

FIA WTCC NEWSLETTER

44 – 7 November 2008

IMOLA REPLACES MONZA IN WTCC CALENDAR

Wednesday in Paris the FIA World Motor Sport Council approved the changes to the 2009 World Touring Car Championship's calendar.

Two race meetings – Oschersleben and Okayama – have been postponed by one week, to September 6th and November 1st respectively.

The most important change concerns the Italian event that has been moved from Monza to Imola and will take place on September 20th.

2009 FIA WTCC CALENDAR

Date	Country	Venue
08 March	BRAZIL	Curitiba
22 March	MEXICO	Puebla
03 May	MOROCCO	Marrakech *
17 May	FRANCE	Pau
31 May	SPAIN	Valencia
21 June	CZECH REPUBLIC	Brno
05 July	PORTUGAL	Porto *
19 July	GREAT BRITAIN	Brands Hatch
06 September	GERMANY	Oschersleben
20 September	ITALY	Imola
01 November	JAPAN	Okayama
22 November	MACAU	Macau

* subject to the FIA homologation of the circuit

MULLER AND TARQUINI FIGHT FOR THE TITLE

SEAT Sport team mates Yvan Muller and Gabriele Tarquini are ready for the shoot out that will decide the 2008 FIA WTCC Drivers' Championship.

They both have obtained three victories during the season so far, but Muller has built a 14-point lead that it won't be easy to be erased with only 20 points still at stake.

WHAT IF...

- Yvan Muller wins the title:
 - he would be the first French World Champion in circuit racing, 15 years after Alain Prost in the 1993 Formula One Championship;
 - he would be the fifth French automobile World Champion after Alain Prost (F1), Jean-Louis Schlesser (Sportscars), Didier Auriol and Sébastien Loeb (Rally)

- Gabriele Tarquini wins the title:
 - he would be the first Italian World Champion in circuit racing, 17 years after Teo Fabi in the 1991 World Sportscars Championship;
 - he would be the eighth Italian automobile World Champion after Nino Farina and Alberto Ascari (F1), Mauro Baldi and Teo Fabi (Sportscars), Roberto Ravaglia (Touring Cars), Sandro Munari and Miki Biasion (Rally)
 - he would be third driver ever to win both the World and the European Touring Car Championships after Roberto Ravaglia and Andy Priaulx.

FIGHT FOR THE PODIUM POSITIONS

Although they still have theoretical chances to climb up to the second position in the Drivers Championship, Chevrolet's Robert Huff, SEAT Sport's Rickard Rydell and BMW UK's reigning World Champion Andy Priaulx will more likely be fighting for the third position on the final podium.

Rydell has won two races so far, against the only victory claimed by Huff and Priaulx. However the Chevrolet driver is one point ahead of his Swedish competitor in the standings, while Priaulx is a further five points adrift.

TANEV JOINS PROTEAM MOTORSPORT

Bulgarian youngster George Tanev will join Proteam Motorsport for the championship final at Macau.

Tanev, who previously took part in the events of Oscherleben, Imola and Monza at the wheel of a Petrol GT Racing Team BMW 320si, will replace Stefano D'Aste at the wheel of one of Proteam's two BMW cars, joining Sergio Hernández, current leader of the Independents' Trophy.

Tanev's best result in his previous appearances has been the fifth position in the Independents' class obtained in Monza's second race.

TEST SESSION ON THURSDAY MORNING

At Macau the FIA WTCC competitors will hit the track for the first time on Thursday, November 13th at 12.20, for a 30-minute test session that will enable them to shake the cars down after the trip from Japan. Two free practice sessions will take place on Friday morning, at 8.45 and 12.15 respectively, while at 15.50 the extended 45-minute qualifying session (usual format when the championship runs on street circuits) will determine the starting positions for the grid for the first race.

After a break on Saturday, a day dedicated to the Formula 3 qualifying race and the Motorcycling Grand Prix, WTCC will start early on Sunday, with the 15-minute warm up at 7.50. The two back-to-back 9-lap races will follow at 12.05 and 13.25.

FIA BUREAU REJECT RPM ENTRIES

The FIA Touring Car Bureau rejected the applications lodged by Macau-based RPM Racing Team to enter two cars in the FIA World Touring Car Championship final race meeting that will take place at Macau, on November 16th.

