

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

35 – 5 September 2008

IMOLA LAUNCH FIA WTCC WEEKEND

Imola's Autodromo Enzo e Dino Ferrari is ready to re-open after two years. Track activity will start again with the FIA World Touring Car Championship race meeting, on September 20th and 21st.

Yesterday a large representative of media attended the event's official launch, meeting BMW Team Italy-Spain's Alessandro Zanardi and SEAT Sport's Gabriele Tarquini. Journalists and TV cameramen was given the opportunity of having a ride on board of Zanardi's and Tarquini's racing cars to discover the changes to the track. At the end of the day even Tarquini wanted to experience the thrill of being a passenger and sat in the BMW car alongside Zanardi, who commented: *"We could hardly be in closer contact!"*

Earlier this week, following the inspection from FIA officials, the Italian circuit was given a T1 degree homologation.

WTCC REPRESENTATIVES VISIT MOSCOW

Representatives of the FIA WTCC will visit Moscow in the next days. KSO General Manager Marcello Lotti and drivers Rickard Rydell, Alain Menu, James Thompson, Jaap van Lagen and Viktor Shapovolav will play the role of the championship's ambassadors with Russian authorities and media. After visiting the Moscow International Motorshow at Crocus Expo on Sunday afternoon, on Monday the WTCC party will attend a round table at the Ritz Hotel, together with the Mayor of Moscow and the President of the Russian Sporting Authority RAF.

The main subject for discussion will be the plan to organise a WTCC Russian event in the near future.

"This is definitely a priority for us and our car manufacturers," explained Marcello Lotti. *"We are working to include Russia in the 2010 calendar. However, everything depends on the completion of an FIA homologated racetrack suitable to host the championship."*

MANABU ORIDO TO DRIVE FOR CHEVROLET

Chevrolet will campaign a fourth Lacetti car in the final three meetings of the FIA WTCC season for Japanese driver Manabu Orido.

The 39-year old from Chiba will make his debut in Monza, before taking part in his home event at Okayama and the WTCC finale at Macau. His car, usually driven by Tomas Schie in the Swedish Touring Car Championship, will be run by the Chevrolet Motorsport Sweden team.

Orido is a very popular driver in Japan; he started his career winning the 1992 Fuji Freshman series. In 1995 he became the Japanese Super Sylvania champion before moving to the Japanese Super GT Championship. Among the important results he achieved are second places in the 2001 Macau Guia Race and the 2004 Le Mans 24 Hours in the GT class.

“It is a great honour to represent Japan in WTCC,” Manabu Orido said. “I would like to thank all those who made this happen for me. I hope that my presence will help the series to gain popularity in Japan, especially for the Okayama event in October. Hopefully my knowledge of the track, which is new to the WTCC calendar, may help the other three Chevrolet drivers in their races.”

BARILLA PASTA PARTY AT IMOLA

Famous Italian pasta company Barilla, who sponsor Alessandro Zanardi, will offer a dish of pasta to all the spectators who will visit the paddock during the FIA WTCC race day in Imola.

Using the “pasta party” format introduced in a number of sporting and musical events (like the New Marathon and rock concerts), Barilla will build an hospitality structure inside the paddock where between 4,000 and 5,000 dishes of pasta will be prepared and served in-between the two WTCC races on Sunday 21st September, from 13.00 to 15.00.

All the spectators who have purchased a paddock ticket will be welcome inside the Barilla hospitality area.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR IMOLA

Rounds 17 and 18 of the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Imola, Italy, 20th and 21st September.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 9th September.

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
- **Italian Press** must send applications to:
Federico Lucchini – tel: 328 5310484, fax: 0542 30420,
email: press@autodromoimola.it
- **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 Europe – 21th / 21st September in Imola