

8 – 5 MARCH 2010

FARFUS TOPS FIRST TEST IN BRAZIL

Local man Augusto Farfus posted the fastest lap during today's test as the 2010 WTCC season officially got underway at the Autódromo Internacional de Curitiba. The Brazilian topped the timesheets in his BMW 320si at the halfway point, before the session was briefly halted when Stefano D'Aste lost the back end of his BMW 320si and ended beached in the gravel at turn four.

In the dying moments of the session, Farfus bettered his earlier time clocking a 1:24.243 to remain on top. His BMW Team RBM team mate Andy Priaux (1:24.732), who had led the session at the start, ended in third.

Alain Menu was the fastest of the Chevrolet men, driving his Cruze to the second quickest time with a lap of 1:24.732. Team mates, Yvan Muller (1:24.805) and Rob Huff (1:24.960) finished fourth and fifth respectively.

Reigning champion Gabriele Tarquini was quickest of the SEAT cars, posting a lap time of 1:25.308 to end the day sixth. His SR-Sport team mate Jordi Gené's session ended early as he suffered problems with the steering box on his SEAT León TDI.

Hungarian youngster Norbert Michelisz was the best of the newcomers, posting an impressive seventh fastest time (1:25.625) and placing ahead of experienced drivers like Tom Coronel and Tiago Monteiro.



Augusto Farfus set the fastest lap on his home racetrack today

THEY SAID... THEY SAID..

Augusto FARFUS: *"I am happy. We took advantage of the red flag and pitted to make some changes to the car, which were very effective. It was a good feeling to drive around so quickly. Now I have set the pace. I'm sure that from tomorrow the others will be closer but I wish to stay ahead if I can."*

Alain MENU: *"It was a session to get used to the track again. For the time being we are competitive as I am four tenths slower than Farfus, who was very quick. The car has too much understeer in the tight corners, so we have something to work on. If we manage to solve this I think we will be looking good."*

Gabriele TARQUINI: *"I am quite satisfied. We benefitted from our past experience and went out straightaway with the best set up for this track. The car was good from the very beginning so I am optimistic. I was really surprised by how much grip there was on the track. Last year we were struggling to find grip but now it's totally different."*

WTCC LAUNCHES FREE IPHONE APPLICATION

The FIA World Touring Car Championship launched today its new application for iPhone. This official WTCC application is free to download and is a must-have for fans who want to catch up with all the latest news from the WTCC.

Divided into three main sections - News, Race and Season - the service provides exclusive data and features, including:

- Up-to-the minute information about the World Championship, the teams and the drivers
- Live timings for all sessions: Qualifying sessions 1 & 2, Warm Up, Race 1 and Race 2
- Official Standings for Drivers and Manufacturers
- 2010 detailed Calendar and information on all race tracks

In addition to the live content, the WTCC application also features the latest pictures and provides iPhone users with practical information about the location of each circuit, ticket booking and access to the events', manufacturers', drivers' and partners' websites.

As well as being a useful companion, WTCC's latest communications tool is also adaptable and interactive: fans can modify the size of the text for their own reading comfort, share information and easily pass stories onto their friends by email or on Facebook and Twitter.

From the first round in Curitiba this weekend, to the final one at Macau in November, fans will keep up to date with everything on their favourite World Championship, as it happens.

Available NOW free of charge on iTunes and at the App Store:

<http://itunes.apple.com/app/wtcc/id358795125?mt=8>



WTCC free iPhone application was launched today

DRIVERS MEET THE FANS IN CURITIBA

Official proceedings to the 2010 WTCC season got underway yesterday in the centre of Curitiba that hosts the championship's opening meeting this weekend.

The promotional day began with the drivers meeting the fans in two crowded autograph sessions in front of the HSBC palace, on the central Ruas das Flores.

Three FIA WTCC racing cars – Tom Coronel's SEAT, Augusto Farfus' BMW and Alain Menu's Chevrolet – were exhibited in front of the building.

In the afternoon WTCC drivers joined the Secretary for Tourism of Curitiba, Ms Juliana Vosnika, Marcello Lotti, general manager of KSO and other local personalities, for a cocktail reception at the elegant Awake Concept Club.

KSO LAUNCHES WTCC ROOKIE CHALLENGE

FIA WTCC promoter KSO has launched the new WTCC Rookie Challenge.

All the drivers who entered in the championship's full season for the first time are eligible for the Challenge: Norbert Michelisz, Michel Nykjær, Fredy Barth, Harry Vaulkhard, Darryl O'Young and Mehdi Bennani.

Points will be awarded according to the following scale:

1st: 10 points; 2nd: 8 pts; 3rd: 6 pts; 4th: 5 pts; 5th: 4 pts; 6th: 3 pts; 7th: 2 pts; 8th: 1 points.

The winner of the Rookie Challenge will be awarded with a trophy during the traditional end of season party at Macau.

"We have a number of young drivers who joined the championship this year for the whole season and this gave us the idea to establish this Rookie Challenge to encourage and reward the new competitors," KSO General Manager Marcello Lotti explained.

COUNTDOWN: - 2 DAYS



to the 2010 FIA Race of Brazil – 6th / 7th March in Curitiba

**2010 FIA World Touring Car Championship
TESTING**

POS	NO	CLS	DRIVER	NAT	CAR	TIME	LAPS	GAP	KPH
1	10		Augusto FARFUS	BRA	BMW 320si	1:24.243	17		157.90
2	8		Alain MENU	SUI	Chevrolet Cruze	1:24.732	13	0.489	156.98
3	11		Andy PRIAULX	GBR	BMW 320si	1:24.739	16	0.496	156.97
4	6		Yvan MULLER	FRA	Chevrolet Cruze	1:24.805	11	0.562	156.85
5	7		Robert HUFF	GBR	Chevrolet Cruze	1:24.960	13	0.717	156.56
6	1		Gabriele TARQUINI	ITA	SEAT Leon TDI	1:25.308	12	1.065	155.92
7	5		Norbert MICHELISZ	HUN	SEAT Leon TDI	1:25.625	13	1.382	155.35
8	2		Tom CORONEL	NED	SEAT Leon TDI	1:25.846	13	1.603	154.95
9	3		Tiago MONTEIRO	POR	SEAT Leon TDI	1:25.864	14	1.621	154.91
10	17		Michel NYKJAER	DEN	SEAT Leon TDI	1:26.424	16	2.181	153.91
11	20		Darryl O'YOUNG	HKG	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:26.514	17	2.271	153.75
12	18		Fredy BARTH	SUI	SEAT Leon TDI	1:26.570	16	2.327	153.65
13	25		Sergio HERNANDEZ	ESP	BMW 320si	1:26.682	16	2.439	153.45
14	21		Mehdi BENNANI	MAR	BMW 320si	1:26.870	18	2.627	153.12
15	19		Harry VAULKHARD	GBR	Chevrolet Lacetti	1:26.971	17	2.728	152.94
16	15		Franz ENGSTLER	GER	BMW 320si	1:26.985	16	2.742	152.92
17	26		Stefano D'ASTE	ITA	BMW 320si	1:27.430	9	3.187	152.14
18	16		Andrei ROMANOV	RUS	BMW 320si	1:29.246	16	5.003	149.04
19	4		Jordi GENE	ESP	SEAT Leon TDI	1:39.699	3	15.456	133.42

For Media Information Purposes - No Regulatory Value

Weather/Track: Cloud 22°/Dry 29°

Curitiba

Circuit Length = 3.6950 km.

Start: 15:00 End: 15:34

Race Director:	Steward:	Timekeeper:	Issued at:
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