



International

Volkswagen Motorsport Newsletter 03/2018

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- **Sébastien Loeb Racing to run the Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR in the WTCR**
- **Volkswagen drivers Kristoffersson and Solberg start at the Rally Sweden**

Race of Champions 2018

Second place for Petter Solberg at the Race of Champions in Riad

Petter Solberg (N) finished second on his fourth appearance at the Race of Champions. The Norwegian, 2014 and 2015 world rallycross champion and 2003 world rally champion, made it through to the final of the showdown between the world's top racers in Riad, the capital of Saudi Arabia, where his push for the title was eventually stopped by David Coulthard (GB). Solberg had previously won all the races in the main event. The final, which was run in a "best of three" format, was decided in race two, after Solberg had been narrowly beaten by former Formula 1 star Coulthard in race one.

"Congratulations to David on his second win, having previously won in 2014," said Solberg. "This was my first time in the final of the Race of Champions, and I really wanted to win. In the end, I came up just short. David is a worthy winner. It was great fun to be at this fantastic event and to compete against all those motorsport greats." The semi-final had seen Solberg overcome his PSRX team-mate and reigning world rallycross champion in the Volkswagen Polo GTI Supercar, Johan Kristoffersson (S). Coulthard had defeated nine-time Le Mans winner Tom Kristensen (DK) in the second semi-final.

More information: www.raceofchampions.com

Volkswagen in customer sport

Sébastien Loeb Racing enters the WTCR with the Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR

A familiar name has joined the FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR): Sébastien Loeb Racing – the team part-owned by record world rally champion Sébastien Loeb (F), is entering the newly-formed touring car series, where it will put its faith in the 350-hp Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR, which won the TCR International series in both 2016 and 2017. The Golf GTI TCR will be driven by touring car specialists Rob Huff (GB), 2012 world touring car champion, and Mehdi Mennani (MA), who won the WTCC Trophy in 2016. Volkswagen Motorsport Director Sven



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Smeets: "I am delighted that another successful team, with two absolutely top drivers, has chosen to run the Golf GTI TCR. Over the past few years, Sébastien Loeb Racing has shown emphatically what it is capable of in touring car racing. We have our fingers crossed for the team, and hope that the Golf GTI TCR will again be up there challenging for the championship in 2018."

More information: www.tcr-series.com

Rally Sweden 2018

Kristoffersson and Solberg start the classic rally event in Sweden

Johan Kristoffersson (S) and Petter Solberg (N) will line up at this year's Rally Sweden (15-18 February). Freshly-crowned WRX champion Kristoffersson will swap his 570-hp Volkswagen Polo GTI Supercar, with which he won the title in the FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX) in November, for a Skoda Fabia R5. "Changes to the timing of our preparations for the new rallycross season with Volkswagen have made it possible to start in Sweden," says Kristoffersson. "I am already really looking forward to the event, as it is always helpful to be in race mode as often as possible." This is the 29-year-old's second start at the Rally Sweden. In 2016, he finished eleventh in the WRC2 class. Meanwhile, Solberg will start alongside his wife Pernilla in a Ford Escort RS1800 in the class for vintage cars. In 2013 and 2015, Solberg dominated the historic Rally Sweden. This year, the 2003 world rally champion is expecting a bigger challenge. "Last time we beat a few Audi Quattros," says Solberg. "This year, there will be far more four-wheel drive cars in action. As such, we are now focussing on the opposition with two-wheel drive."

More information: www.wrc.com

Next up:

23.02.–24.02.2018, TCR Middle East, Bahrain (BRN)



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