29th April 2013

**WTCC Veterans stimulated by Young talent**

Gabrielle Tarquini and Tom Coronel managed stunning performances at the recently held rounds 5 & 6 of the FIA World Touring Car Championship held at the weekend at Slovakia ring and which boasts YOKOHAMA as its Official Tyre supplier.

Tarquini a winner in race one, dominated from start to finish with Honda’s first win of the season, followed by Tarquini’s team mate Thiago Monteiro and Norbert Michelisz also climbing positions to take third place. Although the veterans shined at the packed Slovakia ring, young talent continues on the rise with Nash and MacDowall continuing to press the veteran drivers and achieving useful points in the YOKOHAMA Trophy.

Tarquini, is certainly proving a strong contender for the Championship this season and intends to fight for every point at each race. After his win he expressed his happiness at the result and dedicated the triumph to all the team at Honda who had worked so hard over the weekend.

Meanwhile no newcomer to the competitive spirit of WTCC, Tom Coronel who had only tasted victory in Japanese soil until the past weekend in Slovakia, managed to make it to the very top of the podium. Even though victory was clear considering the big gap Coronel achieved within the first few laps, it was a fiercely contested race with plenty of action and overtaking which saw Yvan Muller taking advantage of a slight mistake by reigning Champion Rob Huff in the second last lap to take second place and the veteran Tarquini also benefiting and following closely in third place. The Championship now stands with Muller leading on 120pts, Tarquini second with 96pts and Nykjaer with 57pts.

Following the YOKOHAMA Trophy wins for James Nash on Race 1 and Race 2 by Alex MacDowall the top positions are currently Nash on 46pts, Nykjaer 42pts and MacDowall with 37pts.

Close to 40,000 spectators joined the racing excitement at the Slovakia ring circuit which once again enjoyed warm weather which delighted everyone in attendance.

Without a break in the forthcoming week the WTCC championship resumes this weekend at Hungaroring.

**FIA European Rally Championship**

The Japanese Tyre Manufacturer YOKOHAMA was also present at FIA European Rally Championship at the recently held Sata Rallye Acores Portugal, with Mark Wallenwein, current 2012 German rally champion competing on a ‘family run’ Skoda Fabia S2000. After the rally Wallenwein who suffered an accident on day 2 and lost some time, managed to finish in an overall 13th position. After the Rallye Wallenwein expressed his gratitude at the way in which other competitors and also fans assisted him when his car rolled and sustained significant damage. Wallenwein also expressed he was very satisfied with the performance of the YOKOHAMA tyres and was looking forward to his next race.