

DTC: Thompson: "Never say never" to BTCC
James Thompson has labelled Hartmann Racing as one of the top touring car teams out there as he gears up for another busy year. The Brit told TouringCarTimes that Hartmann were operating at "an exceptionally high level" that would allow him to compete for honours in each of the DTC, STCC and ETCC this season in "the top car in Europe."



By Peter Hodges Tuesday, 19 January 2010 14:45 CET

The double British champion also said, "Never say never" when asked by TouringCarTimes about the chances of him participating in his home series, potentially even in the Honda Accord with Hartmann, though the presence of Team Dynamics means such a move "doesn't really make a lot of sense".

Thompson described his schedule for the coming season as "a good programme and a full programme again. It won't be quite as bad as last year, and it's just one type of car this year!

"I'm really looking forward to it. I think it should be good and hopefully we'll get to do Monza and Brands Hatch in the WTCC. I think we can spring a surprise or two at one of those races and represent ourselves well.

"The nice thing is it's a chance to actually have a go for three championships. It doesn't mean we're going to win all three, but at least this year we'll do the full championship as opposed to bit parts of various series."

Six date clashes between the British and Danish series also make it highly unlikely that Thompson would be able to dovetail anything more than the occasional cameo appearance in the BTCC.

"Never say never," though said Thommo. "It depends on the budget. Obviously Honda and Hartmann Racing have a good relationship so we'll see how we go. From our side we want to do as much racing as we can and represent ourselves well.

"If there's a chance to do some BTCC races then never say never! It'd be nice and I think it'd be good, but Dynamics are in there with their Honda so it doesn't really make a lot of sense to be honest.

"The best thing for us is Europe, to look at a bit of WTCC, and from our side represent ourselves well and show that our car, and our team is a good outfit."

For now just Thompson is confirmed in the Honda Accord, but he welcomed other drivers to the team who had the budget and "wants to be in the top car in Europe", a machine that helped him to his European crown in October of last year.

"I think the thing is because we're not a manufacturer operation everyone tends to go for the more favoured cars. The team operates at an exceptionally high level and now we really want to show people in Sweden, Denmark and Europe, that we're running two cars at a super high level, we want to win races, and that this is a good car to be in."

Thompson also confirmed to TouringCarTimes that he would not be getting behind the wheel of a Lada again in the WTCC in 2010.

HARTMANN Racing

DTC: Thompson set for DTC, ETCC, STCC & WTCC

James Thompson is going to continue his monstrous schedule in 2010 by taking part in the DTC, ETCC, STCC and WTCC. The Brit is going to drive for Danish Honda team Hartmann.

"Last season was a busy one but we're going to give it a go again this year," Thompson said to Autosport.



By Johan Meissner Friday, 15 January 2010 19:53 CET



"One of the disappointing things having done so much last year was that I couldn't win any of the titles."

The Brit is going to take part full-time in the Danish, Scandinavian and European championship and part-time in the WTCC with Hartmann.

"I was leading the Danish and it would have been fantastic for my team to win it, but I was only committed to five of

seven rounds and missing the last two meant we only finished third, so this year we'll try to make amends for that," said Thompson.

The plan for the WTCC is that Thompson is going to take part in the races at Monza and his home race at Brands Hatch.

"I've got the chance to win three championships and maybe have a go at winning another world championship race in the Honda, obviously Brands Hatch is somewhere I know very well," he added.



27 Jan 2010

Denmark-based Hartmann Racing confirmed their plans to take part in a couple of events of the 2010 FIA WTCC with their Honda Accord Euro R cars, one of them driven by British touring car ace James Thompson.

“Our priority is the FIA European Touring Car Cup, because we want to defend the title James won last year at Braga,” team principal Hans Hartmann revealed. “However we are also looking at occasional participations in the WTCC, because we would like to warm Honda up for the future.”

