



ROUNDS 1 & 2 – BRAGA, PORTUGAL PREVIEW

THE 2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP STARTS AT BRAGA IN A NEW FORMAT

The 2010 FIA European Touring Car Cup starts this week in Braga for the first of its three events.

After being held at a single event for the past five years, the ETCC will visit Austria and Italy after Portugal for the 2010 season.

The original schedule included an event in Oschersleben, Germany, on September 5th, but this was cancelled to avoid clashes with the national touring car series.

2010 FIA European Touring Car Cup – calendar

28th March – Braga, Portugal

25th July – Salzburgring, Austria

17th October – Franciacorta, Italy

SHORT STORY OF THE EUROPEAN CUP

The FIA European Touring Car Cup is reserved for cars complying with the FIA Super 2000, Super Production and Super 1600 technical regulations. Drivers' titles are awarded for each of the three categories.

The first event, held in Valellunga, Italy, on 16th October 2005 was won by Richard Göransson from Sweden in a BMW 320i (S2000) and Lorenzo Falessi from Italy in an Alfa Romeo 147 (SP).

The second event took place in Estoril, Portugal, on 22nd October 2006 and saw victories for Ryan Sharp from Scotland in a SEAT León (S2000) and Alexander Lvov from Russia in a Honda Civic (SP).

The third event, hosted by the Italian Adria Raceway, on 28th October 2007, Denmark's Michel Nykjær (SEAT León) and Russia's Aleksey Basov (Honda Civic) claimed the S2000 and SP titles respectively.

Nykjær (Chevrolet Lacetti) encored his S2000 victory at the Austrian Salzburgring, on 29th October 2008. Italian Fabio Fabiani (BMW 320i) was sacred champion in SP. S1600 cars made their first appearance and the title went to Ralf Martin from Germany in a Ford Fiesta ST.

Last year the ETCC visited Braga's Circuito Vasco Samerio on October 25th. In rainy race conditions, James Thompson (Honda Accord) won the S2000 Cup, while Marcis Birkens (Honda Civic) and Carsten Seifert (Ford Fiesta) were crowned in the SP and S1600 classes respectively.

A THREE-MANUFACTURER BATTLE FOR S2000

Although the number of cars has shrunk considerably compared to the previous years, especially because the smaller teams could not find the budget to afford to take part in the event, the level of the Super 2000 12-car field promises exciting and close competition.

In the major class, local drivers César Campaniço (BMW) and Francisco Carvalho (BMW) will face a strong international representation headed by the Honda cars of James Thompson and Tomas Engström that also includes a few FIA WTCC independents such as Kristian Poulsen (BMW) from Denmark, Marin Čolak (SEAT) from Croatia and Ibrahim Okyay (BMW) from Turkey.

Braga Circuito Vasco Samerio, Portugal – 27th / 28th March 2010

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The strong Spanish team SUNRED Engineering will run petrol-powered SEAT cars for a couple of young and promising drivers, the 19-year old Russian Timur Sadredinov and the 21-year old Michaël Rossi from France.

A whole family will make the long trip from the far Ukraine: Leonid Protasov leads a trio of BMW cars, alongside his son Yuriy and his daughter Irina.

Drivers of three different manufacturers – BMW, Honda and SEAT – will be fighting on equal ground for the European crown.

2009 CHAMPIONS DEFEND THEIR TITLES

All three winners of the 2009 FIA ETCC titles are eager to defend their crowns.

In the Super 2000 class James Thompson is back at the wheel of the Honda Accord run by the Denmark-based Hartmann Honda Racing. The Briton, who will drive the same car in this year's Scandinavian Touring Car Cup, is joined by the experienced Swede Tomas Engström, the only driver who has taken part in all the ETCC events from 2005 onwards. The pair is also due to make occasional appearances in the FIA World Touring Car Championship.

Latvian driver Marcis Birkens, who clinched the Super Production Cup last year in his SC Papa's Racing Team Honda Civic, will be challenged by the BMW 320i of the previous winner Fabio Fabiani, who won the class in 2008.

In the Super 1600 class three Ford Fiesta cars will fight for victory, with reigning champion Carsten Seifert facing his German countrymen Jens Lhönig and Florian Heitmeier.

NATIONS CUP AWARDED FOR THE FOURTH TIME

In addition to the three FIA European Touring Car Cups for Super 2000, Super Production and Super 1600 drivers, the FIA Touring Car Nations Cup will be awarded for the fourth time. This title goes to the National Sporting Authority (ASN) whose drivers have scored the highest number of points in the two races.

