

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

1 – 4 January 2008

TWO MONTHS TO THE OPENING ROUND

The fourth season of the FIA World Touring Car Championship will get underway in less than two months, on March 2nd in Brazil, at the Autódromo Internacional de Curitiba. Only 45 days have passed since the final event of the 2007 season, when BMW Team UK's, Andy Priaulx, claimed his third consecutive World Championship at Macau.

For the second time Curitiba will be hosting the championship's opening meeting and it will be the third time the FIA WTCC will visit the 3.7-km Brazilian racetrack. After Jordi Gené and his SEAT León won the first ever WTCC race in Curitiba on July 2nd 2006, BMW drivers claimed three consecutive victories: Andy Priaulx crossed the line first in 2006's Race 2, whilst BMW Team Germany team-mates, Jörg Müller and Augusto Farfus, shared the glory last year taking one win apiece. Home boy Farfus is also the track record holder with a qualifying lap of 1:24.761 set on July 1st 2006, when he snatched pole position for Alfa Romeo.

2008 WTCC OFFICIAL TEST SESSIONS

Four official test sessions for the FIA WTCC competitors have been organised during the 2008 season by KSO, the championship's promoter.

Two two-day test sessions will take place at Valencia and Oschersleben immediately before the beginning of the European season, which commences with Valencia on the 18th May. They will take place after the first two race meetings of the year in Brazil (Curitiba, 2nd March) and Mexico (Puebla, 6th April).

Two further one-day test sessions will take place in June at Brno and Monza; the former will be held on the Thursday of the week of the Czech event.

Applications for media accreditation may be forwarded to the local press officers.

FIA WTCC OFFICIAL TEST SESSIONS (press officer)

15 th / 16 th April	Valencia (Pablo Pernía: media@circuitvalencia.com)
6 th / 7 th May	Oschersleben (Sabrina Gorges: presse@motorsportarena.com)
12 th June	Brno (Lenka Nestrojilová: nestrojilova@automotodrombrno.cz)
26 th June	Monza (Gianni Cattaneo: gianni.cattaneo@acimi.it)

MULLER AND MONTEIRO GO TO AFRICA

Yvan Muller's and Tiago Monteiro's African adventure will start tomorrow with the first stage of the Lisbon-Dakar Rally, which spans 486 km between Lisbon and Portimão.

The two SEAT Sport team-mates are taking part in the event at the wheel of identical single-seater SMG buggies, which are powered by 250bhp 6-cylinder boxer Porsche engines and run by Philippe Gache's team.

The Lisbon-Dakar will arrive in Senegal's capital city on January 20th after 6000 km of special stages.

THOMPSON WINS WEBSITE AWARD

James Thompson was voted WTCC driver of the year by the visitors of the premier website, www.touringcartimes.com, which is run by Swedish journalist Johan Meissner.,

Thompson who classified third in the 2007 Drivers' Championship for the N.technology Alfa Romeo team, received 35% of the votes, beating triple champion Andy Priaulx (27%), Alain Menu (16%) and Yvan Muller (13%).

However, BMW and RBM-BMW Team UK won the ballots in the Manufacturers' and Team's categories. BMW (38%) edged Chevrolet (28%) and SEAT (25%), while RBM (28%) emerged ahead of N.technology (24%) and RML-Chevrolet (21%).

Pierre-Yves Corthals, Tiago Monteiro and GR Asia were elected best Independent Driver, Rookie of the year and best Privateer Team respectively.

THE 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	CHINA	Macau

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

COUNTDOWN: - 58 DAYS



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

more information and pictures: www.fiawtcc.com