

#41 – 23 OCTOBER 2009

ROUTE TO: OKAYAMA, JAPAN

The 21st and 22nd rounds of the FIA WTCC will take place on November 1st at Okayama International Circuit, Japan.

This is the second visit the championship pays to this demanding racetrack that winds up among the green hills of the Honshu island and hosted the Pacific Formula 1 Grand Prix in 1994 and 1995.

In 2008 – on WTCC's first visit – Japanese fans flocked to the track in spite of very wet weather. BMW Team Germany's Augusto Farfus set pole position on the dry track, but with the Brazilian and title contender Gabriele Tarquini involved in a first turn incident, Rickard Ridell's SEAT León TDI took advantage of the wet asphalt and won the first race from the BMW cars of Jörg Müller and Andy Priaulx, to secure the Manufacturers' Championship for the Spanish make.

Independent drivers created a surprise in the second race. Stefano D'Aste went off while chasing with Rydell for third, Sergio Hernández claimed his first podium result (third) while Tom Coronel grabbed a fantastic victory in SUNRED's petrol-powered SEAT León. On the drying track, the Dutchman rejected Farfus' attacks to become the first non factory driver to win a WTCC race.



The FIA WTCC returns to Okayama International Circuit next week

THE CHAMPIONSHIP RESUMES AFTER FIVE WEEKS

The FIA will resume in Japan for rounds 21 and 22 after a five-week break following the races in Imola. Let's take a short recap of the situation on the eve of the two final events of the season: Okayama and Macau (November 22nd).

Gabriele Tarquini of SEAT Sport leads the Drivers' Championship with 109 points, seven ahead of his team-mate, the reigning world champion Yvan Muller. BMW Team Germany's Augusto Farfus is the only driver who can still threaten the SEAT men in the title fight, but he needs to fill a gap of 17 points.

SEAT and BMW are close in the Manufacturers' Championship, led by the Spanish brand with a 19-point margin.

An exciting battle is set to decide the Independents' Trophy: Tom Coronel (SUNRED Engineering) is chased by Félix Porteiro (Proteam Motorsport), but Franz Engstler (Liqui Moly Team Engstler) and Stefano D'Aste (Wiechers-Sport) are within striking distance.

THE WORD TO THE JAPANESE DRIVERS

Three local drivers will make guest appearances in the FIA WTCC event at Okayama, all at the wheel of BMW independent cars: Seiji Ara (Proteam Motorsport), Nobuteru Taniguchi (Wiechers-Sport), Masaki Kano (Liqui Moly Team Engstler). The latter is not new to the championship as he raced last year in Monza, Okayama and Macau, while Ara and Taniguchi face their maiden WTCC appearances. Let's see what their expectations are.

Seiji Ara: *"I am really excited as WTCC means close fighting, which is the real thrill of motorsports and fascinates Japanese fans and myself. I have a reputation as long distance driver, because I won Le Mans and Super GT rounds, but in all the races you have to drive as fast as possible. So there are no big differences between endurance and WTCC sprint races. I am so thrilled to compete in such a high-quality series and can't wait to take the wheel!"*

Nobuteru Taniguchi: *"The key is getting in tune with WTCC racing in such a limited time. To achieve satisfactory results I have stay cool, and I have high expectations, because I aim for winning the Independents' class. I will drive again for the team in Macau and I would be pleased to consider the opportunity to join the championship for a full season in case a team would like me as a driver."*

BRAZILIAN DRIVER JOINS SUNRED

João Paulo Lima de Oliveira will join SUNRED Engineering for the next WTCC event in Okayama.

The 28-year-old Brazilian is a favourite of Japanese motorsport fans, being a regular in the local championships since 2004.

Lima de Oliveira boasts an outstanding racing CV and vast international experience. After claiming the South American Formula 3 title in the Scholarship class at the age of 18, he moved to Europe to win the German F3 championship in 2003. The year after he settled in Japan, where he collected another F3 title in 2005.

From 2006 he has taken part in both the Japanese Super GT and Formula Nippon championships, establishing himself as one of the fastest and consistent drivers. He claimed Super GT race wins sharing the wheel of Nissan Z and GT-R cars with Seiji Ara. The two of them will find themselves on opposite sides in the WTCC, as Ara will drive a Wiechers-Sport BMW.

THOMPSON AND ENGSTLER IN THE ETC CUP

James Thompson and Franz Engstler are among the favourite drivers who will be fighting to win the FIA European Touring Car Cup this weekend in Portugal, at Braga's Circuito Vasco Samerio.

