

ROUTE TO: IMOLA, ITALY

The FIA World Touring Car Championship visits Imola for the third time after last year's successful event that marked the reopening of the glorious racetrack after a two-year closure due to extensive renovation works.

On the WTCC's first appearance on this track, in 2005, Alfa Romeo's Fabrizio Giovanardi and BMW's Dirk Müller shared victories.

The 2008 meeting saw Yvan Muller's SEAT León TDI claim an important win in Race 1, while the second race recorded the historical triumph of James Thomson in the N.technology Honda Accord. The first – and only so far – victory in WTCC for a Japanese manufacturer.

A large crowd of 37,000 attended the event.



Imola hosts the FIA WTCC for the third time after 2005 and 2008

BMW AND SEAT ON MAXIMUM WEIGHT

Title contenders will run on the same weight next week at Imola. BMW drivers and their competitors in the SEAT turbodiesel cars will have the maximum 40-kilos compensation weight on board.

The SEAT León TDI emerged as the fastest model during the German weekend, especially due to the changeable weather that plagued the qualifying session on Saturday.

According to the calculation that took into account the lap times set in the three previous events (Porto, Brands Hatch and Oschersleben) BMW and SEAT remain on the maximum compensation weight, while the Chevrolet moves down to +20kg, 10 kilos less than in Germany.

Alessandro Zanardi's BMW 320si (equipped with a sequential gearbox), the SEAT León TFSI and the LADA Priora will have 20kg deducted from the minimum weight.

Compensation weights Oschersleben

+ 40 kg	BMW 320si, SEAT León TDI
+ 20 kg	Chevrolet Cruze LT
- 20 kg	BMW 320si Zanardi, LADA Priora, SEAT León TFSI



The turbodiesel SEAT and the BMW cars are on the same weight at Imola

THOMPSON AND BENNANI RETURN

James Thompson and Mehdi Bennani will rejoin the championship in Imola.

The Briton will take back the wheel of his LADA Priora car from team principal Viktor Shapovalov, after missing the event at Oschersleben due to a previous commitment to race in the Australian V8 Supercars championship at Phillip Island.

Bennani and Exagon Engineering return to the WTCC with their SEAT León after skipping the latest two meetings at Brands Hatch and Oschersleben.

Their best result so far is victory in the Independents' class on their maiden appearance at Marrakech.

A. LARINI AND FABIANI JOIN IN IMOLA

Andrea Larini, younger brother of Chevrolet driver Nicola, has won participation in the Imola event after emerging as the best scoring driver during the SEAT Eurocup meeting at Oschersleben last Sunday. Larini will drive a SUNRED Engineering SEAT León; however he is not a rookie, as he took part in a few races in 2005, when the Italian Touring Car Championship joined the World Championship at Monza, Magny-Cours and Imola.

Fabio Fabiani will team with Félix Porteiro at Proteam Motorsport in a BMW 320si. In 2008 Fabiani claimed the FIA European Super Production Cup at Salzburgring in a BMW 320i.

CHAT WITH TARQUINI AT EUROSPOURT.IT

At the eve of his home race meeting at Imola, current championship leader Gabriele Tarquini will be a special guest at www.eurosport.yahoo.it, on Monday September 14th.

Like other sport stars before him, Tarquini will act as guest editor, taking part in the editorial meeting, selecting the news to be published on the home page and writing his own column.

Later on, from 15.00 to 16.00, he will host a chat session with the fans, answering their questions and talking about his racing season and his expectations for the races in Imola.

Questions may be posted at <http://it.eurosport.yahoo.com/altri-sport/diretta/>.

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR MACAU

Applications for Media Accreditation for the 56th Macau Grand Prix and rounds 23 and 24 of the FIA World Touring Car Championship are now open.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Friday, 23rd October.

- **International Press** must send applications to:
Fabio Ravaioli – FIA WTCC Media Delegate
tel +39 06 39729497, fax +39 06 39729470, email: media@fiawtcc.com
- **Press, TV and Radio from China, Macau, Hong Kong and Taipei** must apply on-line at: <http://www.macau.grandprix.gov.mo>
- **International TV and Radio** must send applications to:
Antonios Argyropoulos – Eurosport Events
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

MEDIA ACCREDITATION FOR OKAYAMA

Rounds 21 and 22 of the 2009 FIA World Touring Car Championship will take place at Okayama, Japan, 31st October and 1st November.

The deadline to apply for media credentials is Tuesday, 20th October.