The best two cars entered by competitors belonging to the same ASN will be taken into consideration for the Nations Cup's classification.

The Nations Cup was awarded to the British Motor Sports Association in 2006 and 2009 and to the Dansk Automobil Sports Union in 2007 in 2008.

ONE QUALIFYING AND TWO 50-KM RACES

The format of the FIA European Touring Car Cup is based on the FIA World Touring Car Championship's.

After three one-hour private test sessions on Friday, the actual event will start on Saturday with one 30-minute practice and one 30-minute qualifying session.

On Sunday two back-to-back 50-km races (17 laps) will take place, featuring a rolling start and a standing start respectively.

The grid for the second race will be determined by the results of the first race, with the first eight drivers classified placed in reverse order.

YOKOHAMA AWARDS 100,000-EURO PRIZE MONEY

At each of the three events, Yokohama, sole supplier of the control tyres for the FIA European Touring Car Cup, will award the competitors prize money of 100,000 euros.

Prize money will be split among the three categories: € 70,000 to Super 2000, € 20,000 to Super 1600 and € 10,000 to Super Production.



FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP - ROLL OF HONOUR

year	venue	winner Super 2000	winner Super Production	winner Super 1600
2005	Vallelunga, Italy	Richard Göransson (SWE), BMW 320i	Lorenzo Falessi (ITA), Alfa Romeo 147	---
2006	Estoril, Portugal	Ryan Sharp (GBR), SEAT León	Alexander Lvov (RUS), Honda Civic	---
2007	Adria, Italy	Michel Nykjær (DEN), SEAT León	Aleksey Basov (RUS), Honda Civic	Jens-Guido Weimann (GER), Ford Fiesta *
2008	Salzburgring, Austria	Michel Nykjær (DEN), Chevrolet Lacetti	Fabio Fabiani (ITA), BMW 320i	Ralf Martin (GER), Ford Fiesta
2009	Braga, Portugal	James Thompson (GBR), Honda Accord	Marcis Birkens (LAT), Honda Civic	Carsten Seifert (GER), Ford Fiesta

* S1600 Invitation Trophy

2010 FIA EUROPEAN TOURING CAR CUP



Rounds 1 & 2 - Braga, 28th March

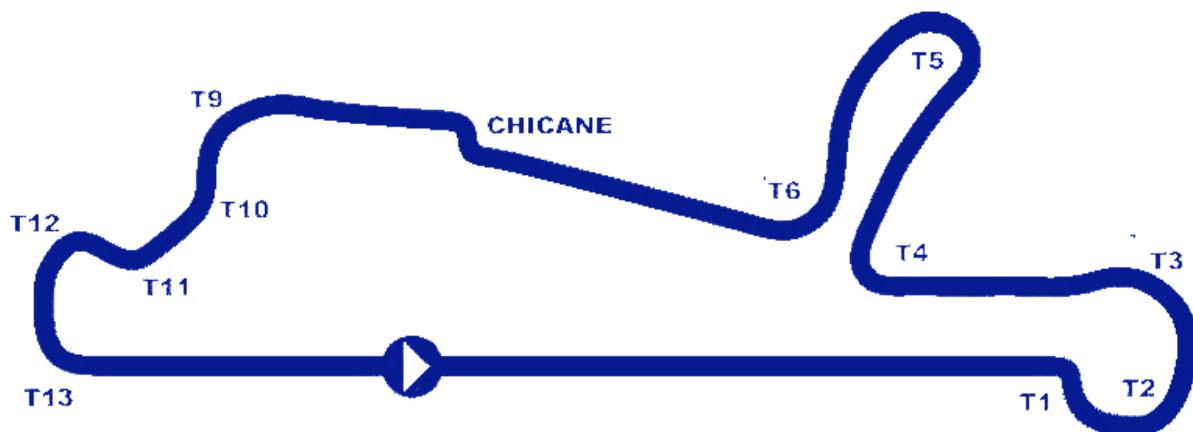
#	class	driver	ASN *	team	car
1	S2000	James Thompson (GBR)	MSA	Hartmann Honda Racing	Honda Accord Euro R
2	S2000	Tomas Engström (SWE)	SBF	Hartmann Honda Racing	Honda Accord Euro R
3	S2000	Marin Čolak (CRO)	CCKF	Čolak Racing Team	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
5	S2000	Irina Protasova (UKR)	FAU	Bevz Kostantyn	BMW 320i E46
6	S2000	Yuriy Protasov (UKR)	FAU	Bevz Kostantyn	BMW 320i E46
7	S2000	Leonid Protasov (UKR)	FAU	Bevz Kostantyn	BMW 320i E46
8	S2000	Timur Sadredinov (RUS)	RAF	SUNRED Engineering	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
9	S2000	Michaël Rossi (FRA)	FFSA	SUNRED Engineering	SEAT León 2.0 TFSI
11	S2000	Kristian Poulsen (DEN)	DASU	Poulsen Motorsport	BMW 320si
12	S2000	César Campaniço (POR)	FPAK	Novadriver Racing Team	BMW 320si
13	S2000	Ibrahim Okyay (TUR)	TOSFED	Borusan Otomotiv Motorsport	BMW 320si
14	S2000	Francisco Carvalho (POR)	FPAK	Sports & You	BMW 320si
51	SP	Marcis Birkens (LAT)	LAF	SC Papa's Racing Team	Honda Civic Type-R
52	SP	Fabio Fabiani (ITA)	CSAI	F. Motorsport	BMW 320i E46
71	S1600	Carsten Seifert (GER)	DMSB	NK Racing Team	Ford Fiesta ST
72	S1600	Jens Löhnig (GER)	DMSB	ATM Racing	Ford Fiesta ST
73	S1600	Florian Heitmeier (GER)	DMSB	NK Racing Team	Ford Fiesta ST

