



International

## Volkswagen Motorsport Newsletter 33/2017

- **WRX: World champion Kristoffersson wins season finale**
  - **ORM: Baumschlager claims title in Austria in the Polo R WRC**
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FIA World Rallycross Championship

### **Signing off with a win: Kristoffersson victorious in Cape Town**

Johan Kristoffersson (S) won the South Africa premiere of FIA World Rallycross Championship in Cape Town (ZA). The driver from PSRX Volkswagen Team Sweden won the season final at the Killarney Raceway, finishing ahead of his compatriots Timmy Hansen (Peugeot) and Mattias Ekström (Audi). This was the seventh win of the season for world champion\* Kristoffersson. The Swede has finished on the podium at eleven of this year's twelve rounds – a new record!

"This season was simply fantastic," said Kristoffersson. "I can hardly believe what we have achieved. I have to thank Petter Solberg and the entire team. Together, we have been strong throughout the whole season. I hoped from the start that we could be successful. But to have actually achieved that is absolutely fantastic."

While Kristoffersson and PSRX Volkswagen Team Sweden had already wrapped up the titles in mid-September at the race weekend in Riga (LV), Petter Solberg (N) was still battling for second place in the world championship in Cape Town. A puncture on Saturday cost Solberg valuable positions and points in qualifying, and the Norwegian had to settle for fourth place behind his closest rival Mattias Ekström (Audi) in the final. This meant Solberg ended the season in third place in the Drivers' Championship. "I really gave it my all, but it was impossible to get past Ekström," said Solberg. That is okay, though. We have won enough gold medals this year!"

More information: [www.fiaworldrallycross.com](http://www.fiaworldrallycross.com)

\* subject to confirmation from the FIA.

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Austrian Rally Championship

**Champion for the 14th time: Baumschlager sets new world record in the Polo R WRC**

Raimund Baumschlager (A) has won the Austrian Rally Championship. The 57-year-old won the Rally Waldviertel (A) at the wheel of the Volkswagen Polo R WRC to claim his 14th title in the national championship. In doing so, Baumschlager set a new world record: no driver in the world has ever won 14 national champion titles.

The final round of the ORM could hardly have been more exciting: the Austrian, together with co-driver Primin Winklhofer (A) trailed defending champion Herrmann Neubauer (A/Ford) by 0.8 seconds going into the 14th and final special stage. This would have made Baumschlager the runner-up in the championship. However, the man from Salzburg went for broke in his Polo on the final stage, beating Neubauer by 5.4 seconds to win the title by four points.

The experienced Austrian was understandably delighted: "Given the way that the championship and, above all, the finale panned out, I have to say that this is my nicest title. Also because it will most probably be my last national title." Victory at the Rally Waldviertel was Baumschlager's third of the season, having previously won the Rebenland Rally and the Škoda Rally Liezen.

More information: [www.brr.at](http://www.brr.at)

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▪ **Chinese Touring Car Championship**

Rob Huff (GB) claimed a victory and a second place in his Volkswagen Lamando GTS at the penultimate round of the season in Wuhan (CHN). This was enough to see him crowned champion with one race remaining. Race two at the Wuhan Street Circuit was won by fellow Volkswagen driver Zhang Zhen East (CHN). More information: [www.ctcc.com.cn](http://www.ctcc.com.cn)

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**Next up:**

17/11–18/11/2017, TCR International Series, Dubai

16/11–19/11/2017, Formula 3 Macau Grand Prix, Macau (CHN)



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For Media

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