

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

19 – 15 May 2008

WTCC LAUNCHED AT BIOPARC VALENCIA

The WTCC Race of Spain was officially launched this afternoon at Bioparc Valencia, the city's modern and spectacular zoological park that was inaugurated last year. The park spreads over a surface of 100,000 square metres and is inspired by the concept of zoo-immersion that casts the visitors straight into the wild animals' habitat.

Three WTCC cars – Félix Porteiro's BMW, Jordi Gené's SEAT and Robert Huff's Chevrolet – were exhibited near the area dedicated to the savannah wildlife, while a number of drivers (including the Spaniards: Porteiro, Gené, Sergio Hernández and SEAT's rookie José Manuel Pérez-Aicart) attended the press conference that was held in the Bioparc's cinema.

Marcello Lotti, General Manager of KSO, was among the speakers: *"Like the other FIA championships the WTCC is very keen to promote initiatives which aim to reduce the environmental impact of motoring. Therefore I believe that this presentation in the Valencia Bioparc proves that wildlife and motorsport can coexist when we all work together for the future."*

Bioparc's director Koen Brouwer echoed: *"We always welcome everything is done to preserve the environment. Therefore we were very happy to host the WTCC and we congratulate the FIA for their Make Cars Green campaign."*

JOHN CLELAND JOINS EUROSPORT

Former Touring Car legend John Cleland will join Eurosport as WTCC commentator from the event in Valencia.

For eleven years – from 1989 to 1999 – Cleland was a leading player in the British Touring Car Championship; he always raced for Vauxhall, winning 32 races and clinching the championship crown twice, in 1989 and 1995.

A 56-year old Scotsman, Cleland replaces his late countryman David Leslie who perished recently in a plane crash.

Alongside Martin Haven, Cleland will commentate the whole WTCC season for British Eurosport, in the role of a very special expert as he not only knows very well the business, but has also raced against some of the current WTCC drivers like Alain Menu, James Thompson (who was his team-mate at Vauxhall) and Gabriele Tarquini.

DOUBLE RACING FOR PÉREZ-AICART

This will be an intensive racing weekend for José Manuel Pérez-Aicart, the young Spanish driver who makes his first WTCC appearance, a reward for having won the 2007 SEAT León Supercopa.

Besides taking part in the WTCC at the wheel of a SUNRED SEAT León, the Spaniard will also compete in the GT Open series driving a SR21 car run by the same team.

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 Ravaoli – 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: - 3 DAYS



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