



BMW Motorsport News – Issue 05/14
9th February 2014

BMW DTM drivers grace the “Ball des Sports” – Augusto Farfus optimistic ahead of the coming season.

Whether in the DTM, the United SportsCar Championship, or countless other championships: week after week BMW teams and drivers around the world do battle for points, victories and titles. Away from the track too, members of the large BMW Motorsport family around the world are also creating headlines. The “BMW Motorsport News” allows us to regularly summarise all the action for you in a compact and informative manner. This way, you are always up to speed.

Marquardt, Farfus and Glock visit the “Ball des Sports”.

The renowned “Ball des Sports” was held for the 44th time on Saturday – and, as in previous years, both BMW Motorsport and the DTM were well represented in Wiesbaden (DE). A total of 1,800 guests, including many big names from the worlds of politics, economics, sport and show business, enjoyed a spectacular programme at the event, which is held in aid of the Deutsche Sporthilfe foundation. BMW Motorsport Director Jens Marquardt (DE) and the two DTM drivers Augusto Farfus (BR) and Timo Glock (DE) took the opportunity to try their hand on the popular ‘action stations’, showing that they also cut a fine figure away from the pit wall and the cockpit of a racing car. They showed off their skills in various sports, including Baseball, Basketball and Handball. “The ‘Ball des Sports’ is always a great event,” said Marquardt. “It’s a pleasure for us and our drivers as professionals to help our colleagues from other disciplines who aren’t able to make a living from competing in their sports.” Following the spectacular gala evening, which was presented by Johannes B. Kerner, the guests slipped seamlessly into party mode at the official after-show party in the “DTM Race Club”. Later on in the night, Marquardt and Glock were on hand to present a BMW Motorrad Maxi-Scooter C600 Sport, sporting an extensive range of additional features and worth almost 15,000 Euros, to the lucky tombola winner with the number 500 ticket. The BMW teams used the 60-hp special edition “Tomczyk” and “Spengler” models to get about the DTM paddock in 2013. “Of course we always enjoy doing something for a good cause,” said Glock. “I hope our winner will have a lot of fun with the Maxi-Scooter.”

Three questions for ... Augusto Farfus.

Augusto, how did you like the “Ball des Sports“?

Augusto Farfus: “I’m really impressed by the event. It’s great to meet so many people from different disciplines and help those who aren’t able to earn enough money in their own sports. I think that’s really important. I enjoyed playing handball again, as I used to play it in school. I wasn’t that successful playing baseball, because I did it for the first time ever. But I hope to come back here next year and try again.”

Do such events also help to shorten the waiting time until the first DTM race?

Farfus: “The winter break is long, so it’s always nice to meet some of my DTM colleagues and talk about racing. That really helps to shorten the waiting time until Hockenheim.”



What are your plans for the upcoming weeks?

Farfus: "First of all there are a couple of tests, where we plan to prepare the new BMW M4 DTM for the start of the season. Of course, our physical preparation also continues, especially with our fitness camp coming up. So there is a lot to do during the weeks to come."

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Goodwood: Priaux in a vintage BMW 3.0si.

In March, Andy Priaux (GB) will swap the BMW Z4 GTLM he drives in the United SportsCar Championship for a vintage BMW, slipping into the driving seat of a BMW 3.0si. The BMW works driver will attend the 72nd Members Meeting in Goodwood (GB) on 29th and 30th March. The BMW 3.0si is the same model with which Tony Lanfranchi (GB) raced in 1973. Priaux will race in the Gerry Marshall Trophy, for vintage Group 1 touring cars built before 1982. "I always enjoy going to the fantastic events in Goodwood," said Priaux. "And I just love being out on the track in a BMW. To line up in the Gerry Marshall Trophy with this famous and iconic racing car is an opportunity I simply could not pass up."

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