



International

Volkswagen Motorsport Newsletter 28/2017

- **Feat of strength: Solberg exceeds all expectations in Buxtehude**
- **Maiden win: Baumschlager wins the Rally Liezen in the Polo R WRC**

FIA World Rallycross Championship

Petter Solberg shines with fourth place at Volkswagen's home event

Operated on Monday, and yet still out in front: Petter Solberg pulled off a Herculean feat at the German round of the FIA World Rallycross Championship. The three-time world champion from PSRX Volkswagen Team Sweden overcame a fractured collarbone and two broken ribs to finish fourth at the Estering (D). The Norwegian only underwent an operation this Monday, following a crash at the recent world championship event in Latvia, and lined up at the track on the outskirts of Hamburg with special upper-body protectors. Even this did not stop him from showing his class: Solberg ended qualifying in first place, won his semi-final, and thus secured pole position for the final. In an eventful final, he initially dropped back to sixth place, but then fought back to finish fourth. That was enough to earn him second place in the Drivers' Championship and put him in pole position in the race to finish runner-up going into the season finale in South Africa.

Team-mate and world champion* Johan Kristoffersson was quick in the second Polo GTI Supercar, but was denied another victory this weekend after five wins in a row coming into the event in Germany: The Swede was held up in a tussle and finished fifth in the second semi-final. This was the first time this season that Kristoffersson had missed out on the final. Volkswagen test driver Dieter Depping (D) was making a guest appearance in the WRX, and clocked some impressive times in the third Polo. In doing so, he earned great respect in the world championship and also picked up one world championship point for finishing 16th.

Petter Solberg (N), Volkswagen Polo GTI Supercar #11

"The pole position and victory in the semi-final, just six days after my collarbone operation, were incredible. It is a shame that I came up just short in the final, but the result still feels like a big win. The battle for second place in the championship now moves on to the finale in South Africa and, against all expectations, I am still ahead of Mattias Ekström. Thank you to my family, my doctor Dr. Gravander, and my fantastic team."

More information: www.fiaworldrallycross.com

*Subject to the official publications of the results by the FIA.



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Austrian Rally Championship

First win for Baumschlager in the Polo R WRC

Raimund Baumschlager (A) and his co-driver Pirmin Winklhofer (D) earned the Volkswagen Polo R WRC its first victory in the Austrian Rally Championship. The duo won the Rally Liezen in the 350-hp four-wheel drive powerhouse from Wolfsburg, ahead of Andreas Aigner/Ilka Minor (A/A, Škoda). With eight stage wins out of 13, Baumschlager/Winklhofer once again demonstrated the great potential of the 2016 world championship-winning Polo. The championship leaders – Hermann Neubauer/Bernhard Ettl (A/A, Ford) – ended the rally in fourth place, following a puncture. As such, Baumschlager and Winklhofer go into the season finale just two points behind Neubauer and Ettl.

More information: www.rallye-oem.at

▪ **Volkswagen Fun Cup France**

Two winners in Lédénon (F): The first 3.5-hour race was won by FC 280 Milo Racing, the second by the FC 888 team. More information: www.funcup.net

Next up:

06/10–08/10/2017, TCR International Series, Zhejiang (CHN)

06/10–08/10/2017, TCR Asia, Zhejiang (CHN)

07/10/2017, VLN Endurance Championship Nürburgring, Nürburgring (D)

06/10–08/10/2017, 24H TCE Series, Spa-Francorchamps (B)

07/10/2017, GTI Challenge South Africa, Killarney International Raceway (ZA)

07/10–08/10/2017, Volkswagen Fun Cup Europe, Adria International Raceway (I)



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