

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

41 – 19 October 2007

TITLE CONTENDERS ON MAXIMUM BALLAST

All the six drivers who are still in contention to secure the world champion's crown will be carrying the maximum 60kg ballast on board their cars at Macau: Andy Priaulx, Yvan Muller, Augusto Farfus, James Thompson, Jörg Müller and Nicola Larini.

Gabriele Tarquini and Robert Huff, currently placed eighth and nine in the championship classification, will have the same handicap weight, while Alain Menu and Jordi Gené will be only 5 kilos lighter.

A total of 19 drivers will receive handicap weight, including newcomers Duncan Huisman, Franz Engstler, Andrey Romanov and Ao Chi Hong.

60 kg A. Priaulx, Y. Muller, A. Farfus, J. Thompson, J. Müller, N. Larini, G. Tarquini, R. Huff

55 kg A. Menu, J. Gené

15 kg T. Monteiro and F. Porteiro

10 kg T. Coronel, A. Zanardi, D. Huisman, F. Engstler, A. Romanov, Ao Chi Hong

5 kg L. Rangoni

ENGSTLER AND ROMANOV TO MACAU

Germany-based Engstler Motorsport team have entered two BMW cars in the FIA WTCC finale at Macau. Team principal Franz Engstler and Andrey Romanov from Russia will be at the wheel of the two BMW 320i E46 machines that they drove to first and second positions in this year's ADAC Procar German Championship.

Engstler, 43-years old from Kempten, is an extremely experienced Touring Car driver. During his career he claimed two German national titles, the first of them in the 2000 German Touring Car Challenge. He also won two Asian Touring Car Championships in 2005 and 2006. All at the wheel of BMW cars.

Romanov, 28-years old from Moscow, started racing only in 2003. After building experience in the Russian Lada and Honda Civic cups he switched last year to the national Touring Car Championship and claimed pole position for the Super Production class in the 2006 FIA European Touring Car Cup at Estoril.

AO CHI HONG JOINS FOR HOME RACE

Macanese driver Ao Chi Hong will join again the FIA WTCC field for his home race at the wheel of an Ao's Racing Team BMW 320i.

A regular competitor and a podium finisher in the Asian Touring Car Championship, the 47-year old was due to take part in the 2005 FIA WTCC Guia Race, but a crash at Fishermen's bend during Friday's qualifying sidelined him for the weekend.

He came back in 2006 and finally took the start of the first race that he managed to finish in 19th position. He did not finish the second race.

THE FIA WTCC AT SPORTEL-MONACO

WTCC results and plans were presented Tuesday at Sportel-Monaco.

Jacques Behar, president of Eurosport Events and KSO, stated: *"The WTCC is only three years old and the youngest of the FIA World Championships, but is also one of the most dynamic. We are very happy with its consistent increase in terms of media coverage, audiences and popularity."*

Besides providing exciting races, the FIA WTCC has a role to play with the general public. *"We wish to support social and humanitarian initiatives in the countries we visit and make the public aware of the environmental problems,"* Behar added. *"The WTCC is the ideal launch pad for these actions and we aim to make it a pattern of competition able to deliver top-level sporting show as well as social responsibility."*

THE LARINI FAMILY GROWS

Yesterday Nicola Larini became father for the third time.

His wife Laura gave birth to Davide, a lovely little boy of 3.6 kg. Best wishes to the new born-child and congratulations to his proud parents from the whole WTCC family.

THE FIA ETCC NEXT WEEK AT ADRIA

The third edition of the FIA European Touring Car Cup, reserved for Super 2000 and Super Production cars, will take place next week (October 28th) at Adria, Italy.

41 drivers from ten different countries and at the wheel of cars built from 12 manufacturers have entered in the event.

For more information: www.fiaetcc.com.

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)

COUNTDOWN: - 30 DAYS



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

more information and pictures: www.fiawtcc.com