While Engstler will drive a BMW 320si run by his own Liqui Moly Team Engstler, Thompson will join the Hartmann Honda Racing in a Honda Accord car. During the current season the Briton was part of the team in a number of rounds of the Danish Touring Car Championship and scored four race wins.

The level of the field of the Super 2000 class in the fifth edition of the ETC Cup is very high and promises exciting and close competition.

Other major contenders are double European Cup winner Michel Nykjær (Chevrolet Lacetti) who aims for a third consecutive title, SEAT Eurocup new champion Norbert Michelisz (SEAT León), experienced touring car racers like Vincent Radermecker (Chevrolet Lacetti) and Tomas Engström (Honda Accord), ambitious young lions such as Harry Vaulkhard (Chevrolet Lacetti) and Per Poulsen (Honda Accord) and a trio of very fast locals: Félix Duarte da Costa (Chevrolet Lacetti), José Monroy (Chevrolet Lacetti) and Francisco Carvalho (SEAT León).



Braga hosts the fifth edition of the FIA European Touring Car Cup

MICHEL VAILLANT'S TRIBUTE TO LOUIS CHEVROLET

Louis Chevrolet, his adventurous life, and his long-lasting contribution to the automobile industry and motorsports, which has a modern materialization in the Chevrolet WTCC team, are celebrated in the forthcoming "Dossiers Michel Vaillant" monographic book.

Michel Vaillant and Vaillante are names that need no presentation in all the countries where the motorsport comic books created by Jean Graton have been translated. The driver and his family's car factory are the evergreen characters of a saga that fascinates many generations of motor racing fans of all ages since decades.

The "Dossiers Michel Vaillant" is a more recent product of Editions Graton, which combines texts, photographs and comics to tell the "real" story of "real" characters of motoring like J.M. Fangio, Ayrton Senna, Enzo Ferrari, Soichiro Honda, James Dean and Steve McQueen. The eleventh volume of the series pays tribute to Louis Chevrolet and tells the incredible story of the Swiss-born watch and car mechanic that emigrated to Québec first and to the US later to become an acclaimed driver and the co-founder of the Chevrolet brand.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR 2010 WTCC

Media accreditation for the 2010 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 and return it via registered mail together with the required documents.

The application form is available for download at:

<http://www.fiawtcc.com/html/uploadedFiles/docs/WTCC%20Permanent%20Form%20for%202010.pdf>

The deadline for application is November 12th, 2009.

COUNTDOWN: - 9 DAYS



to the 2009 FIA WTCC Race of Japan – 31st October / 1st November in Okayama

2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



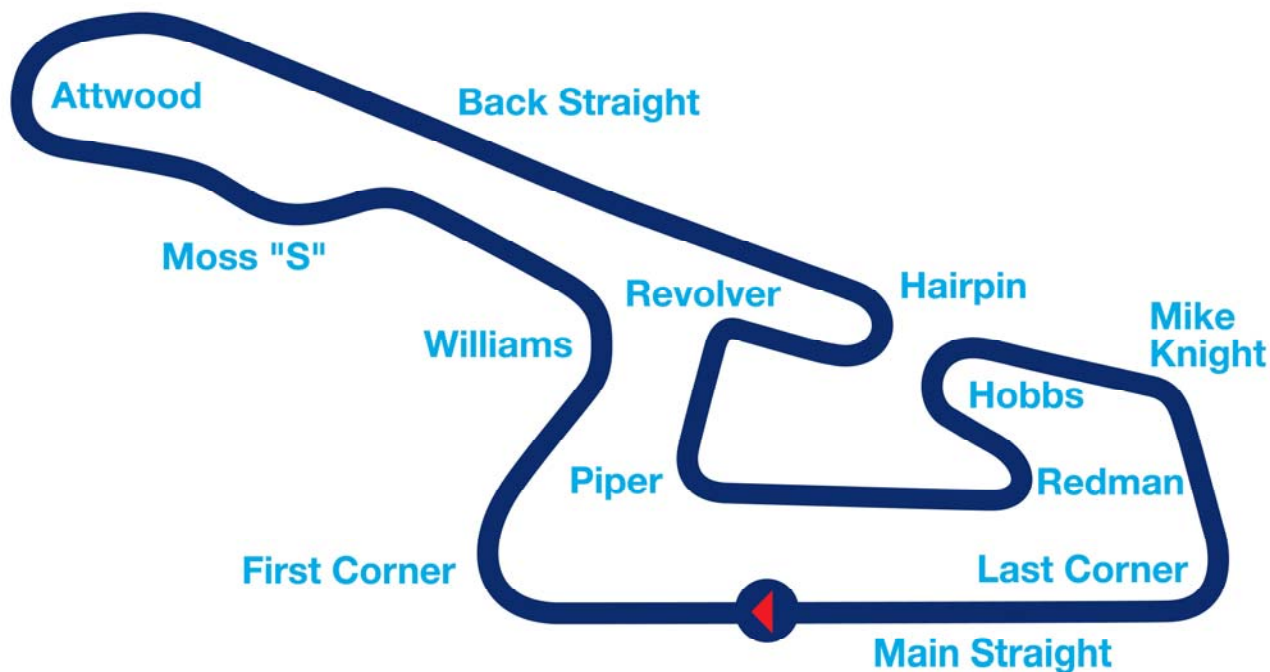
ROUNDS 21 & 22 - OKAYAMA, 1 November - ENTRY LIST

