

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

7 – 22 February 2008

TWENTY-FOUR FULL SEASON ENTRIES

24 drivers from 13 countries, representing five different car Manufacturers – BMW, Chevrolet, Honda, LADA and SEAT – have entered the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship's full season that will start next week with the WTCC HSBC Race of Brazil at Curitiba.

The latest addition was Russian Bears Motorsport who entered two LADA cars; the Russian team will join the championship from the third meeting in Valencia.

Among the newcomers are the reigning Turkish Touring Car champion Ibrahim Okyay and Andrey Romanov from Russia. Their presence marks the first ever competitors from Turkey and Russia to have committed to the full season of an FIA racing world championship.

The major line-up changes from last year were N.technology team and James Thompson switching from Alfa Romeo to Honda, and Rickard Rydell's return to SEAT Sport.

CURITIBA HOSTS WTCC OPENING ROUND

The start of the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship is just a few days away. The series' fourth season will get underway next week at the Autódromo Internacional de Curitiba, Brazil.

This is the third time the 3.7 km circuit hosts the WTCC. The championship visited Curitiba for the first time in July 2006; a record crowd of 34,000 attended two thrilling races that were won by Jordi Gené (SEAT León) – after an exciting fight with local hero Augusto Farfus (Alfa Romeo) – and Andy Priaulx (BMW 320si).

From last year the Brazilian event was moved to March and given the honour to open the season. The BMW men dominated the 2007 edition, with BMW Team Germany fellow drivers Jörg Müller and Augusto Farfus sharing victories.

The attendance of the Brazilian fans was even larger than in 2006, with 45,000 spectators gathering at the track during the weekend.

SEAT PRESENTED WTCC TEAM IN MADRID

Today at Madrid's Zarzuela Hippodrome, SEAT presented their team for the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship.

All five SEAT Sport drivers – Jordi Gené, Tiago Monteiro, Yvan Muller, Rickard Rydell and Gabriele Tarquini – attended the event and met representatives from the Spanish and international press.

At the end of the last WTCC season Muller and SEAT were classified second in the Drivers' and Manufacturers' championship respectively.

"We want to have the number one in 2009 and therefore we have to win the title this year. We came close to succeed in 2007, so we know that we can do it and that is our goal," SEAT Sport director Jaime Puig said.

RUSSIAN BEARS TO RACE LADA

Russian Bears Motorsport are entered in the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship's full season. The Russian outfit will run two LADA 110 2.0 cars from the third race meeting of the season that will take place in Valencia on May 18th. The procedure to homologate the Russian car with the FIA is currently underway.

The team, who took part in last year's FIA WTCC events at Zandvoort and Valencia with three BMW 320i cars, have already named their drivers, the 43-year old Russian Viktor Shapovalov, who drove for LADA in the Russian Touring Car Championship, and the 31-year old Dutch Jaap van Lagen, champion of the 2006 Eurocup Renault Mégane Trophy.

"We are an independent team, however we have received from LADA the bodyshells with the roll-cages, some necessary spare parts and technical support. Furthermore LADA technicians are supporting us with the documents needed for the homologation," team manager Maxim Maksimenko explained.

During the season the team will be based in their Dutch workshop at Franeker and are expected to make their maiden appearance at the WTCC official test session in Valencia, on April 15th and 16th.

LAUNCH OF LIQUI MOLY TEAM ENGSTLER

The Nueschwanstein castle was the charming background to the presentation of the Liqui Moly Team Engstler's FIA WTCC programme last weekend, in Germany.

"It was a conscious choice, because for the whole team the launch of the WTCC programme was a fairy tale that became true," team manager Kurt Tremel explained.

The team's plans to enter the WTCC were meticulously built, step by step on the technology of the BMW 320si car, the crew's motivation and know-how, the experience and ambitions of the drivers Franz Engstler and Andrey Romanov, and the enthusiastic support of the main sponsor Liqui Moly and the other partners.

"We must be very grateful to them, because without their support this dream could not have been realized," Engstler said.

OKYAY TO COMPETE IN FIA WTCC

For the first time a Turkish team committed to compete in the full season of an FIA World Touring Car Championship. Borusan Otomotiv Motorsport entered one BMW 320si car that will be driven by the reigning Turkish Touring Car champion Ibrahim Okyay.

