

# WTCC

FIA World Touring Car  
Championship

## FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

# 21 – 31 May 2007

### SHAKE DOWN FOR BELTOISE

On Tuesday Anthony Beltoise had his first contact with the Exagon Racing team and the SEAT León car he will drive this weekend at Pau, on his maiden appearance in the FIA WTCC. However the son of former F1 Grand Prix winner Jean-Pierre Beltoise is not new to Touring Car, having won the 1999 24 Hours of Spa at the wheel of a Super Production Peugeot 306 Gti.

Beltoise shook his car down at the Pau-Arnos racetrack, a few kilometres away from the Pau street circuit that will host the championship's rounds 7 and 8 on Sunday.

*"The car requires a special driving finesse, and this won't be easy to do on the streets of Pau. I was especially impressed by the gearbox, which is quick and precise in shifting,"* said the Frenchman.

Beltoise's car will be run by Luc Marchetti's Exagon Racing, alongside that of the team's regular driver Pierr-Yves Corthals. The SEAT will be equipped with onboard cameras in order to give viewers the best possible inside look at an FIA WTCC race during the live broadcast on TF1, and the driver will be permanently linked via radio to journalist Thomas Senecal at the studio. *"I like WTCC and never miss to watch the races on TV. This was a great present I received from TF1, Eurosport and SEAT France,"* commented Beltoise.

### HANDICAPS FOR FARFUS AND TARQUINI

Augusto Farfus (BMW Team Germany) and Gabriele Tarquini (SEAT Sport), who are currently lying third and fifth respectively in the championship standings, face this weekend's WTCC Race of France meeting at Pau knowing that they have to cope with an important handicap.

Both drivers were given a 10 position drop on the starting grid for the first race, as the Stewards judged them responsible for causing two avoidable collisions in Valencia's Race 1.

Tarquini caused the pile-up at the start that eliminated six cars including his own, while in the late stages of the same race Farfus was involved in a clash with Tom Coronel and Stefano D'Aste, while they were fighting for the 10<sup>th</sup> position. Recovering from their handicaps on Pau's infamous street circuit won't be an easy task for them.

### QUALIFYING SESSION IS LONGER

This weekend at Pau the FIA WTCC qualifying will be held for the first time on the extended duration of 45 minutes, from 3.00 to 3.45 pm.

This means an extra 15 minutes compared to the usual 30. Longer qualifying sessions will also take place later in the season at Porto and Macau.

This change has been introduced in order to limit the problems that might occur on street circuits, like last year in Macau, when two red flags and a shower permitted the drivers to complete only two attempts for posting a qualifying lap.

OFFICIAL PARTNERS

Canon

ADVAN  
YOKOHAMA

COURTYARD  
MARRIOTT

MONROE

BERU

### THE WEEKEND'S TRACK ACTIVITIES IN PAU

As Pau is a new venue for the FIA WTCC competitors, an extra 30-minute test session has been scheduled for tomorrow afternoon.

Afterwards track activities will follow the usual pattern: two 30-minute practice sessions and the extended 45-minute qualifying on Saturday.

On Sunday drivers will take part in one 15-minute warm up session and two 19-lap races. The first race has been anticipated to 10.05 in order to permit live broadcast on the French premiere terrestrial channel TF1.

Friday, June 1 <sup>st</sup>	15.00/15.30	Test
Saturday, June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	08.45/09.15	Free Practice 1
	11.25/11.55	Free Practice 2
	15.00/15.45	Qualifying
Sunday, June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	08.00/08.15	Warm up
	10.05	Race 1
	15.35	Race 2

### MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR THE FIFTH MEETING

Rounds 9 and 10 of the 2007 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Brno Czech Republic, 16<sup>th</sup> / 17<sup>th</sup> June

**The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> June.**

The Accreditation Form may be downloaded from the websites [www.fia.com](http://www.fia.com) and [www.fiawtcc.com](http://www.fiawtcc.com).

**International Press** must send applications to:

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Lenka Nestrojilová - tel: 0546 123320, fax: 0546 123337,

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**TV and Radio** must send applications to:

Antonios Argyropoulos – Eurosport

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**COUNTDOWN: - 3 DAYS**



to the 2007 FIA WTCC Race of France – 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> June, in Pau

more information and pictures: [www.fiawtcc.com](http://www.fiawtcc.com)