

**#07 - 27 FEBRUARY 2009**

### **CURITIBA HOSTS THE OPENING ROUND**

The start of the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship is just one week away.

The series' fifth season will get underway again at the Autódromo Internacional de Curitiba, Brazil.

This is the fourth time the 3.7 km circuit hosts the WTCC. The championship visited Curitiba for the first time in July 2006; a crowd of 34,000 attended the races that were won by Jordi Gené (SEAT León) and Andy Priaulx (BMW 320si).

From 2007 the Brazilian event was moved to March and given the honour to open the season. BMW Team Germany fellow drivers Jörg Müller and Augusto Farfus shared victories and the attendance was even larger, with 45,000 spectators.

Last year SEAT won both races with Yvan Muller and Gabriele Tarquini, again the attendance totalled to 45,000.



For the third consecutive year the WTCC starts in Brazil

### **ENTRY LIST RELEASED BY THE FIA**

The FIA released the official list of the 2009 full season entries to the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship that will start next week with the WTCC Race of Brazil at Curitiba.

Twenty-six cars are listed, with drivers coming from fourteen different countries.

Twenty-four of these competitors will take part in the first two events of the season at Curitiba and Puebla (Mexico) against last year's twenty-one (see the event's entry list attached).

A third petrol-powered SEAT León run by SUNRED Engineering is due to join from the third race meeting in Marrakech. Winners of the SEAT Eurocup rounds and local drivers will take the wheel during the season. The entry of the Honda Accord has not to been finalized yet.

### **WTCC FOR CHARITY IN CURITIBA**

For the third consecutive year the WTCC Race of Brazil will give an aid to the starving people of Brazil. Together KSO (championship promoter), HSBC (partner of the event), and the City Hall of Curitiba, repeated the initiative of offering free tickets to the public in exchange for two kilograms of food.

Fans wishing to attend the races on Sunday may collect their tickets by delivering the food to 14 different collection points scattered over the city, or at the racetrack on Sunday morning.

The food collected will be donated to the charity society Instituto Pró-Cidadania de Curitiba, which will distribute it to those in need.

In 2007 this humanitarian initiative resulted in the collection of 24 tonnes of food, that became 52 last year.

### ZANARDI SWITCHED TO SEQUENTIAL

Alessandro Zanardi will become BMW's first works driver to use a sequential gearbox.

The Italian decided to switch from the 5-speed "H" pattern gearbox to a 6-speed Xtrack after testing it during the winter. This will make his own car 30 kilos heavier than the other BMWs because of the handicap provided by the Technical Regulations.

*"In spite of the weight, the car is well balanced and lap times are already close compared to the old gearbox that sometimes made my life harder. One good example is the Melco hairpin at Macau, where BMW drivers use the clutch to get around quicker. I cannot use the clutch pedal and have a lot of other things to do with my hand controls, and this cost me three or four tenths in that corner only. With the sequential gearbox this issue will be solved,"* said Zanardi.



Alessandro Zanardi's BMW is now fitted with a sequential gearbox

### ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR THE INDEPENDENTS

Eight full-season competitors have been admitted to Independents' Trophy that will award a 384,000-euro prize money. Among them are former champions Tom Coronel and Stefano D'Aste, as well as double WTCC race winner Félix Porteiro.

The point scale for the Trophy remains unchanged, with double points awarded in the final meeting at Macau. However, one additional point will be allocated for setting the Independents' pole position and the races' fastest lap at each event.

And furthermore, Independent drivers who will manage to finish races in the top-eight of the overall results, will be rewarded by three extra points per each WTCC point scored (i.e.: an Independent who classifies third overall will score 18 points for the Trophy).

### WTCC'S REVAMPED WEBSITE IS ON LINE

At the eve of the fifth season the WTCC's website was officially launched today in its revamped version.

The [www.fiawtcc.com](http://www.fiawtcc.com) webpage has been extensively modified to adopt a modern look and to offer quicker and more exhaustive information, thus it will continue to be the reference source for media, teams and fans.

The standard services (news, results and photo gallery) have been implemented, made more accessible and easier to use. The video section has been completely renovated and will feature soon a WTCC video player.

Special emphasis has been put on the drivers', team's and cars' file that provide a great deal of information and the possibility to download high resolution pictures.

Among the new resources is the possibility to convert the hours of the race meeting in the user's local time and to download the Stewards decisions, the official Newsletter and the Media Guide, all in PDF format.

### EUROSPORT COVERAGE FROM CURITIBA

Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> :	WTCC Preview	Eurosport International, 23.00/23.30
Saturday, 7 <sup>th</sup> :	Qualifying – <b>LIVE</b>	Eurosport International, 20.00/20.45
Sunday, 8 <sup>th</sup> :	Warm up – <b>LIVE</b>	Eurosport 2, 13.30/14.00
	Race 1 – <b>LIVE</b>	Eurosport 2, 16.45/17.45
	Race 1	Eurosport International, 19.00/19.45
	Race 2 – <b>LIVE</b>	Eurosport International, 19.45/20.45
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> :	WTCC Magazine	Eurosport International, 23.00/23.30

Times are CET (Central European Time)

### MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR PUEBLA

Rounds 3 and 4 of the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Puebla, Mexico, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March.

**The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

**Please remind that media passes issued by National Sporting Authorities and/or any other series will NOT be valid.**

The Accreditation form may be downloaded at the websites [www.fia.com](http://www.fia.com) and [www.fiawtcc.com](http://www.fiawtcc.com).

