

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

45 – 15 November 2007

FIRST PART OF TIMETABLE DELAYED BY ONE DAY

Track action for the final event of the 2007 FIA World Touring Car Championship in Macau has been postponed by one day due to logistical issues that resulted in a delayed delivery of spare parts to some of the teams.

The FIA Stewards decided to move the event's first two days back by 24 hours. The meeting will now get underway tomorrow at 4.15 pm local time with the 32 drivers taking part in a 30-minute test that was originally scheduled at 1.20 pm today.

Action will continue on Saturday morning with two 30-minute free practice sessions at 7.00 am and 12.00 (noon). Then at 4.10 pm the WTCC drivers will hit the track again for the qualifying session (aired LIVE on Eurosport International) that will last 45 minutes instead of the usual 30. Extended qualifying sessions already took place in Pau and Porto, the two other street circuits included in the WTCC calendar.

The Sunday timetable remains unchanged, with the warm up at 8.00 am and the two races starting at 12.00 (noon) and 1.20 pm respectively.

WTCC REVISED TIMETABLE

Friday, 16 th November	16.15 (09.15 CET)	Test session
Saturday, 17 th November	07.00 (00.00 CET)	Free practice 1
	12.00 (03.30 CET)	Free practice 2
	16.10 (09.10 CET)	Qualifying
Sunday, 18 th November	08.00 (01.00 CET)	Warm Up
	12.00 (05.00 CET)	Start of Race 1
	13.20 (06:30 CET)	Start of Race 2

WTCC TEAM WINS MACAU PROMOTIONAL RACE

Wednesday of the race week in Macau is traditionally dedicated to promotional activities. Yesterday eight WTCC drivers – Coronel, Farfus, Huff, Larini, Menu, Tarquini, Priaulx and Yvan Muller – competed against their colleagues from F3 and bikes in a race at Fisherman's Wharf on board pedicabs, Macau's traditional tricycle taxis. In the final round, Yvan Muller pedalled the WTCC carriage to victory with Huff and Tarquini as his passengers. They crossed the line five seconds ahead of the fastest F3 team despite attempts from the bikers to block their path.

After the race, drivers and riders posed for pictures and met the fans in an autograph session.

NEW GEARBOX FOR HUISMAN AND ROSENBLAD

Team AVIVA have changed the gearbox on Duncan Huisman's car, from a 6-speed sequential to a 5-speed H pattern. Elgh Motorsport did the same on Carl Rosenblad's car.

This will result in a huge reduction in the minimum weight of their BMW cars. Instead of being given 30 extra kilos for using the sequential gearbox and 60 more because of the Touring Car Bureau's decision concerning all the cars running on the basis of national homologation, Huisman will only receive the usual 10kg ballast imposed to the newcomers to the championship, while Rosenblad had already paid this fee on his first appearance of the season at Anderstorp.

On top of this they will also benefit from the 25kg reduction granted by the Bureau to rear-wheel drive cars from the beginning of the season.

This also means that Huisman and Rosenblad are now also eligible to score championship points.

BMW CONFIRM ALL DRIVERS FOR 2008

BMW announced their programme for the next year, confirming all the five drivers who have been successful for BMW in the current season: Andy Priaulx, Augusto Farfus, Jörg Müller, Félix Porteiro and Alessandro Zanardi.

"The previous 20 races in the championship have shown that we are very well equipped with this set of drivers," said BMW Motorsport Director Mario Theissen. *"Therefore, we see no reason to change. I am certain that our quintet will also play an important role in the coming season."*

For the sixth consecutive season Priaulx will race for BMW Team UK and RBM Team, while Müller and Farfus will stay at BMW Team Germany. As for the BMW Team Italy-Spain, they retain Porteiro and Zanardi.

ENGSTLER ANNOUNCE 2008 WTCC PROGRAMME

After three successful seasons that brought them two Asian Touring Car Championships (2004 and 2005) and this year's ADAC Procar title, German outfit Engstler Motorsport will move to the FIA WTCC next year.

"In the last three years we have established ourselves at an international level and achieved all our goals. In this respect moving to the WTCC is the logical step for us," explained team manager Kurt Treml.

With backing by lubricant specialist Liqui Moly, the team will race with two BMW 320si cars for Franz Engstler (46) and Andrey Romanov (28) who will be the first Russian to race the full season in an FIA World Championship.

"We are aware that WTCC is an ambitious programme, but we are preparing for it in the best way," commented Engstler. *"We decided to race in Macau to get familiar with the championship and its challenges. Obviously we cannot compete with the factory teams, but we aim to be competitive in the Independents' Trophy."*

COUNTDOWN: - 3 DAYS



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

more information and pictures: www.fiawtcc.com
NB – local mobile phone in Macau 6252-0143