

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

25 – 27 June 2008

THOMPSON FASTEST IN MONZA TEST

For the first time since they joined the championship, James Thompson and his N.technology Honda Accord Euro R set the WTCC pace.

"We had a very good day," said Thompson. "We didn't carry out as many laps as other teams because we were making big changes on the car between the runs but it was worth it. We take this result as a good representation of the progress we're making. Step-by-step we will be back at the level we are used to competing at."

During yesterday's official test session in Monza, the last of the four scheduled for the season, Thompson clocked a fastest lap of 2:00.918, posted during the morning session of a hot Italian Summer day, with temperatures in the high 30s C.

Front wheel-drive cars emerged as the fastest along the Autodromo. Tom Coronel and his SUNRED petrol-powered SEAT León set the best lap in the afternoon; however, the Dutchman's 2:00.940 remained 0.022 seconds off Thompson's best.

Chevrolet's Alain Menu completed a lap of 2:00.946, only a further four thousandths of a second adrift. Andy Priaulx was the best of the BMW men, setting the fourth fastest lap of 2:01.214, just ahead of Jordi Gené (2:01.298) in the best of the SEAT León TDI cars.

Sixteen drivers took part in the test, with 13 of them covered by the same second.

In the afternoon, Turkish driver Aytac Biter, a former runner up in the national Formula 3 championship, replaced his fellow countryman Ibrahim Okyay at the wheel of the Borusan Otomotiv Motorsport BMW car. Biter is due to drive the team's second car in the WTCC events at Brands Hatch and Oschersleben.

Complete results in PDF format are attached.

High resolution pictures are available for download at www.fiawtcc.com.

TARQUINI GETS MAXIMUM BALLAST

SEAT Sport's Gabriele Tarquini, who won the second race in Brno and is currently leading the Drivers' Championship, will carry the maximum ballast on board his SEAT León TDI car during the next race meeting in Estoril.

The Italian driver collected 58 extra kilos for the points scored in the championship classification plus 25 for being the second best scorer in the Czech weekend. Therefore he is the first driver so far to receive the maximum 70-kg success ballast provided by the sporting regulations.

His competitors will be far lighter, with Alessandro Zanardi the best scoring driver in Brno, on 48 kg, only one more than his BMW Italy-Spain team-mate Félix Porteiro.

BMW Team UK's Andy Priaulx, the first non-SEAT driver in the championship, will receive 34 kg of ballast, while the heaviest Chevrolet car will be Alain Menu's with 33.

A total of twenty drivers will have success ballast in Estoril, including the race-by-race entries Alexander Lvov, Andrey Smetsky, Kristian Poulsen and Tom Boardman who will receive 30 kilos each according to article 79 c) of the Sporting Regulations.

Success ballast – Portugal

70 kg	G. Tarquini
48 kg	A. Zanardi
47 kg	F. Porteiro
43 kg	Y. Muller
42 kg	A. Farfus
37 kg	R. Rydell
34 kg	A. Priaulx
33 kg	A. Menu
31 kg	J. Müller
30 kg	J. Gené, A. Lvov, A. Smetsky, T. Boardman, K. Poulsen
27 kg	R. Huff
19 kg	N. Larini
12 kg	T. Monteiro
10 kg	T. Coronel
3 kg	J. Thompson
1 kg	O. Tielemans

PORTUGUESE EVENT LAUNCHED IN LISBON

The WTCC Race of Portugal was launched Wednesday in Lisbon. The race meeting that will take place at Estoril on July 12th and 13th was presented to the local media during a crowded press conference at the Sheraton Lisbon Hotel & Spa.

SEAT Sport's Portuguese driver Tiago Monteiro attended, while Frederico Costa, vice president of Turismo de Portugal and Francisco Santos, general manager of Talento, the event's promoter company, delivered speeches to the audience.

"The WTCC is a strategic event for us because of three reasons: it has a substantial economic impact on the region, gives Portugal important returns on the media worldwide and enhances the image of our country. This is why we have decided to sign a three year deal with Talento and KSO for receiving the championship, with Estoril hosting this year's edition between the two in Porto, last year and in 2009." explained Frederico Costa.