The team had planned to race one Toyota Altezza and one Honda Civic Type-R for Macanese drivers Lei Kit Meng and Jo Rosa-Merszei respectively.

Neither cars have been homologated by the FIA.

The decision issued by the Bureau reads that: *"both cars are not in keeping with the spirit of the FIA Super 2000 regulations."*

LACETTI GIVES WAY TO CRUZE IN ESTORIL

Chevrolet's 2009 WTCC contender, the Cruze, continued its extensive test and development programme with a first public test at the Portuguese Estoril track on Monday and Tuesday. The test followed on the initial private sessions at the MIRA proving ground in the UK and at Guadix in Spain. The test and development programme will continue throughout the winter at different tracks across southern Europe.

The Portuguese test also marked the very last time the current Chevrolet Lacetti was used in testing. The successful Lacetti will bow out at the season's final races in Macau, after which the team will only concentrate on developing the new Cruze. At Estoril, both cars were driven by Alain Menu and Rob Huff; the back-to-back test being used to set a baseline for the Cruze.

"The Cruze is a great car and feels fast straight out of the box. We obviously still are at the very early stages of development but already now you can feel how much better it handles and what an advantage the wider track will be in the races," Huff commented.

"This was the first time I drove the Cruze and I can already tell the car feels good. Lap times show promise but also indicate the amount of work still needed. The car responds well to all set-up changes which should make it easier for us to make progress throughout the winter months," echoed Menu.

EUROSPORT COVERAGE FROM MACAU

Sunday, 16 th ;	Qualifying	Eurosport International, 00.00/00.45
	Warm up – LIVE	Eurosport International, 00.45/01.30
	Races 1 & 2 – LIVE	Eurosport International, 04.55/07.00
	Race 1 & 2 – highlights	Eurosport International, 19.00/20.15

Times are CET (Central European Time)

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR 2009 WTCC – LAST DAYS

Media accreditation for the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship full season is now open.

Journalists and photographers who wish to apply for WTCC permanent media pass must file the proper accreditation form (available from the FIA Media Delegate) and return it via registered mail together with the required documents.

The deadline for application is November 12th, 2008.

COUNTDOWN: - 9 DAYS



to the 2008 FIA WTCC Race of Macau – 15th / 16th November in Macau

2008 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



ROUNDS 23 & 24 - MACAU, November 15/16 - ENTRY LIST

#	class	competitor	driver	car
1		BMW Team UK	Andy Priaulx (GBR)	BMW 320si
2		BMW Team Germany	Jörg Müller (GER)	BMW 320si
3		BMW Team Germany	Augusto Farfus (BRA)	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
17	/	Wiechers-Sport	Takayuki Aoki (JPN)	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
27	/	Russian Bears Motorsport	Kirill Ladygin (RUS)	LADA 110 2.0
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
45	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	George Tanev (BUL)	BMW 320si
66		N.technology	André Couto (MAC)	Honda Accord Euro R
69	/	Thunder Asia Racing	Melvin Choo Kwok Ming (SIN)	BMW 320si
80		Chevrolet	Manabu Orido (JPN)	Chevrolet Lacetti
81	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Masaki Kano (JPN)	BMW 320i
88	/	Wiechers-Sport	Matthew Marsh (HKG)	BMW 320si

