



DTM

BMW DTM drivers feel the need for speed ahead of first practice session on the North Sea coast – Happy Birthday, Bruno.

Zandvoort (NL), 23rd August 2012. While the teams were busy carefully preparing the six BMW M3 DTMs for their first outing at the “Circuit Park” in Zandvoort (NL), the BMW drivers were back in competitive mode on Thursday, just four days after the race at the Nürburgring (DE). This time, however, they were not lining up on a racetrack, but on the North Sea beach at Ijmuiden (NL), just a few kilometres from the venue of the seventh DTM race of 2012. Instead of powerful BMW V8 engines, the drivers were reliant on wind power to propel their sand yachts, otherwise known as “blokarts”.

After a brief introduction, Martin Tomczyk (DE), Joey Hand (US), Dirk Werner (DE), Andy Priaulx (GB) and Augusto Farfus (BR) slipped into their racing overalls, pulled on their helmets and prepared themselves for their first test on unfamiliar ground. Bruno Spengler (CA), who claimed the second BMW victory of the season at the Nürburgring, also joined in on his 29th birthday.

The drivers became more confident in their blokarts with every metre they covered on the hard, sandy surface, taking full advantage of the ideal conditions and some strong, gusty winds. “The blokarts are unbelievably quick,” said birthday boy Spengler. “It immediately aroused the competitive spirit in us all. It was great fun playing around with the other guys here. We get back down to the serious business again tomorrow. We want to perform as well in Zandvoort as we did most recently at the Nürburgring.”

Tomczyk also enjoyed his high-speed trip to the beach. “I always love trying out a new sport,” said the reigning DTM champion. “The wind is incredibly powerful. Just like sailing, you have to try to ensure you are always well positioned to take advantage of this power. If you can manage that, then you can really pick up some speed.” Werner added: “You can tell that all six of us are racing drivers. Everyone wanted to be the fastest in their blokart. However, this was really all about having fun. It was a nice way to warm up for the race weekend.”

Upon returning to Zandvoort, Spengler was in for another surprise: The team turned up in the garage to present the Canadian with a birthday cake, while BMW Motorsport Director Jens Marquardt, his BMW Team Schnitzer and the other five BMW drivers all sang “Happy Birthday”. “These really are busy days at the moment,” said Spengler. “Thanks to everyone here for the birthday wishes, and to my fans. I will do my best to pay them back with a good result.”

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