

News release  
November 9, 2017  
Gumtree World RX of South Africa

### **Table-toppers PSRX Volkswagen Sweden climb one last mountain**

Leopards. They just won't change their spots, will they? They're a bit like champions in that respect. And then there's the king of the jungle, the lion; their rule is absolute. The elephant brings grace and size, the buffalo and rhino, power and tenacity.

It's little wonder the PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden feels so at home at the final round of this year's FIA World Rallycross Championship. In this oldest of towns in this part of the world, the talk is all about topping the Table. That's all Johan and Petter have been talking about all year.

And, having struck gold, they come here in search of silver.

Where are we? The Mother City. Welcome, World RX, to Cape Town, South Africa.

And Petter, welcome back to Africa.

"I love Africa," said PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team owner Petter Solberg. "I remember the first time I competed down here on the Safari Rally. OK, that was in Kenya, so it was a bit further north, but it's just an incredible country and a seriously amazing place. The countryside, the people, the views, it's really nice. And it's the same this time.

"Me and Johan and the team, we have been proper tourists, seeing some really nice places and, of course, Table mountain. This place is fantastic with some proper, proper animals. People talk about the big five (elephant, rhino, lion, buffalo, and leopard) and if you get to see all those, that's a real result. That's what I want: big points, the big five and a silver medal."

Petter is one point ahead of third placed driver Mattias Ekström in the race for the runners-up spot.

"It's me versus [Mattias] Ekström for the silver. With Johan in gold, PSRX Volkswagen Sweden in gold, it has to be silver for me to make it the perfect year. That's the target this week."

Frustrated as Petter and Johan have been at being out of the car for the last six weeks since World RX of Germany, Solberg admits the autumn downtime has helped his collarbone heal the injury sustained at World RX of Latvia (September 17).

“Johan and I don’t like to be out of the car for this long,” said Petter, “but it has helped me get completely better since Riga. It was a big decision to race in Germany after the crash and the operation, but it went quite well.”

From that big decision came a very big performance last time out in Buxtehude (World RX of Germany, September 29-October 1). Petter cemented his reputation as one of the sport’s ironmen, racing just days after an operation on his broken collarbone. That was a bittersweet moment for the triple FIA World Champion and his team.

“Johan won the drivers’ and we won the teams’ championship in Latvia,” said Petter, “but I didn’t feel there was much time to enjoy it; I was so focused on getting fixed for the next race in Germany.”

Petter was well and truly fixed. He won heats three and four, his semi-final and then finished an astonishing fourth in the final.

“I’m so glad I raced in Germany,” he said. “But now we have one big fight left this year: we have to beat Ekström. Let’s go for the perfect season.”

Johan has been this year’s dominant force in World RX, winning six races in a blistering season for the super Swede. And now the time has come for him to end 2017 on the highest of highs at the Killarney circuit in Cape Town.

“Germany didn’t go the way I wanted,” said the champ. “It wasn’t a good weekend for me, but I put that behind me and now we look forward to one more weekend with this incredible team in this amazing car.

“It’s really nice to come to a completely new track, which looks like it’s going to be a lot of fun. And it’s nice to come to sunshine as well. In Sweden, winter is nearly coming, so the snow and the dark nights are not so far away – but now we have a week in the summer again, so let’s make the most of it.”

### **What? When?**

Qualifying 1/2: Saturday November 11 1300/1540

Qualifying 3/4: Sunday November 12 1000/1200

Semi-finals/Final: Sunday November 12 1500

### **World RX of South Africa**

Starved of world-class FIA-sanctioned competition for far too long, World RX will put Africa back on the motorsport map this season. The Killarney International Raceway, north of Cape Town, is no stranger to icons of our sport, but for Moss and Clark at the 1960 Cape Grand Prix, read Solberg and Kristoffersson at 2017 World RX of South Africa.

### **Closest international airport:**

Cape Town 19km

**Currency:**

South African rand

**Capital city:**

Cape Town\*

**Language:**

See below... \*\*

**Seriously...** \*\*Let's deal with the languages thing first – there are 11 (Afrikaans, Northern Sotho, English, Southern Ndebele, Southern Sotho, Swazi, Tsonga, Tswana, Venda, Xhosa, Zulu) of them. And \*capital cities? Three: Pretoria is the executive, Bloemfontein the judicial and Cape Town the legislative.

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