

#10 – 20 MARCH 2009

YVAN MULLER BEATS PRIAULX IN TEST

SEAT Sport's Yvan Muller posted the fastest lap in today's test session, beating BMW drivers Andy Priaulx and Augusto Farfus by a narrow margin.

A cloudy sky and a fresh breeze from the East made the track very fast and enabled a number of drivers to break the track record of 1:40.808 set by Jordi Gené in last year's qualifying.

Farfus was the first driver to clock a provisional fastest lap of 1:41.207, but he was immediately ousted by Priaulx who set a 1:40.307 that remained on top for the next ten minutes.

Halfway through the session Rickard Rydell and Gabriele Tarquini began a personal fight to improve the fastest lap.

The Swede clocked a 1:40.211 and the Italian responded with a 1:40.170; then Rydell improved further to 1:40.015 and Tarquini managed to break the 1:40 wall with a lap of 1:39.670 with only three minutes to go.

However, in the dying seconds, Muller was timed at 1:39.020, demoting his team-mate to second; then Tarquini was pushed further down to fifth when Priaulx (1:39.233), Farfus (1:39.289) and Rydell (1:39.363) crossed the line setting the second, third and fourth fastest laps respectively.

Félix Porteiro emerged as the fastest of the Independents' with a time of 1:39.770 (sixth overall).

The three Chevrolet men were timed 12th (Larini), 13th (Huff) and 14th (Menu) fastest respectively, 1.5 seconds off the pace, while Viktor Shapovalov set the 21st fastest lap, the best of the LADA cars.



Fastest lap for Yvan Muller in Mexican test session

WTCC DRIVERS GO TO UNIVERSITY

The FIA WTCC drivers took part on Thursday afternoon in a promotional event that officially launched the championship's second race meeting to be held this weekend in Puebla, Mexico.

Onboard pick-up trucks, the drivers paraded through the city's main streets – including the elegant Avenida Juárez.

After the parade they got to the campus of the Benemerita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, where BMW, Chevrolet, LADA and SEAT racing cars were exhibited, to meet students and fans for an autograph session that attracted a large crowd.



Alessandro Zanardi signs autograph in the University campus

EXAGON COME BACK WITH MOROCCAN DRIVER

25-year old Mehdi Bennani will join the FIA WTCC for his home event in Marrakech, becoming the first North African driver to race in an FIA world championship.

The young Moroccan driver will be at the wheel of a petrol-powered SEAT León run by Luc Marchetti's Exagon Engineering that was a regular WTCC competitor in 2007 and 2008.

Bennani, who has progressed in his racing career from the karting to the Formula Renault, the Formula BMW, the World Series by Renault and finally the Euro F3000 Series, will be backed in his WTCC debut by OMNT, Morocco's Tourism Office.

The Exagon Engineering team will give Bennani the opportunity to test the car in Magny-Cours before the race meeting in Marrakech.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR MARRAKECH

Rounds 5 and 6 of the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Marrakech, Morocco, 2nd and 3rd May.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 21st April.

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 and www.fiawtcc.com.

- **International Press** must send applications to Fabio Ravaioli
tel +39 06 39729497, fax +39 06 39729470, email: media@fiawtcc.com
- **Moroccan Press** must send applications to Anne De Lanoue
tel: 024 458408, fax: 024 458636; email: a.delanoue@marrakechgrandprix.com
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to Antonios Argyropoulos
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 2 DAYS



to the 2009 FIA WTCC HSBC Race of Mexico – 21st / 22nd March in Puebla - Amozoc

**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
TESTING**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	1		Yvan MULLER SEAT Sport	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.020	13		117.79
2	6		Andy PRIAULX BMW Team UK	GBR	BMW 320si	1:39.233	16	0.213	117.54
3	8		Augusto FARFUS BMW Team Germany	BRA	BMW 320si	1:39.289	14	0.269	117.47
4	3		Rickard RYDELL SEAT Sport	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.363	13	0.343	117.38
5	2		Gabriele TARQUINI SEAT Sport	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.670	13	0.650	117.02
6	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO Scuderia Proteam	ESP	BMW 320si	1:39.770	14	0.750	116.90
7	4		Jordi GENE SEAT Sport	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.791	13	0.771	116.88
8	5		Tiago MONTEIRO SEAT Sport	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.918	13	0.898	116.73
9	9		Alessandro ZANARDI BMW Team Italy-Spain	ITA	BMW 320si	1:40.210	15	1.190	116.39
10	21	I	Tom CORONEL SUNRED Engineering	NED	SEAT Leon	1:40.341	13	1.321	116.24
11	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ BMW Team Italy-Spain	ESP	BMW 320si	1:40.399	15	1.379	116.17
12	14		Nicola LARINI Chevrolet	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	1:40.515	12	1.495	116.04
13	11		Robert HUFF Chevrolet	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	1:40.696	11	1.676	115.83
14	12		Alain MENU Chevrolet	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	1:40.863	11	1.843	115.64
15	7		Jorg MULLER BMW Team Germany	GER	BMW 320si	1:40.877	14	1.857	115.62
16	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER Liqui Moly Team	GER	BMW 320si	1:40.969	15	1.949	115.52
17	26	I	Kristian POULSEN Liqui Moly Team	DEN	BMW 320si	1:41.078	14	2.058	115.39

Puebla
Circuit Length = 3.2400 km.
Start: 15:30 End: 15:30

Weather/Track: Sun 20°/Dry 27°

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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**2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship
TESTING Continued.**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
18	28	I	Marin COLAK Colak Racing Team	CRO	SEAT Leon	1:41.203	14	2.183	115.25
19	27	I	Stefano D'ASTE Wiechers-Sport	ITA	BMW 320si	1:41.354	14	2.334	115.08
20	24	I	George TANEV Scuderia Proteam	BUL	BMW 320si	1:41.818	16	2.798	114.55
21	20		Viktor SHAPOVALOV LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	1:42.858	13	3.838	113.39
22	18		Jaap van LAGEN LADA Sport	NED	LADA 110	1:42.958	9	3.938	113.28
23	19		Kirill LADYGIN LADA Sport	RUS	LADA 110	1:43.364	15	4.344	112.84
24	22	I	Tom BOARDMAN SUNRED Engineering	GBR	SEAT Leon	1:43.373	5	4.353	112.83

Puebla
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