- **International Press** must send applications to Fabio Ravaioli  
tel +39 06 39729497, fax +39 06 39729470, email: [media@fiawtcc.com](mailto:media@fiawtcc.com)
- **Mexican Press** must send applications to Rodolfo Sánchez Noya  
tel: 055 646697, fax: 055 640786; email: [rsancheznoya@yahoo.com.mx](mailto:rsancheznoya@yahoo.com.mx)
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to Antonios Argyropoulos  
tel +33 1 40938517; email: [antonios@eurosport.com](mailto:antonios@eurosport.com)

**COUNTDOWN: - 9 DAYS**



to the 2009 FIA WTCC Race of Brazil – 7<sup>th</sup> / 8<sup>th</sup> March in Curitiba

# 2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



## ROUNDS 1 & 2 - CURITIBA, 8 March - ENTRY LIST

#	class	competitor	driver	car
1		SEAT Sport	Yvan Muller (FRA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
2		SEAT Sport	Gabriele Tarquini (ITA)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
3		SEAT Sport	Rickard Rydell (SWE)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
4		SEAT Sport	Jordi Gené (ESP)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
5		SEAT Sport	Tiago Monteiro (POR)	SEAT León 2.0 TDI
6		BMW Team UK	Andy Priaulx (GBR)	BMW 320si
7		BMW Team Germany	Jörg Müller (GER)	BMW 320si
8		BMW Team Germany	Augusto Farfus (BRA)	BMW 320si
9		BMW Team Italy-Spain	Alessandro Zanardi (ITA)	BMW 320si
10		BMW Team Italy-Spain	Sergio Hernández (ESP)	BMW 320si
11		Chevrolet	Robert Huff (GBR)	Chevrolet Cruze *
12		Chevrolet	Alain Menu (SUI)	Chevrolet Cruze *
14		Chevrolet	Nicola Larini (ITA)	Chevrolet Cruze *
18		LADA Sport	Jaap van Lagen (NED)	LADA 110 2.0
19		LADA Sport	Kirill Ladygin (RUS)	LADA 110 2.0
20		LADA Sport	Viktor Shapovalov (RUS)	LADA 110 2.0
21	/	SUNRED Engineering	Tom Coronel (NED)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
22	/	SUNRED Engineering	Tom Boardman (GBR)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
23	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Félix Porteiro (ESP)	BMW 320si
24	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	George Tanev (BUL)	BMW 320si
25	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Franz Engstler (GER)	BMW 320si
26	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Kristian Poulsen (DEN)	BMW 320si
27	/	Wiechers-Sport	Stefano D'Aste (ITA)	BMW 320si
28	/	Čolak Racing Team Ingra	Marin Čolak (CRO)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI

\* Subject to the FIA homologation of the car

/ = Yokohama Independents' Trophy

[www.fiawtcc.com](http://www.fiawtcc.com)



## ROUNDS 1 & 2 – AUTÓDROMO INTERNACIONAL DE CURITIBA



**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](mailto:aic@autodromodecuritiba.com.br)
- Official website:** [www.autodromodecuritiba.com.br](http://www.autodromodecuritiba.com.br)
- Press officer:** Márcio Fonseca  
tel/fax: 011 55429834/55314621; email: [fonsecamarcio@terra.com.br](mailto:fonsecamarcio@terra.com.br)
- Airport:** Curitiba “Afonso Pena” (25 km)
- S2000 lap records:** Qualifying - 1:24.295/157.80 kph, Yvan Muller (SEAT León Tdi), 1 Mar 2008  
Race - 1:24.959/156.57 kph, Augusto Farfus (BMW 320si), 2 Mar 2008
- 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)  
2008 FIA WTCC Race 1: Yvan Muller (SEAT León Tdi)  
2008 FIA WTCC Race 2: Gabriele Tarquini (SEAT León Tdi)



## Rounds 1 & 2 – Curitiba (BRA) EVENT TIMETABLE

### Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2009

14.00 – 14.40	Porsche GT3 Cup	Free Practice 1
<b>15.00 – 15.30</b>	<b>FIA WTCC</b>	<b>Testing</b>
16.00 – 16.40	Porsche GT3 Cup	Free Practice 2

### Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008

<b>09.00 – 09.30</b>	<b>FIA WTCC</b>	<b>Free Practice 1</b>
09.50 – 10.30	Porsche GT3 Cup	Free Practice 3
11.30 – 12.15	Porsche GT3 Cup	Official Practice 1
<b>12.30 – 13.00</b>	<b>FIA WTCC</b>	<b>Free Practice 2</b>
14.00 – 14.45	Porsche GT3 Cup	Official Practice 2
<b>16.00 – 16.35</b>	<b>FIA WTCC</b>	<b>Qualifying</b>
17.00 – 17.45	Porsche GT3 Cup	Qualifying

### Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008

<b>09.30 – 09.45</b>	<b>FIA WTCC</b>	<b>Warm Up</b>
10.20	Porsche GT3 Cup	Race 1 (max 30 min.)
<b>13.05</b>	<b>FIA WTCC</b>	<b>Race 1 (14 laps)</b>
13.35	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 1</i>
14.45	Porsche GT3 Cup	Race 2 (max 30 min.)
<b>16.05</b>	<b>FIA WTCC</b>	<b>Race 2 (14 laps)</b>
16.35	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 2</i>

**NB – local time: GMT -3**