



International

Volkswagen Motorsport Newsletter 09/2018

- Polo R Supercar remains undefeated – Podium double for Kristoffersson and Solberg in WRX
- Huff claims first win of the season with the Golf GTI TCR in the World Touring Car Cup
- TCR Germany: Luca Engstler remains on course in championship battle

FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX)

An advanced course in Swedish: Kristoffersson wins in the driving snow of Portugal

Second race, second victory – World champion Johan Kristoffersson (S) won round two of the FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX) with the Volkswagen Polo R Supercar. Joining him on the podium in third place: Team-mate and team owner Petter Solberg (N). However, instead of summer sunshine, the semi-finals and final in Montalegre, Portugal, took place in temperatures approaching freezing point and driving snow. Kristoffersson won his semi-final to start the final from second on the grid, while Solberg started from the third row. In the final, the two Volkswagen Polo R Supercars both made flawless starts. Kristoffersson moved into the lead and successfully defended this position until the finish. Solberg used his Joker lap intelligently to climb into third place.

With eleven career victories to his name, championship leader Johan Kristoffersson now holds the record for the greatest number of wins in the FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX). Round three of the season will be held in Mettet on 12th and 13th May. Solberg is third in the championship ahead of the trip to Belgium.

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

"I am pumped with adrenalin – the semi-finals and finals were just incredible, extremely difficult with many contacts, but fair battles. The conditions were far from normal. I got off to a great start in the final and after that it was quite an easy race – snow aside. I am really happy. Perhaps the 'practice' on the snow at the Rally Sweden helped a little."

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

"I am so happy. Given these conditions, and the rather tricky start to the weekend, it was by no means certain that we would both end up stood on the podium together as a team. Johan is simply unbelievable. Whatever is thrown at him, he just goes out there and wins."

More information: www.fiaworldrallycross.com



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FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR)

**First win of the season for the Golf GTI TCR –
Robert Huff tastes victory in Budapest for Volkswagen**

Robert Huff (GB) ensured that the Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR took its place in the winners' list of the FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) for the first time this season. The driver from the Sébastien Loeb Racing team came through a hard-fought affair to win race two of the second race weekend in Budapest, Hungary. Sébastien Loeb Racing is responsible for running both 257-kW (350-hp) touring cars from Wolfsburg in the WTCR. Huff and team-mate Mehdi Bennani (MA) claimed five of a possible six top-ten results in this weekend's three races.

Victories in races one and three went to Yann Erlacher (F, Honda) and Gabriele Tarquini (I, Hyundai). The season's six races so far have been won by four different manufacturers. The next round of the WTCR is a special one: Races seven to nine will be held on the Nürburgring-Nordschleife from 10 to 12 May.

Robert Huff (GB), Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR #12

"Simply brilliant. Sébastien Loeb Racing gave me a really fantastic car this weekend."

More information: www.fiawtcr.com

TCR Germany

Podium and valuable points – Luca Engstler is the top Volkswagen driver in Most

Sixth and third place were enough to make Luca Engstler (D) the best-placed driver "powered by Volkswagen" for the second TCR Germany weekend in a row. At the wheel of a Golf GTI TCR, the son of touring car legend and team owner Franz Engstler (D) picked up valuable points in the battle for the championship in races three and four of the season, which took place in Most, Czech Republic. After another two fiercely-competitive races in the German TCR series, the 18-year-old now has 110 points to his name and currently lies second, just eight points behind championship leader Harald Proczyk (A, Opel). He could even have scored a few more points. Engstler mistakenly thought that race two had finished and took his foot off the gas too early. In doing so, he was overtaken and denied second place.

Race wins went to Antti Buri (FIN, Audi) and guest starter Petr Fulin (CZ, Seat). Races five and six of TCR Germany will take place on 09 and 10 June in Spielberg, Austria.



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Luca Engstler, Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR #8

"I thought it was the last lap. Only as I was already celebrating did I hear over the radio that there was another lap to go. That was a bitter disappointment, as I had controlled the whole race and was the fastest car in the leading group. On the whole, however, I am happy to have been able to set that kind of pace."

More information: www.adac-motorsport.de/adac-tcr-germany

▪ **British Touring Car Championship (BTCC)**

Team Hard endured a sobering BTCC race weekend at Donington Park (GB). Expectations were high on the back of the podium finish in the opening race at Brands Hatch. However, it was to be a disappointing weekend: Jake Hill (GB) was the best-placed Volkswagen CC driver in both races, finishing 17th and 23rd after starting from the back row of the grid. More information: www.btcc.net

▪ **Volkswagen Fun Cup Europe**

Laurent Jaspers (B), Stéphane de Frahan (B) and Mathieu Detry (B) won both four-hour races in the Volkswagen Fun Cup Europe in Dijon-Prenois (F). They were in a league of their own in all the practice sessions and the two endurance races at the Trophée de Bourgogne – only the AC Motorsport team (Stéphane Perrin, Martin Leburton, Simon Tourneur, Alexandre Renneteau) got anywhere near them, finishing just 0.176 seconds behind the winners in race two. More information: www.vwfuncup.eu

▪ **Volkswagen Fun Cup UK**

Team Honeywell and the Sherardize UK team were the winners of the two three-hour races in the Volkswagen Fun Cup UK. Double points were up for grabs at the event on Anglesey (GB), and the two teams took full advantage to add to their points haul in the championship. More information: www.funcup.co.uk

▪ **Volkswagen Racing Cup UK**

Toby Davis (GB), at the wheel of the Team Hard Volkswagen Golf, and Martin Depper (GB) in a Scirocco run by DW Racing, won this weekend's two races in the Volkswagen Racing Cup UK. Rockingham was the venue for races three and four of the series. More information: www.vwracingcup.co.uk

Next up:

04.05.–06.05.2018, TCR Europe, Le Castellet (F)



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04.05.–06.05.2018, TCR Russia, Smolensk (RUS)

04.05.–06.05.2018, TCR Scandinavia, Knutstorp (S)

04.05.–06.05.2018, Sportscar Challenge, Mid-Ohio (USA)

04.05.–06.05.2018, Volkswagen Fun Cup France, Le Mans (F)





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