

TEST – MENU CHASES YVAN MULLER

SEAT Sport's Yvan Muller posted the fastest lap in today's test session that inaugurated the Marrakech street circuit. The reigning world champion beat Chevrolet driver Alain Menu by just four thousandths of a second. Rickard Rydell posted the third fastest time.

The drivers opened the session with caution as they got to grips with the new circuit. Tom Coronel was the first driver to clock a provisional fastest lap of 1:56.174 and within the next couple of laps he had shaved three seconds off his time.

With 18 minutes on the clock LADA Sport's Kirill Ladygin stopped at the first chicane on the back straight due to a technical issue. This resulted in a red flag. On returning to the track Tiago Monteiro took the fastest time but it was quickly topped by Muller. With two minutes remaining Muller set a lap of 1:50.694 that eventually remained the fastest. Menu came close to matching it on his final and fastest lap but fell 0.004 of a second shy. Rydell's offering was 1:51.372.

Tom Coronel emerged as the fastest of the Independents after spells at the top with a time of 1:51.869 (eighth overall). The best of the BMW squad was Alessandro Zanardi whose time of 1:51.998 equated to ninth overall. Jaap van Lagen achieved the 19th fastest time with 1:54.130, the best of the LADA cars.

Marin Čolak did not join due to a clutch problem. Vito Postiglione went off at turn one and hit the wall in his BMW 320si because of a brake failure.



WTCC cars line up in the Marrakech pit lane before the start of the test session

SEAT'S APPEAL PARTIALLY UPHELD

Ruling on decision 12 taken by the Stewards of the Meeting at the WTCC event run in Puebla on 22 March, the FIA International Court of Appeal, which met in Paris on 21 April, confirmed the drive-through penalty for Gabriele Tarquini but annulled the drop of ten grid positions.

The Stewards judged Tarquini responsible for causing an avoidable collision with BMW Team Germany driver Jörg Müller during the second race.

The International Court of Appeal declared SEAT's appeal inadmissible in so far the drive-through penalty is concerned; this penalty remains suspended for the next three events.

At the same time, the International Court of Appeal annulled the part of the decision concerning the drop of then grid positions, because the same infringement cannot be punished with two different penalties.

BUREAU'S DECISIONS ON BMW AND CHEVROLET

The FIA Touring Car Bureau granted technical waivers to Chevrolet and to the BMW 320si cars run by the independent teams.

The Chevrolet Cruze cars have been authorized to use a new front bumper fitted with flat bottom and to replace the front and rear door windows with plastic elements.

As for the independent BMW cars driven by Stefano D'Aste (Wiechers-Sport), Franz Engstler and Kristian Poulsen (Liqui Moly Team Engstler), George Tanev, Félix Porteiro and newcomer Visto Postiglione (Proteam Motorsport) they will benefit from a 15-kilo reduction on the minimum weight that will be dropped from 1170 to 1155 kg, including the driver.

BOARDMAN TO SKIP THE MARRAKECH EVENT

SUNRED Engineering's Tom Boardman will not take part in this weekend's event at Marrakech. The Briton will join the championship again from the following meeting in Pau on May 17th.

"After the first two events in Brazil and Mexico, Tom asked us to have a new car, however we were not able to have it ready in time to be shipped to Marrakech. Also because Tom wishes to test the new car in England before racing it. We will be ready in time to re-start from Pau," team principal Joán Orus explained.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR PAU – LAST DAYS

Rounds 7 and 8 of the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Pau, France, 16th and 17th May.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 5th May.

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
- **French Press** must send applications to Marie-France Estenave
tel: 05 59322689, fax: 05 59325418; email: marie-france.estenave@wanadoo.fr
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to Antonios Argyropoulos
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR VALENCIA

Rounds 9 and 10 of the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Valencia, Spain, 30th and 31st May.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 19th May.

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
- **French Press** must send applications to Pablo Pernía
tel: 96 2525220, fax: 96 2525224, email: media@circuitvalencia.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 Race of Morocco – 2nd / 3rd May in Marrakech

2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship TESTING

POS	NO	CL	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	1		Yvan MULLER	FRA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:50.694	13		147.65
2	12		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	1:50.698	10	0.004	147.64
3	3		Rickard RYDELL	SWE	SEAT Leon TDI	1:51.345	14	0.651	146.78
4	11		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	1:51.380	13	0.686	146.74
5	2		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:51.425	14	0.731	146.68
6	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	1:51.640	12	0.946	146.39
7	5		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	1:51.679	14	0.985	146.34
8	21	I	Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon	1:51.869	11	1.175	146.09
9	9		Alessandro ZANARDI	ITA	BMW 320si	1:51.998	13	1.304	145.93
10	27	I	Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	1:52.427	16	1.733	145.37
11	8		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	1:52.432	15	1.738	145.36
12	7		Jorg MULLER	GER	BMW 320si	1:52.864	14	2.170	144.81
13	6		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	1:52.903	14	2.209	144.76
14	14		Nicola LARINI	ITA	Chevrolet Cruze	1:52.919	7	2.225	144.74
15	30	I	Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	SEAT Leon	1:53.367	14	2.673	144.16
16	23	I	Felix PORTEIRO	ESP	BMW 320si	1:53.438	15	2.744	144.07
17	31	I	Vito POSTIGLIONE	ITA	BMW 320si	1:53.853	11	3.159	143.55
18	10		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	1:53.984	14	3.290	143.38
19	18		Jaap van LAGEN	NED	LADA 110	1:54.130	11	3.436	143.20
20	26	I	Kristian POULSEN	DEN	BMW 320si	1:54.173	9	3.479	143.15
21	25	I	Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	1:54.188	14	3.494	143.13
22	20		Viktor SHAPOVALOV	RUS	LADA 110	1:55.174	8	4.480	141.90
23	24	I	George TANEV	BUL	BMW 320si	1:55.666	14	4.972	141.30
24	28	I	Marin COLAK	CRO	SEAT Leon	13:28.540	1	11:37.846	20.21
25	19		Kirill LADYGIN	RUS	LADA 110	18:17.120	1	16:26.426	14.89

Weather/Track: Sun 27°/Dry 49°

Marrakech
Circuit Length = 4.5400 km.
Start: 15:00 End: 15:46

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:
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