

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

26 – 4 July 2008

MARRAKECH JOINS 2009 WTCC CALENDAR

The FIA World Touring Car Championship will extend to Africa in 2009. With the addition of a race meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, the world championship is now set to visit four continents next year: Americas, Africa, Europe and Asia.

Morocco's first international race in more than 50 years was launched yesterday during a crowded press conference at Marrakech's El Saadi Palace. The historical city will host the WTCC on a brand new temporary street circuit in the heart of the red city on May 3rd, 2009.

The Marrakech WTCC event will be the first international car race in Morocco after the 1958 Formula One Grand Prix in Casablanca.

"This will be everybody's event. We all have to work together to prove the world that Morocco can build a street circuit and organize a motorsport event according to the FIA standards. To do this we need to mobilize all our resources. This event will have an unprecedented impact on Moroccan economy and tourism," said the President of the Marrakech Grand Prix Ali Horma.

ROUTE TO: ESTORIL, PORTUGAL

The 11th and 12th rounds of the FIA WTCC will take place next week in Portugal, at Estoril's Autódromo Fernanda Pires da Silva.

This is the first time that the championship visits the 4.1km circuit, which is home to the Portuguese Moto GP, bringing an automobile world championship event back there twelve years after the 1996 Formula One Grand Prix.

However, the FIA touring cars have already visited Estoril three times in the past. The European Touring Car Championship raced there in 2002 and 2003: Fabrizio Giovanardi's Alfa Romeo and Jörg Müller's BMW shared victories in 2002, while the year after Alfa Romeo's Gabriele Tarquini obtained a double win that propelled him towards the European title.

In 2006 Estoril hosted the FIA European Touring Car Cup; in a soaked wet weekend Ryan Sharp (GR Asia SEAT León) and Alexander Lvov (Golden Motors Honda Civic) claimed the Super 2000 and Super Production titles.

BOARDMAN WINS WTCC PARTICIPATION

24-year old Briton Tom Boardman is the second SEAT Eurocup driver to win participation in the FIA WTCC. Boardman, who scored the most points in the cup's second meeting at Pau, will drive the SEAT León TFSI run by SUNRED Engineering Development at Estoril; he succeeds the Spaniard Oscar Nogués who took part in the WTCC event at Pau after emerging as the best Eurocup driver in Valencia.

Despite his young age, Boardman boasts an impressive racing career with saloon cars. From 2000 to 2003 he raced in the British National Saloon and Touring Car Championships, claiming seven race wins and a fifth place in Production Class in the 2003 BTCC. Afterwards he switched to SEAT trophies, winning the 2005 British Cupra Cup and finishing third in the 2006 Spanish Supercopa.

THOMPSON CLAIMS DANISH VICTORY

A few days after emerging as the fastest in the WTCC official test at Monza, James Thompson claimed his first victory for Honda. The Briton won the first race during the fifth meeting of the Danish Touring Car Championship that took place last Sunday at Padborg Park.

Thompson had clocked the second fastest qualifying time, only eight thousandths of a second behind Chevrolet's Henrik Lundgaard; but the Briton had a better start and took the lead at the first bend and kept it until the chequered flag, giving the Hartmann Honda Racing their first ever victory. Despite starting the second race from eighth on the reverse grid, Thompson managed to recover up to third place and also set the fastest lap. Additionally he won pole position on the grid for the final race, which is awarded on the basis of the combined results of the two qualifying races.

Thompson's hopes for a second victory ended when he was given a stop-and-go penalty for clashing with Schlünssen's Peugeot 407, and this propelled Michael Outzen and his Chevrolet Lacetti towards their second win of the season.

"I was told that there was a safety car on the circuit and being the leader I thought it right to back off. It would be irresponsible to arrive at the scene at full speed. However, there were no yellow flags or safety car signs, so Schlünssen was to make an attempt at passing. We made contact and he went off the circuit, and that of course is my responsibility," Thompson explained.

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: - 9 DAYS



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

2008 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



ROUNDS 11 & 12 - ESTORIL, July 12/13 - 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
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
60	/	Poulsen Motorsport	Kristian Poulsen (DEN)	BMW 320si
77	/	SUNRED Engineering Development	Tom Boardman (GBR)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI

/ = Yokohama Independents' Trophy



Rounds 11 & 12 – TRACK FACTS



Circuito do Estoril – PORTUGAL

Lap distance – 4,140 m
Race distance – 2 x 13 laps

- Location:** 7 km North-East of Cascais
- Contacts:** Talento – Avenida General Norton de Matos, 65, 1495-148 Algés
Tel: +351 21 4135380, fax: +351 21 4120553
email: wtcc-estoril@talento.pt
- Official website:** www.wtcc-portugal.pt
- Press officer:** Pedro Castelo – tel: +351 21 4135380, fax: +351 21 4120553
email: pcastelo@talento.pt
- Airports:** Lisbon-Portela de Sacavém (35 km)
- S2000 lap records:** Qual.: 1:50.131/136.69 kph, César Campaniço (BMW 320si), 24 Mar 2007 - PTCC
Race: 1:50.312/136.46 kph, José Monroy (BMW 320si), 25 Mar 2007 - PTCC
- Previous winners:** 2002 FIA ETCC Race 1: Fabrizio Giovanardi (Alfa Romeo 156)
2002 FIA ETCC Race 2: Jörg Müller (BMW 320i)
2003 FIA ETCC Race 1: Gabriele Tarquini (Alfa Romeo 156)
2003 FIA ETCC Race 2: Gabriele Tarquini (Alfa Romeo 156)
2006 FIA ETCC Race 1: Ryan Sharp (SEAT León)
2006 FIA ETCC Race 2: Ryan Sharp (SEAT León)



Rounds 11 & 12 – Estoril (POR) EVENT TIMETABLE

Friday 11th July 2008

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

Saturday 12th July 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
11.00 – 11.30	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 2
12.15	Formula Master	Race 1 (18 laps)
13.05 – 13.45	International GT Open	Qualifying 2
14.00 – 14.30	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Qualifying
15.00 – 15.30	FIA WTCC	Qualifying
16.00	SEAT León Eurocup	Race 1 (12 laps)
17.05	International GT Open	Race 1 (max 60 min.)

Sunday 13th July 2008

09.00 – 09.15	International GT Open	Warm up
09.30 – 09.45	FIA WTCC	Warm up
10.20	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Race 1 (12 laps)
11.50	International GT Open	Race (max 45 min.)
13.20	FIA WTCC	Race 1 (12 laps)
13.50	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 1</i>
14.20	SEAT León Eurocup	Race 2 (12 laps)
15.35	Formula Master	Race 2 (24 laps)
17.20	FIA WTCC	Race 2 (12 laps)
17.50	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 2</i>
18.20	Portuguese Touring Car Championship	Race 2 (12 laps)