

# WTCC

FIA World Touring Car  
Championship

## FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

# 48 – 21 December 2007

### MEXICO BACK IN THE WTCC CALENDAR

The FIA World Touring Car Championship will visit Mexico again in 2008.

After a one-year break the 3.2-km Miguel E. Abed racetrack of Puebla Amozoc will host the championship's third and fourth rounds on April 6<sup>th</sup>.

The WTCC had already raced in Puebla twice: Fabrizio Giovanardi (Alfa Romeo) and Peter Terting (SEAT) shared victories in 2005, while Salvatore Tavano and Augusto Farfus claimed a double for Alfa Romeo the following year.

These were also among the most successful WTCC events ever in terms of crowd, with 71,000 and 76,000 spectators attending the two previous editions.

Mexico having been reinstated, the 2008 FIA WTCC will be composed of twelve events and 24 rounds.

### 2008 FIA WTCC CALENDAR

Round	Date	Country	Venue
1 & 2	2 March	BRAZIL	Curitiba
3 & 4	06 April	MEXICO	Puebla Amozoc
5 & 6	18 May	SPAIN	Valencia
7 & 8	1 June	FRANCE	Pau
9 & 10	15 June	CZECH REPUBLIC	Brno
11 & 12	13 July	PORTUGAL	Estoril
13 & 14	27 July	GREAT BRITAIN	Brands Hatch
15 & 16	31 August	GERMANY	Oschersleben
17 & 18	21 September	SWEDEN	Anderstorp *
19 & 20	5 October	ITALY	Monza
21 & 22	26 October	JAPAN	Okayama
23 & 24	16 November	MACAU	Macau

\* subject to the ASN confirmation and the FIA homologation of the circuit

### SUCCESS BALLAST SYSTEM REVISED

The FIA WTCC handicap weight system has been revised in view of the 2008 season, starting from the name that has been changed to "success ballast". The new system was approved by the FIA World Motor Sport Council after a proposal coming from the Touring Car Commission.

The imposition of success ballast remains based on different criteria: championship points and race results.

- according to the Championship points: 1 kg per every point scored
- according to the sum of points obtained in the two races of each event, according to the following scale:

OFFICIAL PARTNERS

Canon

ADVAN  
YOKOHAMA

COURTYARD  
MARRIOTT

MONROE

BERU

WIND

1 <sup>st</sup>	+ 30 kg
2 <sup>nd</sup>	+ 25 kg
3 <sup>rd</sup>	+ 20 kg
4 <sup>th</sup>	+ 15 kg
5 <sup>th</sup>	+ 10 kg
6 <sup>th</sup>	+ 5 kg

These ballasts will be scrapped and recalculated after each championship event.

Handicap weights a) and b) are cumulative up to a maximum of 70 kg.  
A 30 kg ballast will automatically be allocated to each driver entered on a race-by-race basis on the occasion of his first appearance in the championship.

### **CHOO TO COMPETE IN TWO WTCC ROUNDS**

Singaporean driver Melvin Choo is eyeing to take part in two rounds of the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship. Choo, who placed third in this year's ATCS at the wheel of a Honda Integra DC5, has bought Porteiro's 2007 BMW 320si for his ATCS campaign in 2008. He will also drive his new car in some rounds of the WTCC next year: *"I wish to race in the Japanese and Macau events. Is a learning curve for me in motor racing and in the WTCC I'll be competing with some of the best touring car drivers in the world."*

### **MULLER AND MONTEIRO IN THE LISBON-DAKAR**

Team-mates at SEAT Sport in the FIA WTCC, together Yvan Muller and Tiago Monteiro are facing another big challenge: the Lisbon-Dakar.

Last year the Frenchman took part for the first time in the infamous raid, making it to the end in 22<sup>nd</sup> position at the wheel of a Nissan Pickup he shared with three-time winner and fellow countryman René Metge.

For the 2008 event, which will start from Lisbon on January 5th to arrive in Dakar on January 20th after 6,000 km of special stages, Muller has joined Philippe Gache's team and will drive a single-seater SMG buggy powered by a 250bhp 6-cylinder boxer Porsche engine, built by Gache and conceived together with Jean-Louis Schlesser. The team line-up five buggies including Muller's and Monteiro's.

**COUNTDOWN: - 71 DAYS**



to the 2008 FIA WTCC Race of Brazil – 1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> March, in Curitiba

more information and pictures: [www.fiawtcc.com](http://www.fiawtcc.com)