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BMW DTM drivers present the BMW M4 Coupé and BMW M3 Sedan – Andy Priaulx trains with the English rugby team.

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.

BMW DTM drivers present the BMW M4 Coupé and BMW M3 Sedan.

Immediately after the opening DTM race of the season in Hockenheim (DE), BMW DTM drivers Joey Hand (US), Bruno Spengler (CA), Martin Tomczyk (DE) and Timo Glock (DE) headed straight off to an extremely pleasant appointment. At the media launch of the BMW M4 Coupé and BMW M3 Sedan in Portimão (PT), the drivers showed representatives of the media how to drive BMW cars at the limit. Augusto Farfus (BR) and António Félix da Costa (PT) will also be on site on Monday and Tuesday. This kind of appointment is always great fun for Spengler and Glock, who were involved in the development of both cars, and their DTM colleagues. “It is obviously always an honour when BMW M GmbH asks you to present BMW M cars,” said Tomczyk. “It is an absolute privilege when it takes place at a racetrack, as is the case with the new BMW M3 and the new BMW M4 Coupé here in Portimão. We have once again been able to show that both cars are well-suited to outings at the racetrack. The journalists were all impressed. It was nice to be involved again, and was great fun to put both cars through their paces under these circumstances.”

Andy Priaulx trains with England’s junior rugby stars.

No sooner had Andy Priaulx (GB) returned to England after his successful start to the USCC at Laguna Seca (US), than he was spending the entire day training with the English U20 rugby team at the BMW Performance Academy. Priaulx spoke to the youngsters about routes to success in professional sport and offered them an insight into the world of motorsport. He showed them techniques for mental training and allowed them to complete a few laps in the kart and Formula One simulators. Priaulx and team-mate Bill Auberlen (US) currently lead the Drivers’ standings in the United SportsCar Championship.

Three questions for... Andy Priaulx.

Andy, after the first four races of the United SportsCar Championship and leading the championship what are your thoughts for the rest of the season?

Andy Priaulx: “First of all I must say I think I have found the ideal fit for me and my driving skills. I have some pretty high bench marks in the team, and the two times I qualified I was up against John Edwards in the other BMW Z4 GTLM and he is young and very quick. I won’t say I am surprised to be leading the driver points standings, as I know what I can do in a car, but being the new boy it usually takes you a while to get used to everything. I have enjoyed learning some new tracks, and can’t wait to get to the next round in Watkins Glen, another circuit that comes with quite a



reputation. From now on my goal must be to keep scoring points with the title my ultimate goal."

Do you feel at home at BMW Team RLL and joining forces with your team-mate, Bill Auberlen?

Priaulx: "Awesome! Bobby Rahal is a total legend and it is great to be driving for a team principal who has had such an impressive racing career of his own. He has a great group of guys in the team and the operation is slick. I have driven for some great teams in my career and this one is up there with the very best. As for Bill, I count myself as extremely lucky to be racing alongside him. He knows the team, the car, the circuits and how to drive in these races. He has taken me under his wing as the 'new boy' and I know I can ask him advice on anything. It is also nice that we get along socially and have fun out of the car."

You did some training with the English Rugby Football Union Under 20s at the BMW Performance Academy. What were you able to teach them?

Priaulx: "Yes, this was a great opportunity. I always enjoy meeting other professional sportsmen and these guys are pretty good at what they do. I was able to give them an insight into the life of a professional racing driver. They were able to try their skills on the simulators. I was also to talk to them about how racing and rugby could easily cross over in the way professionals need to approach the sports. I was able to explain some of the pitfalls along the way and how a positive mental approach is as important as being physically fit."

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ADAC GT Masters: Team Schubert comes through water fights on the North Sea coast.

Two races, two water fights: the second race weekend of the season in the ADAC GT Masters was a slippery affair for the drivers in action for "PIXUM Team Schubert" powered by Jochen Schweizer. Heavy rain and strong wind made both races a huge challenge. Claudia Hürtgen (DE) and Dominik Baumann (AT) mastered the conditions superbly in the number 19 BMW Z4 GT3, as did their team-mates Jens Klingmann (DE) and Max Sandritter (DE) in the number 20 car. Both duos finished in the points on Saturday and Sunday. The way both cars fought back on Saturday was particularly impressive. Starting from 18th, Hürtgen and Baumann raced through the field to finish fourth. Sandritter and Klingmann started from the very back of the field, and fought back to cross the finish line in seventh place. The number 19 car came home fifth in Sunday's race, with the number 20 finishing seventh again.

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