20th April 2015

**FIA WTCC - Citroen Too Strong in Marrakech**

The highly competitive FIA World Touring Car Championship, which has the Japanese premium tyre manufacturer YOKOHAMA as its official tyre supplier, enjoyed a thrilling weekend of racing at the street circuit in Marrakech, Morocco.

The heat on and off the track left behind clear signals for all. Jose Maria Lopez, Yvan Muller and Sebastien Loeb are not intending to make it easy for anybody else – not even among themselves, to take them away from the top positions. Yvan Muller made his statement on race 2 when he fought-off Citroen team mate Sebastien Loeb throughout the intense 14 lap battle to make it past the chequered flag in first place by a few millimetres only. Identical cars and the wealth of experience that Muller has in Touring cars, including four World Championships, enabled him to dominate a race that also had plenty of excitement in the pursuing pack. Current Champion Lopez, who had started on the reverse grid on 10thposition also whizzed past opponents clocking the fastest laps and making it to the third spot in the podium at the end. However, “Pechito” Lopez’s main glory came from a lights to flag win on race 1, after his impressive hard earned pole position from Saturday, just nipping home favourite Bennani in the qualifying session. Never losing the lead, Lopez made it in front of Ma and Loeb who followed in 2nd and 3rd respectively. Lopez now leads the championship with a 17 point buffer.

The local favourite Bennani was able to achieve a 4th place in race 1 which also awarded him valuable points in the YOKOHAMA Trophy. Later however he was unable to keep a good position on race 2 after causing a collision in the final stages of the race and suffered the penalty of having to go all the way down to position 12. The street circuit in Marrakech always provides drama and frustration by way of cars which end up unable to finish the race or with significant damage. Tom Coronel was once again unlucky this year and forced out of the first race by his team mate Tom Chilton following a braking error and was then again involved in a crash with Monteiro which also meant early retirement. Huff, Demoustier and Kozlovskiy were also unable to complete the race.

Mehdi Bennani and Tom Chilton shared the YOKOHAMA Drivers’ Trophy victories, although by scoring points in both races, Honda driver Norbert Michelisz managed to join Bennani at the top of the YOKOHAMA Trophy table.

The FIA WTCC Travels to Hungary next month for the Race of Hungary, Hungaroring in Budapest, from the 1st to 3rd May.

**Overall Driver Standings;**

1 LÓPEZ José María 93

2 LOEB Sébastien 76

3 MULLER Yvan 57

4 MA Qing Hua 38

5 TARQUINI Gabriele 38