



Media Information
27 February, 2019

BMW brings all-new 3 Series to Britain's premier motorsport championship.

- BMW's best-selling car to return to BTCC grid in 2019.
- Legendary Bavarian model synonymous with touring car success.
- Reigning champion Colin Turkington to spearhead charge.

The 3 Series will return to Britain's premier motor racing series this year, with BMW confirming it is to bring its best-selling model worldwide back to the Kwik Fit British Touring Car Championship (BTCC).

A prolific winner virtually from the outset, the story of the BMW 3 Series in the BTCC is a long and distinguished one, yielding five Drivers' titles and two Manufacturers' crowns between 1988 and 2009, from Frank Sytner's success with the M3 to Colin Turkington's triumph with the 320Si E90. In-between, there were back-to-back championships for Will Hoy (1991), Tim Harvey (1992) and Joachim Winkelhock (1993).

The 3 Series was superseded by the 125i M Sport in 2013; since then, BMW has clinched two further Drivers' trophies (both with Turkington – in 2014 and 2018), three more Manufacturers' laurels and Teams' honours in each of the last three seasons. Now, the class-leading 3 Series is back, with a refreshed driver line-up for Team BMW and designs on future glory.

Complementing the launch of the seventh-generation road-going model in March, the race-tuned 330i M Sport will join the fray in the 2019 BTCC curtain-raiser around Brands Hatch's Indy Circuit on 6/7 April. It will be piloted by three-time title-winner Turkington – the most successful driver in the brand's illustrious BTCC history – and new signing Tom Oliphant, who impressed over the course of his rookie campaign in the series last year.

Turkington is one of the most decorated touring car drivers in the world, with 31 of his 46 BTCC race wins coming in Bavarian machinery – including BMW's milestone 100th victory at Thruxton in 2017. With race-winning pedigree in the British GT Championship and Ginetta GT4 SuperCup, Oliphant is widely considered to be one of the sport's rising stars and tallied 12 points-scoring finishes in the BTCC in 2018.

The cars will be fielded by long-time BMW partner West Surrey Racing, with a third 330i M Sport for 2013 BTCC Champion Andrew Jordan, who will run out of the same WSR stable but under the BMW Pirtek Racing banner in deference to his title sponsor.

BMW Group Company

Postal Address
BMW (UK) Ltd.
Summit One
Summit Avenue
Farnborough
GU14 0FB

Telephone
01252 920000

Fax
01252 920001

Internet
www.bmw.co.uk

BMW

United Kingdom

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Helmed by the legendary Dick Bennetts, WSR was founded almost four decades ago and played an instrumental role in the formative careers of such motorsport luminaries as Mika Hakkinen, Rubens Barrichello and three-time Formula 1 World Champion Ayrton Senna.

The Surrey-based outfit has masterminded BMW's BTCC challenge since 2007, and is hard at work behind-the-scenes prepping the new 3 Series ahead of its anticipated track debut at the Season Launch test at Brands Hatch on 27 March.

Ends

The BMW Group

With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world's leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2018, the BMW Group sold over 2,490,000 passenger vehicles and more than 165,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2017 was € 10.655 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.678 billion. As of 31 December 2017, the BMW Group had a workforce of 129,932 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy.

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YouTube: BMW UK

For further information please contact:

Lauren Prema
BMW Media Relations Executive
Tel: 07815 370746
Email: Lauren.Prema@bmw.co.uk

Piers Scott
General Manager, Product and Internal Communications

BMW

United Kingdom

Corporate Communications

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Tel: 01252 921265

Email: Piers.Scott@bmw.co.uk

Graham Biggs

Corporate Communications Director

Tel: 01252 921256

Email: Graham.Biggs@bmw.co.uk