The 38-year old from Istanbul, who has six national titles under his belt, is not a new face to the FIA WTCC paddock as he took part in the 2006 event at the Istanbulpark, where he classified third in the Independents' Trophy. *"We have also planned to line up a second car in some of the WTCC European race meetings,"* team manager Ayдын Ural revealed.

The Borusan Otomotiv Motorsport team will sport a turquoise livery, which is also known as "Turkish Blue".

EUROSPORT LIVE COVERAGE FROM CURITIBA

<i>Saturday, 1st:</i>	Qualifying – LIVE	Eurosport International, 19.00/19.45
<i>Sunday, 2nd:</i>	Warm up – LIVE	Eurosport 2, 01.00/01.30
	Race 1 – LIVE	Eurosport International, 17.00/18.00
	Race 2 – LIVE	Eurosport International, 20.00/21.00

Times are CET (Central European Time)

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR PUEBLA

Rounds 3 and 4 of the 2008 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Puebla, Mexico, 5th and 6th April.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 25th March.

The Accreditation form may be downloaded at the websites www.fia.com and www.fiawtcc.com.

- **International Press** must send applications to:
Fabio Ravaioli – FIA WTCC Media Delegate
tel +39 06 39729497, fax +39 06 39729470, email: media@fiawtcc.com
- **Mexican Press** must send applications to:
Rodolfo Sánchez Noya
tel: +52 55 646697, fax: +52 55 640786, email: rsancheznoya@yahoo.com.mx
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to:
Antonios Argyropoulos – Eurosport
tel +33 1 40938517, fax +33 1 40938002; email: antonios@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 9 DAYS



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



FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE L'AUTOMOBILE

PRESS RELEASE

2008 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP

ENTRY LIST

N°	TEAM	DRIVER	CAR
1	BMW Team UK	Andy Priaulx (GBR)	BMW 320si
2	BMW Team Germany	Augusto Farfus (BRA)	BMW 320si
3	BMW Team Germany	Jörg Müller (GER)	BMW 320si
4	BMW Team Italy-Spain	Alessandro Zanardi (ITA)	BMW 320si
5	BMW Team Italy-Spain	Félix Porteiro (ESP)	BMW 320si
6	Chevrolet	Nicola Larini (ITA)	Chevrolet Lacetti
7	Chevrolet	Robert Huff (GBR)	Chevrolet Lacetti
8	Chevrolet	Alain Menu (SUI)	Chevrolet Lacetti
9	SEAT Sport	Jordi Gené (ESP)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
10	SEAT Sport	Rickard Rydell (SWE)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
11	SEAT Sport	Gabriele Tarquini (ITA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
12	SEAT Sport	Yvan Muller (FRA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
13	Borusan Otomotiv Motorsport	Ibrahim Okyay (TUR)	BMW 320si
15	N.technology	James Thompson (GBR)	Honda Accord Euro R
16	Wiechers-Sport	Olivier Tielemans (NED)	BMW 320si
18	SEAT Sport	Tiago Monteiro (POR)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
20	SUNRED Engineering Development	Tom Coronel (NED)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
23	Exagon Engineering	Pierre-Yves Corthals (BEL)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
26	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Stefano D'Aste (ITA)	BMW 320si
28	Russian Bears Motorsport	Viktor Shapovalov (RUS)	Lada 110 2.0*
29	Russian Bears Motorsport	Jaap van Lagen (NED)	Lada 110 2.0*
31	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Sergio Hernández (ESP)	BMW 320si
42	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Franz Engstler (GER)	BMW 320si
43	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Andrey Romanov (RUS)	BMW 320si

* Subject to the FIA homologation of the car

Paris, February 21, 2008

FOR MEDIA INFORMATION PURPOSES - NO REGULATORY VALUE
For further information on the FIA, please consult our Internet site:
www.fia.com