/ - Yokohama Independents' Trophy



Rounds 23 & 24 – TRACK FACTS



Circuito da Guia – MACAU

Lap distance – 6,117 m
Race distance – 2 x 9 laps

- Location:** downtown Macau
- Contacts:** Macau Grand Prix Committee
 207 Avenida da Amizade, Edifício do Grande Prémio, Macau
 tel: +853 7962268, fax: +853 28727309, email: macaugp@cgpm.gov.mo
- Official website:** www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo
- Press officer:** Macau Grand Prix Committee – tel: +853 7962299, fax: +853 28727309
 email: media@cgpm.gov.mo
- Airports:** Macau (5 km), Zhuhai (25 km), Hong Kong-Chek Lap Kok (50 km)
- S2000 lap records:** Qualifying - 2:31.209/145.70 kph, Alain Menu (Chevrolet Lacetti), 17 Nov 2007
 Race - 2:32.517/144.45 kph, Gabriele Tarquini (SEAT León TDI), 18 Nov 2007
- Previous winners:** 2004 Guia Race 1: Jörg Müller (BMW 320i)
 2004 Guia Race 2: Jörg Müller (BMW 320i)
 2005 FIA WTCC Race 1: Augusto Farfus (Alfa Romeo 156)
 2005 FIA WTCC Race 2: Duncan Huisman (BMW 320i)
 2006 FIA WTCC Race 1: Andy Priaulx (BMW 320si)
 2006 FIA WTCC Race 2: Jörg Müller (BMW 320si)
 2007 FIA WTCC Race 1: Alain Menu (Chevrolet Lacetti)
 2007 FIA WTCC Race 2: Andy Priaulx (BMW 320si)



Rounds 23 & 24 – Macau (MAC) EVENT TIMETABLE

Thursday, 13th November 2008

07.30 – 08.15	Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix	Free Practice
08.40 – 09.20	Hotel Fortuna Interport Race	Free Practice
09.40 – 10.10	Windsor Arch Road Sport Challenge	Free Practice
10.30 – 11.00	Windsor Arch F3 Macau Grand Prix	Free Practice 1
11.20 – 12.00	CTM Touring Car Race	Free Practice
12.20 – 12.50	FIA WTCC – Guia Race of Macau	Testing
13.10 – 13.40	Formula BMW Pacific	Free Practice
14.00 – 14.45	Windsor Arch F3 Macau Grand Prix	Qualifying 1
15.25 – 16.10	Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix	Qualifying 1

Friday, 14th November 2008

07.30 – 08.30	Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix	Qualifying 2
08.45 – 09.15	FIA WTCC – Guia Race of Macau	Free Practice 1
09.35 – 10.05	Hotel Fortuna Interport Race	Qualifying
10.25 – 10.55	Windsor Arch Road Sport Challenge	Qualifying
11.15 – 11.45	Windsor Arch F3 Macau Grand Prix	Free Practice 2
12.15 – 12.45	FIA WTCC – Guia Race of Macau	Free Practice 2
13.05 – 13.35	CTM Touring Car Race	Qualifying
13.55 – 14.25	Windsor Arch GT Cup	Practice
14.45 – 15.30	Windsor Arch F3 Macau Grand Prix	Qualifying 2
15.50 – 16.35	FIA WTCC – Guia Race of Macau	Qualifying

Saturday, 15th November 2008

07.30 – 07.50	Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix	Warm up
<u>08.15</u>	<u>Windsor Arch Road Sport Challenge</u>	<u>Race (10 laps)</u>
<u>09.35</u>	<u>Hotel Fortuna Interport Race</u>	<u>Race (10 laps)</u>
10.25 – 11.20	Windsor Arch GT Cup	Qualifying
<u>11.50</u>	<u>CTM Touring Car Race</u>	<u>Race (12 laps)</u>
<u>13.45</u>	<u>Windsor Arch F3 Macau Grand Prix</u>	<u>Qualification Race (10 laps)</u>
<u>15.15</u>	<u>Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix</u>	<u>Race (15 laps)</u>
16.30 – 17.00	Formula BMW Pacific	Qualifying

Sunday, 16th November 2008

07.50 – 08.05	FIA WTCC – Guia Race of Macau	Warm up
08.20 – 08.40	Windsor Arch F3 Macau Grand Prix	Warm up
<u>09.10</u>	<u>Formula BMW Pacific</u>	<u>Race (10 laps)</u>
<u>10.30</u>	<u>Windsor Arch GT Cup</u>	<u>Race (10 laps)</u>
12.05	FIA WTCC – Guia Race of Macau	Race 1 (9 laps)
<u>12.35</u>	<u>FIA WTCC</u>	<u>Podium Race 1</u>
12.50 – 13.05	FIA WTCC	Repair Time
13.25	FIA WTCC – Guia Race of Macau	Race 2 (9 laps)
<u>14.00</u>	<u>FIA WTCC</u>	<u>Podium Race 2</u>
<u>15.30</u>	<u>Windsor Arch F3 Macau Grand Prix</u>	<u>Race (15 laps)</u>