POULSEN TO MAKE WTCC DEBUT

Danish racing driver Kristian Poulsen will make his WTCC debut in the next meeting at Estoril. Poulsen, 32-year old from Flensburg, will be at the wheel of a BMW 320si car run by his own team Poulsen Motorsport; it is the same machine he normally drives in the Danish Touring Car Championship.

Poulsen, a former rally driver, switched to racing only at the beginning of the 2007 season; however, he quickly established himself and his own team in the national Touring Car championship. During the last season he entered two BMW cars, for himself and former DTM ace Kurt Thiim, who claimed two victories. At the end of the year, Poulsen took part in the FIA European Touring Car Cup at Adria, achieving a brilliant third place in the Super 2000 class.

For the current season, the team has signed the reigning Danish champion and winner of the FIA European Cup Michel Nykjær, former Danish champion Jesper Sylvest and former WTCC regular Emmet O'Brien alongside Poulsen.

Poulsen's participation in the Portuguese event is only the first one that has been planned to pave the team's approach to a full commitment in next year's WTCC.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR ESTORIL – LAST DAYS

Rounds 11 and 12 of the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Estoril, Portugal, 12th and 13th July.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 1st July.

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
- **Portuguese Press** must send applications to:
Pedro Castelo – tel: 021 4135380, fax: 021 4120553
email: pcastelo@talento.pt
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to:
Antonios Argyropoulos – Eurosport Events
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR BRANDS HATCH

Rounds 13 and 14 of the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Brands Hatch, United Kingdom, 26th and 27th July.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 15th July.

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
- **British Press** must send applications to:
Laura Stevens – tel: 01474 875206, , fax: 01474 874766
email: laura.stevens@motorsportvision.co.uk
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to:
Antonios Argyropoulos – Eurosport Events
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 16 DAYS



to the 2008 FIA WTCC Race of Portugal – 12th / 13th July in Estoril

2008 WTCC Testing Monza AM Session

POS	NO	CL	NAME	NAT	ENTRY	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	2:00.918	27		172.47
2	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:00.946	37	0.028	172.43
3	20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	2:01.108	30	0.190	172.20
4	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	2:01.303	50	0.385	171.92
5	118		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon	2:01.314	49	0.396	171.90
6	10		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.347	42	0.429	171.86
7	6		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:01.402	37	0.484	171.78
8	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	2:01.553	52	0.635	171.57
9	1		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	2:01.653	61	0.735	171.42
10	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	2:01.840	47	0.922	171.16
11	108		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	2:02.027	36	1.109	170.90
12	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	2:02.139	46	1.221	170.74
13	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	2:02.421	24	1.503	170.35
14	18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	2:02.443	31	1.525	170.32
15	13	I	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	2:05.293	27	4.375	166.44

Weather/Track: Dry/Bright

www.mstworld.com

Monza
Circuit Length = 5.7930 km.
Start: 09:00 End: 13:00
Printed - 13:04 Thursday, 26 June 2008

2008 WTCC Testing - Monza PM Session

POS	NO	CL	NAME	NAT	ENTRY	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	20		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	2:00.940	35		172.43
2	15		James THOMPSON	GBR	Honda Accord Euro R	2:01.089	33	0.149	172.22
3	1		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	2:01.214	55	0.274	172.04
4	9		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.298	20	0.358	171.93
5	3		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	2:01.390	55	0.450	171.80
6	2		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	2:01.459	52	0.519	171.70
7	5		Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	2:01.477	26	0.537	171.67
8	4		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	2:01.577	25	0.637	171.53
9	10		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	2:01.856	37	0.916	171.14
10	108		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	2:02.007	29	1.067	170.93
11	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:02.087	27	1.147	170.81
12	118		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon	2:02.160	29	1.220	170.71
13	18		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	2:02.325	21	1.385	170.48
14	6		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Lacetti	2:02.374	29	1.434	170.41
15	13	I	Ibrahim OKYAY	TUR	BMW 320si	2:04.897	19	3.957	166.97
16	113	I	Aytac BITER	TUR	BMW 320i	2:12.128	15	11.188	157.83

Weather/Track: Bright/Dry

www.mstworld.com

Monza
Circuit Length = 5.7930 km.
Start: 14:00 End: 18:00
Printed - 18:05 Thursday, 26 June 2008