



International

## Volkswagen Motorsport Newsletter 10/2017

- **Double success: Solberg wins ahead of team-mate Kristoffersson at Lydden Hill**
  - **Shock result in sports cars: Golf GTI wins TCR class at Nürburgring 24 Hours**
  - **Serial winner: Volkswagen driver Takaboshi wins Formula 3 race in Japan**
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FIA World Rallycross Championship

### **Solberg wins at Lydden Hill, Kristoffersson takes championship lead**

Petter Solberg (N) and Johan Kristoffersson (S) presented Volkswagen with a one-two in the FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX). The two drivers from PSRX Volkswagen Team Sweden dominated proceedings all weekend on the WRX track at Lydden Hill (GB) in their two Polo GTI Supercars. PSRX team principal Solberg set a new track record at the wheel of the 570-hp Polo in practice, and Solberg and Kristoffersson proved unbeatable in their respective semi-finals. Solberg, who started the final from pole position, came home a good one and a half seconds ahead of his team-mate Kristoffersson, whose points haul makes him the new overall leader in the Drivers' Championship. Kristoffersson tops the table with 124 points, four points clear of second-placed Mattias Ekström (S, Audi). Solberg lies third on 117 points.

Petter Solberg (N), Volkswagen Polo GTI Supercar

"It has been a while since the last time I stood on the very top step of the podium. It is an incredible feeling to have done it again. And to have Johan up there next to me is perfect. We had a fantastic weekend this time. Everything worked out exactly as we hoped."

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

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Nürburgring 24 Hours

### **Top touring car: Class win for the Golf GTI at the 24-hour classic**

The Golf GTI TCR mastered the toughest race in the world in style: not only did Andreas Gűlden (D), Benjamin Leuchter (D), Constantin Kletzer (A) and Dennis Wűsthoff (D) win the TCR class at the 24-hour race on the Nűrburgring-Nordschleife, but the 350-hp Mathilda Racing Golf GTI was also the best-placed touring car in 29<sup>th</sup> place overall. This result saw the Golf GTI leave countless more powerful sports cars in its wake – including all the cars in the GT4 class. The closing stages were hard to beat for drama, with rain starting to fall in the final hour. However, Leuchter kept his head to guide the black and gold touring car safely over the



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finish line, despite the tricky track conditions. The Cologne-based Mathilda team's second Golf – driven by Josef Kocsis (D), Knut Kluge (D), Charlie BH Kang (ROK) and team principal Michael Paatz (D) – came home fourth in the TCR class. Overall victory went to Audi Sport Team Land and former Volkswagen junior Kelvin van der Linde (ZA), who won the Volkswagen Scirocco R Cup in 2013.

Benjamin Leuchter (D), Volkswagen Golf GTI TCR #175

"An unbelievable success. The whole team did an awesome job. We had to change a wheel bearing during the race, and our mechanics did it in just 5:11 minutes. Incredible! When it started to rain, I really let fly. I made up 58 seconds to catch the final GT4 car ahead of us, then passed it on the final lap."

More information: [www.24h-rennen.de](http://www.24h-rennen.de)

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36<sup>th</sup> GTI Treffen at Wörthersee

### **Petter Solberg in the new up! GTI**

World first at the 36<sup>th</sup> GTI Treffen at Wörthersee: Volkswagen presented a production-based prototype of the new up! GTI for the first time at the cult, four-day event in Kärnten (A). The new, 115-hp member of the GTI family was driven onto the stage by Petter Solberg (N), who races for Volkswagen in the FIA World Rallycross Championship (WRX). Solberg travelled straight from the presentation to the latest round of the WRX in Great Britain, while visitors to Kärnten were able to check out his Polo GTI Supercar, which was on display as a show car. Also on show was the Golf GTI TCR, with which customer teams are enjoying great success in a host of TCR championships, as well as the Beetle GRC, with which Scott Speed (USA) and Tanner Foust (USA) have their sights set on the title in the Global Rallycross Championship (GRC).

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Japanese Formula 3 Championship

### **Six wins from nine races: Volkswagen driver Takaboshi wins again in Okayama**

Mitsunori Takaboshi (J) claimed another victory for Volkswagen at the fourth race weekend of the Japanese Formula 3 Championship. The young driver from Volkswagen customer team B-MAX Racing won the opening race in Okayama (J) to continue an impressive run: the youngster now has six victories to his name from the past nine races. Takaboshi was also the best-placed Volkswagen driver in race two, coming home fourth. He now has 78 points to his name in the Drivers' Championship – 15 behind ThreeBond driver Alex Palou (E).

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▪ **VAG Trophy**

Quadruple success in Snetterton (GB): Ben Wallace (GB, Golf) won race two, ahead of Paul Taylor (GB, Golf), Kenan Dole (GB, Golf) and Tim Docker (GB, Scirocco). Taylor was the best-placed Volkswagen driver in the opening race, in which he finished third. Victory went to Simon Walton (GB, Audi).

More information: [www.vagtrophyracing.co.uk](http://www.vagtrophyracing.co.uk)

▪ **Volkswagen Fun Cup Europe**

ComToYou was the team of the weekend in Zandvoort (NL): the team won the opening race, ahead of JAC Motors 1 by MTE and Allure Team. ComToYou then finished runner-up behind Allure Team in race two.

More information: [www.vwfuncup.eu](http://www.vwfuncup.eu)

▪ **Volkswagen Racing Cup UK**

Bobby Thompson (GB, Golf) and Tom Witts (GB, Scirocco) are the winners from Snetterton (GB). Thompson took the chequered flag in race one, ahead of Philip House (GB, Scirocco) and Jamie Bond (GB, Golf). Witts won the second race, with Thompson and Kieran Gordon (GB, Scirocco) finishing second and third.

More information: [www.vwrcingcup.co.uk](http://www.vwrcingcup.co.uk)

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**Next up:**

03/06–04/06/2017, Global Rallycross, Thompson (USA)

03/06–04/06/2017, TCR Benelux, Zolder (B)

02/06–04/06/2017, TCR Italy, Misano (I)

04/06/2017, Chinese Touring Car Championship, Guangdong International Circuit (CHN)

03/06/2017, GTI Challenge South Africa, Killarney International Raceway (ZA)

03/06/2017, Volkswagen Fun Cup UK, Brands Hatch (GB)



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