#	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 LT
12		Chevrolet	Alain Menu (SUI)	Chevrolet Cruze LT
14		Chevrolet	Nicola Larini (ITA)	Chevrolet Cruze LT
18		LADA Sport	Jaap van Lagen (NED)	LADA Priora
19		LADA Sport	Kirill Ladygin (RUS)	LADA Priora
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
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
36		LADA Sport	James Thompson (GBR)	LADA Priora
47	/	SUNRED Engineering	João Paulo Lima de Oliveira (BRA)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
48	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Masaki Kano (JPN)	BMW 320si
49	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Nobuteru Taniguchi (JPN)	BMW 320si
50	/	Wiechers-Sport	Seiji Ara (JPN)	BMW 320si
51	/	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Henry Ho (MAC)	BMW 320si

/ = Yokohama Independents' Trophy



ROUNDS 21 & 22 – OKAYAMA INTERNATIONAL CIRCUIT



Lap distance – 3,703 m
Race distance – 2 x 14 laps

- Location:** 60 km North of Okayama
- Contacts:** OIC Okayama International Circuit
1210 Takinomiya, Mimasaka, 701-2612 Okayama, Japan
tel: +81 868 743311, fax: +81 868 742600
- Official website:** www.okayama-international-circuit.jp
- Press officer:** Naoki Andou – tel: 0868 743311, fax: 0868 742600
email: pr@okayama-international-circuit.jp
- Airports:** Okayama International (50 km), Osaka Itami International (150 km), Osaka Kansai International (200 km), Hiroshima (200 km)
- S2000 lap records:** Qualifying - 1:37.040/137.37 kph, Augusto Farfus (BMW 320si), 25 Oct 2008
Race - 1:48.767/122.56 kph, James Thompson (Honda Accord), 26 Oct 2008
- Previous winners:** 2008 FIA WTCC Race 1: Rickard Rydell (SEAT León Tdi)
2008 FIA WTCC Race 2: Tom Coronel (SEAT León)



Rounds 21 & 22 – Okayama (JPN) EVENT TIMETABLE

Friday 30th October 2009

09.00 – 10.00	Asian Le Mans Series	Free Practice 1
10.15 – 10.45	Formula BMW Asia	Free Practice 1
11.00 – 11.30	Formula 4	Free Practice
11.45 – 12.45	Asian Le Mans Series	Free Practice 2
13.15 – 13.45	Formula BMW Asia	Free Practice 2
14.00 – 14.30	Formula 4	Qualifying
14.45 – 15.15	Formula BMW Asia	Qualifying
15.30 – 16.00	FIA WTCC	Testing
16.15 – 17.00	Asian Le Mans Series	Qualifying

Saturday 31st October 2009

08.00 – 08.15	Asian Le Mans Series	Warm up
08.30 – 09.00	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 1
09.25	Formula 4	Race 1
10.25	Formula BMW Asia	Race 1
11.10 – 11.40	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 2
12.30	Asian Le Mans Series	Race 1 (500 km)
16.00 – 16.35	FIA WTCC	Qualifying

Sunday 1st November 2009

08.00 – 08.15	FIA WTCC	Warm up
09.00	Asian Le Mans Series	Race 2 (500 km)
12.50	Formula 4	Race 2
13.55	FIA WTCC	Race 1 (14 laps)
14.25	FIA WTCC	Podium Race 1
14.50	Formula BMW Asia	Race 2
16.05	FIA WTCC	Race 2 (14 laps)
16.40	FIA WTCC	Podium Race 2