

29 April 2015

**Rounds 5 & 6 – Valencia, Spain – 2/3 May 2015**

## PREVIEW

### Spain hosts TCR International Series' maiden event in Europe

After its first ever events took place in the Far East, within the Formula 1 Grands Prix of Malaysia and China, the TCR International Series faces its European debut this upcoming weekend in Spain, where Valencia's Circuit Ricardo Tormo will host Rounds 5 and 6 of the series.

Unlike Sepang and Shanghai, where the event format was adjusted to fit in the Formula 1 schedule, the TCR International Series will adopt its standard two-day timetable in Valencia.

On Saturday, competitors will take part in two thirty-minute Free Practice sessions and a thirty-minute Qualifying, split into Q1 (20 minutes for all drivers) and Q2 (10 minutes for the fastest twelve in Q1).

The two races will then take place on Sunday, over a distance of 60 kilometres.

In addition to this, on Friday teams will be given the opportunity to take part in a full day of testing for shaking down the cars after the flight back from China.

#### TCR in Valencia – the event at a glance

Lap distance: 4.00 km

Race distance: 15 laps (60.08 km)

Start: standing

Grids: determined by Qualifying results (Q1+Q2) with top-10 reversed for Race 2

Timetable:	Saturday, 10:00/10:30	Free Practice 1
	Saturday, 12:30/13:00	Free Practice 2
	Saturday, 15:00/15:35	Qualifying (Q1 + Q2)
	Sunday, 12:35	Race 1
	Sunday, 14:05	Race 2

all times: GMT +2

### Morbidelli's Honda Civic laden with 30 kilos of Success Ballast

Gianni Morbidelli was the most successful driver in Shanghai. Setting pole position, winning Race 1 and claiming third place in Race 2 brought the Italian a booty of 45 points.

This will result in 30 kilos of success ballast that Morbidelli has to carry on board his WestCoast Racing Honda Civic TCR during the next event of the TCR International Series that take place at Valencia's Circuit Ricardo Tormo this weekend.



The Target Competition SEAT León cars of Andrea Belicchi (35 points scored in China) and Stefano Comini (30 points) will be laden with 20 and 10 extra kilos respectively. The later had raced in Shanghai with the maximum 30-kilo ballast.

## **New teams and drivers join for the Spanish event**

Two new teams have entered for the event in Valencia, facing their first appearance in the TCR International Series.

Dutch rising star Bas Schouten will race in a SEAT León run by Bas Koeten Racing / ST Motorsport. The 20-year old, is switching to touring cars after having competed in Formula Ford and with Wolf and Radical prototypes. *"Touring car racing is the right direction to take for me at this stage of my career and I want to be perfectly prepared for the TCR Benelux Series next year,"* he said.

Schouten is coached by touring car legend Tom Coronel, who stated: *"It's great to see that there is already a Dutch team that moves towards the international TCR field and I'm happy to be able to contribute to this initiative."*

Two further SEAT cars have been entered by France-based JSB Compétition. One is for 18-year old Lucile Cypriano, the first lady driver to compete in the TCR International Series.

*"It's a very high-level competition and everything will be new to me: the track, the tyres and the vast majority of my rivals..."* she said.

Despite her very young age, she has quite some racing experience. After ten years with go-karts, Lucile graduated to F4 single-seaters and in 2014 contested the very competitive VW Scirocco R Cup in Germany, where she finished 10<sup>th</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> in the rookie class. That opened her the door of the SEAT León Eurocup, in the framework of the FIA-supported "Women in Motorsports" programme.

The second JSB Compétition SEAT at Valencia will be in the hands of another young driver, the 24-year old Spaniard David Cebrián Ariza, a former champion in the Spanish Peugeot 207 Cup (2010) and race winner in the French SEAT León Supercopa and the Spanish Renault Clio Cup.

## **Campos Racing with two Opel Astra OPC cars**

After skipping the event in China because of technical problems, the Opel Astra OPC returns to action in Spain, where Campos Racing will run two cars.

The Spanish outfit that completed a test in Barcelona last week, has not confirmed the drivers yet, although one of them should be Jordi Oriola.

For the event in Barcelona, Igor Skuz will temporarily switch from Campos Racing to WestCoast Racing. The Ukrainian driver will replace René Münnich who will be forced to miss the Spanish event due to a clash with the FIA World Rallycross Championship round at Hockenheim.

See the entry list at the end of this release.



## Live streaming and timing available from Valencia

The TCR International Series event in Valencia may be followed live on the internet.

Following the successful live streaming of the races of both the inaugural events in Malaysia and China, the live streaming offer for motorsport fans worldwide will be extended to the Qualifying session as well.

Live streaming from Valencia will be available on the series' official website [www.tcr-series.com](http://www.tcr-series.com).

Coverage will begin Saturday with the Qualifying session at 14.55 Central European Time; the two races will be streamed on Sunday back-to-back from 13.20 CET.

Live timing will also be available on the official website, covering all the sessions and races.

## Top Run to build TCR-spec Subaru WRX

Top Run Motorsport has announced plans to develop and build a Subaru WRX STi car to the TCR technical specifications.

Based in the North of Italy, Top Run Motorsport has built itself a solid reputation as both an advanced engineering company and a winning team in rallying and racing. Its most outstanding successes include four Group N titles in the World Rally Championship, two overall WRC victories and several titles in national and regional Touring Car and Rally championships.

Since the Eighties, Top Run has emerged as an efficient customer team with Lancia, Alfa Romeo and Nissan cars. Between 1996 and 2002 the outfit worked in close cooperation with Mitsubishi and, most recently, since 2003 has established a close relationship with Subaru Technical International.

Team principal Antonio Agnello revealed: *"We are very excited about this new project. We believe in the TCR concept and are confident that the WRX is a suitable car to compete with great potential. We are very grateful to Subaru Technical International for the trust they put in allowing our team to launch this project and we are now working flat out to respect the goal of making our first appearance in the TCR International Series' event at Singapore."*



# entry list



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## **CIRCUIT DE LA COMUNIDAD VALENCIANA RICARDO TORMO**

#	team	driver	car
6	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Franz Engstler (GER)	Audi TT
7	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Lorenzo Veglia (ITA)	SEAT León
8	Liqui Moly Team Engstler	Mikhail Grachev (RUS)	Audi TT
10	West Coast Racing	Gianni Morbidelli (ITA)	Honda Civic TCR
11	JSB Compétition	Lucile Cypriano (FRA)	SEAT León
17	Target Competition	Michel Nykjær (DEN)	SEAT León
19	Campos Racing	TBA	Opel Astra OPC
20	West Coast Racing	Igor Skuz (UKR)	Honda Civic TCR
21	Campos Racing	Jordi Oriola (ESP)	Opel Astra OPC
24	West Coast Racing	Kevin Gleason (USA)	Honda Civic TCR
25	Target Competition	Stefano Comini (SUI)	SEAT León
32	JSB Compétition	David Cebrián Ariza (ESP)	SEAT León
33	Target Competition	Andrea Belicchi (ITA)	SEAT León
34	ST Motorsport / Bas Koeten Racing	Bas Schouten (NED)	SEAT León
47	Zengő Motorsport	Norbert Tóth (HUN)	SEAT León
72	Proteam Racing	Diego Romanini (ITA)	Ford Focus ST
74	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	Pepe Oriola (ESP)	SEAT León
77	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	Sergey Afanasyev (RUS)	SEAT León
88	Team Craft-Bamboo LUKOIL	Jordi Gené (ESP)	SEAT León