Please remember 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
- **Japanese Press** must send applications to Naoki Andou
tel 0868 743311, fax 0868 742600, email: pr@okayama-international-circuit.jp
- **TV and Radio** must send applications to Antonios Argyropoulos
tel +33 1 40938517; email: antonios@eurosport.com

COUNTDOWN: - 9 DAYS



to the 2009 FIA WTCC Race of Italy – 19th / 20th September in Imola

2009 FIA WORLD TOURING CAR CHAMPIONSHIP



ROUNDS 19 & 20 - IMOLA, 20 September - 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
30	/	Exagon Engineering	Mehdi Bennani (MAR)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
36		LADA Sport	James Thompson (GBR)	LADA Priora
45	/	SUNRED Engineering	Andrea Larini (ITA)	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
46	/	Scuderia Proteam Motorsport	Fabio Fabiani (ITA)	BMW 320si

/ = Yokohama Independents' Trophy

www.fiawtcc.com



ROUNDS 19 & 20 – AUTODROMO ENZO E DINO FERRARI, IMOLA



Lap distance – 4,909 m
Race distance – 2 x 11 laps

- Location:** 30 km East of Bologna, along the SS9 Emilia to Forlì
- Contacts:** Formula Imola S.p.A. – via Fratelli Rosselli 2, 40026 Imola (BO)
Tel: +39 0542 655111, fax: +39 0542 30420; email: info@autodromoimola.it
- Official website:** www.autodromoimola.it
- Press officer:** Federico Lucchini; tel: 328 5310484, fax: 0542 30420
email: presswtcc@autodromoimola.it
- Airports:** Forlì “Luigi Ridolfi” (35 km), Bologna-Borgo Panigale “Guglielmo Marconi” (35 km), Rimini-San Marino “Federico Fellini” (75 km), Florence-Peretola “Amerigo Vespucci” (140 km), Milan-Linate (220 km)
- S2000 lap records:** Qual. – 1:54.761/153.99 kph, Rickard Rydell (SEAT León Tdi), 20 Sep 2008
Race – 1:55.388/153.15 kph, James Thompson (Honda Accord), 21 Sep 2008
- Previous winners:** 2004 FIA ETCC Race 1: Gabriele Tarquini (Alfa Romeo 156)
2004 FIA ETCC Race 2: Gabriele Tarquini (Alfa Romeo 156)
2005 FIA WTCC Race 1: Fabrizio Giovanardi (Alfa Romeo 156)
2005 FIA WTCC Race 2: Dirk Müller (BMW 320i)
2008 FIA WTCC Race 1: Yvan Muller (SEAT León Tdi)
2008 FIA WTCC Race 2: James Thompson (Honda Accord)



Rounds 19 & 20 – Imola (ITA) EVENT TIMETABLE

Friday 18th September 2009

08.30 – 08.55	Trofeo Abarth 500 Europe	Free Practice 1
09.15 – 09.45	FIA Formula Two Championship	Free Practice 1
10.00 – 10.30	SEAT León Eurocup	Free Practice 1
10.45 – 11.15	Lotus Trophy	Free Practice 1
11.30 – 12.00	Formula Master	Free Practice 1
12.15 – 12.45	FIA Formula Two Championship	Free Practice 2
13.00 – 13.30	SEAT León Eurocup	Free Practice 2
13.45 – 14.10	Trofeo Abarth 500 Europe	Qualifying
14.30 – 15.00	Lotus Trophy	Free Practice 2
15.15 – 15.45	Formula Master	Free Practice 2
16.00 – 16.30	FIA Formula Two Championship	Qualifying 1

Saturday 19th September 2009

08.45 – 09.15	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 1
09.30 – 10.00	Formula Master	Qualifying
10.15 – 10.45	SEAT León Eurocup	Qualifying
11.00 – 11.30	FIA WTCC	Free Practice 2
12.05	FIA Formula Two Championship	Race 1
13.00 – 13.30	Lotus Trophy	Qualifying
14.05	Formula Master	Race 1
15.00 – 15.35	FIA WTCC	Qualifying
16.20	SEAT León Eurocup	Race 1
17.20	Trofeo 500 Abarth Europe	Race 1

Sunday 20th September 2009

09.00 – 09.15	FIA WTCC	Warm up
09.30 – 10.00	FIA Formula Two Championship	Qualifying 2
10.35	SEAT León Eurocup	Race 2
11.35	Formula Master	Race 2
12.50	FIA WTCC	Race 1 (11 laps)
13.20	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 1</i>
13.50	FIA Formula Two Championship	Race 2
15.05	FIA WTCC	Race 2 (11 laps)
15.35	<i>FIA WTCC</i>	<i>Podium Race 2</i>
16.05	Trofeo 500 Abarth Europe	Race 2
17.10	Lotus Trophy	Race