

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

40 – 12 October 2007

TITLE FIGHT GOES TO THE WIRE

52,000 fans gathered last Sunday at the Monza circuit for the last European meeting of the FIA WTCC. They attended two frantic races and showed their enthusiasm by invading the track at the end of the second race and crowding under the podium to cheer the winners.

The two Italian races sanctioned the effectiveness of the diesel power, as the SEAT León TDI cars claimed two more victories, with Yvan Muller and Jordi Gené respectively. But performances at Monza were extremely balanced with drivers of Alfa Romeo, BMW and Chevrolet on the pace with their SEAT colleagues.

James Thompson and Nicola Larini obtained podium results for Alfa Romeo and Chevrolet respectively. Augusto Farfus could have done the same for BMW without a collision at the start of Race 2 that sent him off. His fellow drivers Andy Priaulx and Jörg Müller were also eliminated in different incidents, which left the three BMW's top-men with only two points, collected by Farfus in the first race.

These results meant an upheaval of the Drivers' Championship's classification, with Priaulx rejoined by Yvan Muller in the lead, and Thompson squeezing between Farfus and Jörg Müller in fourth position.

The fight for the World Title goes to the wire once again, with six drivers still in contention, including Larini whose 20-point gap makes his chances more theoretical than concrete. For the third consecutive year the championship will be decided on the streets of Macau, where rounds 21 and 22 will be held on November 18th.

LAUNCH OF THE 54th MACAU GRAND PRIX

The 54th Macau Grand Prix was launched today at Macau; the event will include the FIA World Touring Car Championship's final meeting as well as the 25th edition of the FIA Formula 3 Intercontinental Cup and the 41st Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix.

During a crowded press conference held at the Fisherman's Warf Convention Centre, Dr Fernando Chui San Oi, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, stated: *"As one of the major sports tourism attractions, over the last 54 years the Macau Grand Prix has been an essential tool with which to boost the development of the city's tourism, enhancing the promotion of the non-gaming entertainment sector, while playing an important role in promoting Macau's image as a tourism city worldwide."*

Engineer João Manuel Costa Antunes, coordinator of the Macau Grand Prix Committee, commented on the third appearance of the FIA WTCC in Macau: *"Since its inception, the FIA WTCC has been decided at Macau. We are thrilled that this year we will once again host the title decider and we are also very pleased to announce that long-time Macau Grand Prix supporter, Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM), will be again the title sponsor for the FIA WTCC Guia Race of Macau."*

According to the Macau Grand Prix Committee, ticket pre-sales for the event have increased by five per cent compared to last year.

ZANARDI IN THE NEW YORK MARATHON

Alessandro Zanardi is ready for another outstanding exploit: he will take part in the ING New York City Marathon on November 4th, riding a hand-bike. *"I'm ambassador of Barilla, who is a sponsor of the event. They wanted to involve me in the Pasta Party they organise on the Saturday night for thousands of runners. And I said that if I had to be there I might as well take part in the marathon."*

Have you ever done anything like that before? *"No, but I have done a lot of crazy things before and always eat and train like an athlete. I feel like saying that I won't only cross the start line, but the finish line too. And I hope I can make it to the end in good condition and in a good time, my goal is to finish in less than two hours."*

2008 FIA WTCC MEDIA ACCREDITATION

Permanent media accreditation for the 2008 season of the FIA World Touring Car Championship are now open.

Applicants are requested to fill and sign the 2008 WTCC Permanent Form and send it by registered mail, together with the required documents, to:

FIA – PRESS ACCREDITATION
8, Place de la Concorde, 75008 Paris, FRANCE

The deadline for the application is 9 NOVEMBER 2007.

The application form may be downloaded at the following address:
[newsletter.fiawtcc.com/download/2008 WTCC Permanent Form.pdf](http://newsletter.fiawtcc.com/download/2008%20WTCC%20Permanent%20Form.pdf)

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR THE ELEVENTH MEETING

Rounds 21 and 22 of the 2007 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Macau, 17th and 18th November.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 16th October.

The Accreditation Form may be downloaded from 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

Macau, Hong Kong and Chinese Press, TV and Radio must apply on line at:
www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo

International TV and Radio must send applications to: Antonios Argyropoulos – Eurosport
tel +33 1 40938517, fax +33 1 40938002; email: antonios@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 37 DAYS



to the 2007 FIA WTCC Guia Race of Macau – 16th / 17th November, in Macau

more information and pictures: www.fiawtcc.com