-Valencia, Salidas 332/334, Apartado de Correos 101,
46380 Cheste
Tel: +34 96 2525220, fax: +34 96 2525224, email: info@circuitvalencia.com
- Official website:** www.circuitvalencia.com
Press officer: Pablo Pernía – tel: +34 96 2525220, fax: +34 96 2525224
email: media@circuitvalencia.com
- Airports:** Valencia-Manises (10 km), Alicante-El Altet (200 km);
Madrid-Barajas (350 km)
- S2000 lap records:** Qualifying - 1:40.819/143.00 kph, Augusto Farfus (Alfa Romeo 156), 17 Apr 2004
Race - 1:42.438/140.74 kph, Augusto Farfus (Alfa Romeo 156), 18 Apr 2004
- Previous winners:** 2004 FIA ETCC Race 1: Gabriele Tarquini (Alfa Romeo 156)
2004 FIA ETCC Race 2: Fabrizio Giovanardi (Alfa Romeo 156)
2005 FIA WTCC Race 1: Jordi Gené (SEAT León)
2005 FIA WTCC Race 2: Jörg Müller (BMW 320i)
2006 FIA WTCC Race 1: Augusto Farfus (Alfa Romeo 156)
2006 FIA WTCC Race 2: Jörg Müller (BMW 320si)
2007 FIA WTCC Race 1: James Thompson (Alfa Romeo 156)
2007 FIA WTCC Race 2: James Thompson (Alfa Romeo 156)



Rounds 5 & 6 – Valencia (ESP) EVENT TIMETABLE

Friday 16th May 2008

09.30 – 10.15	International Formula Masters	Free Practice 1
10.30 – 11.00	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Free Practice 1
11.15 – 12.15	International GT Open	Free Practice 1
12.30 – 13.00	SEAT León Eurocup	Free Practice 1
13.15 – 14.00	International Formula Masters	Free Practice 2
14.15 – 14.45	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Free Practice 2
15.00 – 15.30	FIA WTCC	Testing
15.45 – 16.45	International GT Open	Free Practice 2
17.00 – 17.30	International Formula Masters	Qualifying
17.45 – 18.15	SEAT León Eurocup	Free Practice 2

Saturday 17th May 2008

08.30 – 09.00	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 1
09.10 – 09.45	International GT Open	Qualifying 1
10.00 – 10.30	SEAT León Eurocup	Qualifying
10.45 – 11.15	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Qualifying
11.30 – 12.00	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 2
12.30	International Formula Masters	Race 1 (19 laps)
13.20 – 13.55	International GT Open	Qualifying 2
14.20	SEAT León Eurocup	Race 1 (max 30 min.)
15.00 – 15.30	FIA WTCC	Qualifying
16.00	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Race 1 (13 laps)
17.05	International GT Open	Race 1 (32 laps)

Sunday 18th May 2008

08.30 – 08.45	International GT Open	Warm up
09.00 – 09.15	FIA WTCC	Warm up
09.45	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Race 2 (13 laps)
10.45	International GT Open	Race (max 40 min.)
12.05	FIA WTCC	Race 1 (13 laps)
12.40	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 1</i>
13.05	SEAT León Eurocup	Race 2 (max 30 min.)
14.15	International Formula Masters	Race 2 (max 40 min.)
15.50	FIA WTCC	Race 2 (13 laps)
16.20	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 2</i>