The Danish team are due to take part in the WTCC events at Monza and Brands Hatch and they are currently in negotiations with a few experienced drivers for their second Accord car. “I think we can spring a surprise or two at one of those races and represent ourselves well,” Thompson commented

The screenshot shows the WTCC website's news section. The main headline is "HARTMANN RACING CONFIRM WTCC PLANS". Below the headline is a photograph of a white Honda Accord Euro R race car with the number 77. To the right of the main image is a "RECENT NEWS" sidebar with a list of articles dated from February 2010. On the far right, there is a "PARTNERS" section featuring the SIMBIN logo. The website header includes the WTCC logo, navigation links, and a "Real Cars. Real Racing." banner.

Friday, January 15th 2010, 16:41 GMT

James Thompson will contest selected rounds of the World Touring Car Championship with Hartmann Racing this season, as part of another four-series campaign.

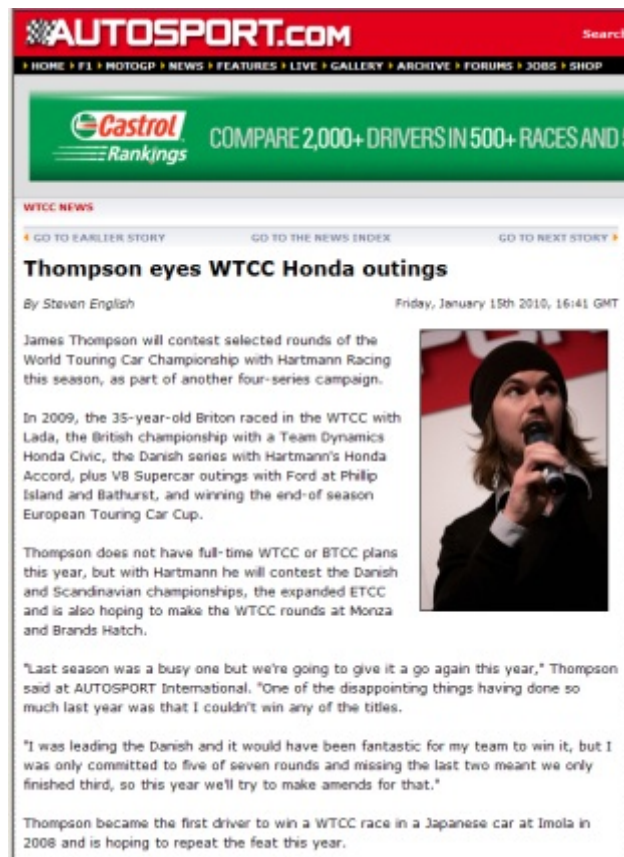
In 2009, the 35-year-old Briton raced in the WTCC with Lada, the British championship with a Team Dynamics Honda Civic, the Danish series with Hartmann's Honda Accord, plus V8 Supercar outings with Ford at Phillip Island and Bathurst, and winning the end-of season European Touring Car Cup.

Thompson does not have full-time WTCC or BTCC plans this year, but with Hartmann he will contest the Danish and Scandinavian championships, the expanded ETCC and is also hoping to make the WTCC rounds at Monza and Brands Hatch.

"Last season was a busy one but we're going to give it a go again this year," Thompson said at AUTOSPORT International. "One of the disappointing things having done so much last year was that I couldn't win any of the titles. "I was leading the Danish and it would have been fantastic for my team to win it, but I was only committed to five of seven rounds and missing the last two meant we only finished third, so this year we'll try to make amends for that."

Thompson became the first driver to win a WTCC race in a Japanese car at Imola in 2008 and is hoping to repeat the feat this year.

"I've got the chance to win three championships and maybe have a go at winning another world championship race in the Honda, obviously Brands Hatch is somewhere I know very well," he added.



The screenshot shows a news article on the AUTOSPORT.COM website. The article is titled "Thompson eyes WTCC Honda outings" and is written by Steven English. It features a photo of James Thompson speaking into a microphone. The article text is as follows:

WTCC NEWS
GO TO EARLIER STORY GO TO THE NEWS INDEX GO TO NEXT STORY

Thompson eyes WTCC Honda outings

By Steven English Friday, January 15th 2010, 16:41 GMT

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