



International

## Volkswagen Motorsport Newsletter 07/2018

- **WRX: Johan Kristoffersson opens his World Rallycross Championship campaign with a win**
- **TCR Germany: Strong start to the season for Volkswagen customer teams in Oschersleben**
- **TCR Russia: Roman Golikov earns first win in Russia for the Golf GTI TCR**

---

FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX)

**Victory for world champion Kristoffersson –**

**successful start to the World Rallycross Championship for Volkswagen**

First race, first win: World champion Johan Kristoffersson (S) took victory at the opening round of the FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX) in Barcelona. He and team-mate Petter Solberg (N) also gave PSRX Volkswagen Sweden an early lead in the team championship. The Polo R Supercar was at its very best in extremely difficult conditions, with the track wet and muddy at times. Petter Solberg, PSRX team owner and the man who finished third in last year's championship, won two of the four qualifying heats, finishing runner-up in the remaining two. This put Solberg in first position overall ahead of the final races, with Kristoffersson third up to that point.

The two PSRX drivers finished one-two in their semi-final to progress to the final. However, it was here that lady luck deserted the weekend's outstanding driver to that point, Petter Solberg: His dreams of victory were brought to a premature end as he was unable to avoid colliding with a tyre wall following contact with Mattias Ekström (S, Audi) going into the first corner. Solberg ultimately had to settle for fifth place, while his rival was subsequently disqualified from the final. Kristoffersson initially crossed the finish line in second place after a flawless drive, but was then awarded victory in the final following the stewards' decision. This was the tenth WRX win of Kristoffersson's career.

Johan Kristoffersson (S), Volkswagen Polo R Supercar #1

"You are obviously really up for it at the start of the new season. Everyone starts on zero points. I am extremely happy with my performance in the final. The fact that the powers that be awarded us the win instead of second place means we can head home happy. It was a good start to the season. It is a shame for Petter, who deserved a better result – but he will come back stronger."



**Volkswagen**

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

"We had the right speed this weekend. The car was good, we were out in front in qualifying and won the semi-final. Unfortunately, however, the incident with Mattias Ekström in turn one cost us a possible victory. That is obviously disappointing. All in all, however, our performance was extremely positive."

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

---

ADAC TCR Germany

**Luca Engstler and Benjamin Leuchter impress, "powered by Volkswagen"**

The Volkswagen customer teams in the TCR Germany series made a strong start to the season. Luca Engstler (D) was twice the top Golf GTI TCR driver in Oschersleben. The 18-year-old from the Engstler Motorsport team finished third in race one, and followed that result with a fourth place in race two. Benjamin Leuchter (D) showed great fighting spirit in the fiercely-competitive TCR Germany races, which featured 30 touring cars from seven manufacturers, with Volkswagen providing the strongest contingent of nine Golf GTI TCRs. The 30-year-old from the Max Kruse Racing team had to start from the back of the grid twice. However, he worked his way through to ninth place in the opening race and finished seventh in race two. The races were won by Harald Proczyk (A, Opel) and Mike Halder (D, Honda).

Races three and four of TCR Germany will be held from 27 to 29 April in Most, for the first time. Luca Engstler travels to the Czech Republic in third place in the championship, just eight points off the lead. Benjamin Leuchter lies fifth.

Luca Engstler (D), Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR #8

"Madness. I tried to keep out of any trouble and to drive a clever race – and that paid off. We are up against the big boys now. Last year I made the odd mistake, which we want to avoid this year."

More information: [www.adac-motorsport.de/adac-tcr-germany](http://www.adac-motorsport.de/adac-tcr-germany)

---



Volkswagen

TCR Russia

### **Winning start for the Golf GTI TCR in Russia: Roman Golikov wins in Grozny**

Victories around the world – and the Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR can now add Russia to the list of countries, in which it has tasted success. Roman Golikov took advantage of his position on the front row of the grid for race two in Grozny to claim a maiden victory for the 257-kW (350-hp) touring car from Wolfsburg. Golikov took the lead at the start and maintained his advantage through to the finish. Vitalj Dudin finished second to make it a one-two on a successful Sunday for Volkswagen. The UGMK-Motorsport and Akhmat Racing Team drivers had previously ended race one of the opening round of the Russian TCR series in eighth and seventh place.

Golikov's victory means he now goes into the next races, on 05 and 06 May in Smolensk, with a one-point lead at the top of the TCR Russia standings.

More information: [www.tcr-series.com](http://www.tcr-series.com)

---

#### ▪ **FIA European Rallycross Championship (ERX)**

Defending champion Anton Marklund made a successful start to his campaign in the FIA European Rallycross Championship. Despite not getting off to the best start in the final, the Swede fought his way through from fifth to finish second, having previously won the semi-final and ended qualifying in second place. The European Championship is held over five rounds. The series now heads to Belgium from 11 to 13 May.

---

#### **Next up:**

20.04.–22.04.2018, Touring Car Endurance Series, Navarra (E)

20.04.–22.04.2018, Japanese Formula 3 Championship, Suzuka (J)

20.04.–21.04.2018, Volkswagen Polo Cup South Africa, Killarney (ZA)

20.04.–21.04.2018, Global Touring Cars South Africa, Killarney (ZA)



**Volkswagen**

Für Medien

## **Service und Kontakt**

Volkswagen Motorsport GmbH  
Kommunikation  
Ikarusallee 7a  
D-30179 Hannover  
Tel. +49 511 67494-0



### **Andre Dietzel**

Leiter Kommunikation und Marketing  
Mobil +49 175 7234689  
andre.dietzel@volkswagen-motorsport.com



### **Ingo Roersch**

Kommunikation  
Mobil +49 172 1499157  
ingo.roersch@volkswagen-motorsport.com



### **Marc Hecht**

Kommunikation  
Mobil +49 152 54528780  
marc.hecht@volkswagen-motorsport.com

**www.volkswagen-motorsport.com** – die Mediathek von Volkswagen bietet:

- aktuelle Presse-Informationen zum gesamten Motorsport-Engagement
- hochauflösende Fotos, die für Presse Zwecke frei verfügbar sind
- Download-Möglichkeit von Videos nach Login/Registrierung
- die Zusendung von Presse-Infos mit Sprache nach Wahl (Deutsch/Englisch)

### **Links**

- [www.volkswagen-motorsport.com](http://www.volkswagen-motorsport.com) (öffentliche Webseite/Media-Datenbank)
- [www.facebook.com/VolkswagenMotorsport](https://www.facebook.com/VolkswagenMotorsport) (Facebook-Seite)
- [www.twitter.com/VolkswagenMS](https://www.twitter.com/VolkswagenMS) (Twitter-Kanal)
- [www.instagram.com/VolkswagenMotorsport](https://www.instagram.com/VolkswagenMotorsport) (Instagram-Kanal)