2008 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



ROUNDS 1 & 2 - CURITIBA, March 1/2 - ENTRY LIST

#	class	competitor	driver	car
1		BMW Team UK	Andy Priaulx (GBR)	BMW 320si
2		BMW Team Germany	Augusto Farfus (BRA)	BMW 320si
3		BMW Team Germany	Jörg Müller (GER)	BMW 320si
4		BMW Team Italy-Spain	Alessandro Zanardi (ITA)	BMW 320si
5		BMW Team Italy-Spain	Félix Porteiro (ESP)	BMW 320si
6		Chevrolet	Nicola Larini (ITA)	Chevrolet Lacetti
7		Chevrolet	Robert Huff (GBR)	Chevrolet Lacetti
8		Chevrolet	Alain Menu (SUI)	Chevrolet Lacetti
9		SEAT Sport	Jordi Gené (ESP)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
10		SEAT Sport	Rickard Rydell (SWE)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
11		SEAT Sport	Gabriele Tarquini (ITA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
12		SEAT Sport	Yvan Muller (FRA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
13	/	Borusan Otomotiv Motorsport	Ibrahim Okyay (TUR)	BMW 320si
15		N.technology	James Thompson (GBR)	Honda Accord Euro R
16	/	Wiechers-Sport	Olivier Tielemans (NED)	BMW 320si
18		SEAT Sport	Tiago Monteiro (POR)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
20		SUNRED Engineering Development	Tom Coronel (NED)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
23	/	Exagon Engineering	Pierre-Yves Corthals (BEL)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
26	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Stefano D'Aste (ITA)	BMW 320si
31	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Sergio Hernández (ESP)	BMW 320si
42	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Franz Engstler (GER)	BMW 320si
43	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Andrey Romanov (RUS)	BMW 320si

/ = Yokohama Independents' Trophy

www.fiawtcc.com



Rounds 1 & 2 – TRACK FACTS



Autódromo Internacional de Curitiba - BRAZIL

Lap distance – 3,695 m
Race distance – 2 x 14 laps

- Location:** Eastern outskirts of Curitiba
- Contacts:** Autódromo Internacional de Curitiba
Avenida Iraí 16, 83321-000 Pinhais, Paraná
tel: +55 41 36673636, fax: +55 41 36673636
email: aic@autodromodecuritiba.com.br
- Official website:** www.autodromodecuritiba.com.br
- Press officer:** Márcio Fonseca
tel/fax: +55 11 55429834/55314621; email: fonsecamarcio@terra.com.br
- Airport:** Curitiba “Afonso Pena” (25 km)
- S2000 lap records:** Qualifying - 1:24.761/156.93 kph, Augusto Farfus (Alfa Romeo 156), 1 Jul 2006
Race - 1:25.469/155.63 kph, Jörg Müller (BMW 320si), 11 Mar 2007
- Previous winners:** 2006 FIA WTCC Race 1: Jordi Gené (SEAT León)
2006 FIA WTCC Race 2: Andy Priaulx (BMW 320si)
2007 FIA WTCC Race 1: Jörg Müller (BMW 320si)
2007 FIA WTCC Race 2: Augusto Farfus (BMW 320si)



Rounds 1 & 2 – Curitiba (BRA) EVENT TIMETABLE

Friday 28th February 2008

10.00 – 10.45	Fórmula BR 2.0	Free Practice 1
11.00 – 11.45	Brasileiro de Marcas	Free Practice 1
13.00 – 13.45	Fórmula BR 2.0	Free Practice 2
14.00 – 14.45	Brasileiro de Marcas	Free Practice 2
15.00 – 15.30	FIA WTCC	Testing
16.00 – 16.20	Fórmula BR 2.0	Qualifying
16.30 – 16.45	Ferrari F430 GT2	Testing

Saturday 1st March 2008

09.00 – 09.30	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 1
09.45 – 10.15	Fórmula BR 2.0	Free Practice 3
10.30 – 11.00	Brasileiro de Marcas	Free Practice 3
12.00 – 12.30	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 2
13.25	Fórmula BR 2.0	Race 1 (max 30 min.)
14.15 – 14.45	Brasileiro de Marcas	Qualifying
15.00 – 15.30	FIA WTCC	Qualifying
16.00 – 18.00	Ferrari F430 GT2	Promotional laps

Sunday 2nd March 2008

09.00 – 09.15	FIA WTCC	Warm Up
09.30 – 09.45	Fórmula BR 2.0	Warm up
10.00 – 10.15	Brasileiro de Marcas	Warm up
10.30 – 11.30	Ferrari F430 GT2	Promotional laps
12.10	Fórmula BR 2.0	Race 2 (max 30 min.)
13.20	FIA WTCC	Race 1 (14 laps)
13.50	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 1</i>
14.25	Brasileiro de Marcas	Race (max 40 min.)
15.15 – 15.45	Ferrari F430 GT2	Promotional laps
16.20	FIA WTCC	Race 2 (14 laps)
16.50	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 2</i>