

IMAGOLIVE

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Data invio: domenica 20 gennaio 2008 21.45
Allega: image002.jpg; image004.jpg; image007.jpg; image005.jpg; image007.jpg; image006.jpg; image005.jpg; image001.jpg
Oggetto: FIA GT CHAMPIONSHIP - 2008 NEWS UPDATE #1



GT NEWS UPDATE

NEWSLETTER #1 - 18th January 2008

Welcome to 2008 ! All the SRO Motorsports Group staff would like to wish you a very happy and successful new season.

Preparations for the new season are already fully underway. The SRO staff have just returned from a two-day seminar, in preparation of the new season of the FIA GT Championship, the FIA GT3 European Championship, the GT4 European Cup and the Belgian, French and German GT Championships. [Check out the website](#) to see the staff as you may never have seen them before !

2008 looks like being another excellent season for the FIA GT Championship. The 12th season will begin at Silverstone on April 20th, with the much-anticipated Royal Automobile Club Tourist Trophy. This beautiful and historic trophy has been awarded to the overall winners for the last three years, and the FIA GT drivers have been delighted to see their names engraved alongside so many of motorsport's greats. Who will follow Vitaphone Racing's Thomas Biagi and Mika Salo for the 2008 edition ? After Great Britain, the 2008 season continues with two rounds in Italy – at the powerful and popular Monza and an evening race in Adria. Oscherleben is an unmissable event on our calendar, and the Championship will return there for the ninth time. The Total 24 Hours of Spa is next, for another thrilling 24 hours of racing around one of the most beautiful and challenging tracks in the world. August will see a return to the streets of Bucharest, this time for two one-hour races around the magnificent parliamentary buildings. The ever-popular Brno will follow in September, followed by a second visit to Nogaro in the South of France. Zolder will be the final European race of the season, before the cars and drivers will head to South America, and the Potrero de los Funes circuit in San Luis, Argentina. The track reconstruction is well underway, and the location should provide a magnificent backdrop for the season finale.

News is already coming in concerning the 2008 season.

[CR Scuderia](#) had an extremely well-attended launch during the Autosport International Show at Birmingham. Chris Niarchos' team will enter two Ferrari 430 GT2 cars in 2008, with Andrew Kirkaldy and Rob Bell sharing one, while Tim Mullen and Niarchos drive the other. We have an interview with Chris concerning his plans and hopes for 2008.

[PK Carsport](#) has announced that for 2008, Anthony Kumpen and Bert Longin will be exchanging their successful Corvette C5-R for a Saleen S7R. The all-Belgian team is full of optimism for the new season.

[Kessel Racing](#), the Swiss team which took Moser and Vannelet to victory in the 2007 FIA GT3 European Championship, has announced that it will be moving up to the GT2 category in 2008. Moser, who received a prize fund set up by SRO, Citation and Michelin, will be one of the drivers, with his team-mate yet to be announced. The team will also defend its title in the FIA GT3 European Championship.

After [Aston Martin issued the first impressions of its new GT2 racing car](#), to be known as the Vantage GT2, Gigawave

Motorsport confirmed that as well as entering an Aston Martin DBR9 in the GT1 category for frequent [FIA GT race-winner Philipp Peter and Danish driver Allan Simonsen](#) – the first-ever FIA GT3 winner - [they would also be racing a Vantage GT2. The drivers for the GT2 programme are still to be announced.](#)

Full season entries for 2008 close on February 28th, and the entry list will be released two weeks later, during the Official Test Days, which will take place on March 13th and 14th in Monza. The Media Launch will be held on the Thursday, March 13th.

For more information, please see www.fiagt.com or contact Jacquie Groom on Jacquie@sro.co.uk