* competing in the Nations Cup

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Rounds 1 and 2 – Braga Circuito Vasco Samerio



Lap distance – 3,020 m
Race distance – 2 x 17 laps

- Location:** 6 km North of Braga
- Contacts:** Clube Automóvel do Minho, Rua do Kartódromo, Palmeira, Apartado 221, 4711-911 Braga, Portugal
tel. +351 253 300450; fax: +351 253 300459; email cam@camminho.com
- Official website:** www.camminho.com
- Press officer:** José Pedro: tel. 0917 501315, fax 0253 300459
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email: imprensa@camminho.com
- Airports:** Porto-Pedras Rubras “Francisco Sá Carneiro” (50 km), Vigo, Spain (80 km), Lisbon-Portela de Sacavém (370 km)
- Lap records:** Qual.: 1:24.821/128.17 kph, Norbert Michelisz (SEAT León TDI), 24 Oct 2009
Race: 1:25.375/127.34 kph, Franz Engstler (BMW 320si), 25 Oct 2009
- Previous winners:** 2009 Race 1: Norbert Michelisz (SEAT León TDI)
2009 Race 2: James Thompson (Honda Accord)



Rounds 1 & 2 – BRAGA

Friday, March 26th

11.00 – 12.00	FIA ETCC	Test session 1
12.05 – 12.25	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos Turismos	Free practice 1
12.30 – 13.10	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos GT/SP	Free practice
13.20 – 13.40	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos 1300	Free practice
13.45 – 14.05	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos	Free practice
14.10 – 15.10	FIA ETCC	Test session 2
15.15 – 15.35	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos Turismos	Free practice 2
15.45 – 16.25	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos GT/SP	Qualifying
16.30 – 17.30	FIA ETCC	Test session 3

Saturday, March 27th

09.15 – 09.45	FIA ETCC	Free practice
10.00 – 10.25	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos 1300	Qualifying
10.35 – 11.00	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos	Qualifying
11.10 – 11.35	SEAT VIP Race	Qualifying
11.45 – 12.30	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos Turismos	Qualifying (Q1 + Q2)
12.55	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos GT/SP	Race 1
14.25	SEAT VIP Race	Race
15.00 – 15.30	FIA ETCC	Qualifying
16.00	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos 1300	Race 1
17.00	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos	Race 1

Sunday, March 28th

08.30 – 08.45	FIA ETCC	Warm up
09.15	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos 1300	Race 2
10.15	Campeonato de Portugal Classicos	Race 2
11.20	FIA ETCC	Race 1 (17 laps)
12.35	FIA ETCC	Race 2 (17 laps)
13.05	<i>FIA ETCC podium ceremony</i>	
13.35	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos Turismos	Race 1
14.35	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos GT/SP	Race 2
16.05	Campeonato de Portugal Circuitos Turismos	Race 2