



FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

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POSITIVE TYRE TEST IN KYALAMI

The two-day test organised by Yokohama on the South African track of Kyalami to develop the Advan control tyre for the 2006 FIA World Touring Car Championship was positive.

Despite unexpected showers, on Monday and Tuesday, Alfa Romeo, BMW and SEAT tested four different solutions with Fabrizio Giovanardi, Jörg Müller and Rickard Rydell respectively.

“The tyres we tested were based for the construction on those we had previously tested in Vallelunga, but the compounds were new. We are happy because we have found in Kyalami the kind of weather conditions we needed,” Yokohama’s marketing manager Kazuyoshi Sekiguchi commented.

GERMAN READERS CHOSE ZANARDI AS BEST DRIVER

BMW Team Italy-Spain’s ace Alessandro Zanardi was voted by the readers of Motorsport Aktuell as “Driver of the Year” in the Touring and Sports Car Racing category.

The traditional poll organised by the popular weekly magazine elects the best drivers in all motor sports categories for cars and bikes every year.

23,343 readers took part in this year’s vote. In the Touring and Sports Car Racing category Zanardi collected 18.9 % of all votes and emerged as the winner ahead of 2004 DTM champion Mattias Ekström (15,6 %) and 2005 DTM champion Gary Paffett (14.4 %). Zanardi’s victory came as a surprise as in the past this award was usually won by DTM drivers, but it proved how much the German fans were impressed by the Italian’s comeback as winner of an FIA World Touring Car Championship race in Oschersleben last August.

FLASH NEWS

BMW MEN: Andy Priaulx, Jörg Müller and Dirk Müller attended the Formula BMW World Final in Bahrain. All three FIA WTCC drivers mentor the young competitors in their national championships and were there to show support as the British and German racers competed against participants from the Asian and American series. BMW Motorsport director Mario Theissen was also at the event as well as former Formula 1 champion Nigel Mansell.

THEY SAID: QUOTE OF THE WEEK

Ford TeamRS director Jost Capito, in an interview to the Italian weekly Autosprint: *“We are very much interested in Touring Car racing. This is why we have worked so hard to develop the Focus that will be our car for the next two seasons at least.”*



SEASON GREETINGS FROM FIA WTCC

The FIA World Touring Car Championship's staff wish a very merry Christmas and a successful and happy New Year to all the people who have given their contribution to turn the championship's maiden season in a great success: the FIA, manufacturers, event promoters, partners, sponsors, suppliers, consultants, teams, drivers and fans. Thank you for your support!

COUNTDOWN: - 87 DAYS

to the 2006 FIA WTCC test and media days – 21st/22nd March, in Monza