

News release
August 31, 2017
World RX of France

PSRX Volkswagen Sweden Team *mates* talk teamwork

How long? Too long. Now? Not long.

The FIA World Rallycross Championship is back in action this weekend, four weeks after a fifth straight season win for the PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden in Canada (August 6).

The good news for championship leaders Johan Kristoffersson and Petter Solberg is that they're back to France this weekend and that means an opportunity to use the French they learned at World RX of Canada in French-speaking Trois-Rivières Quebec.

That's right, isn't it, Johan?

"*Oui.*"

Petter?

"Definitely. *Oui.*"

"Seriously, I love this race. I love Lohéac."

What about the French, Petter?

"Yes, I know, but it's really important to talk about the atmosphere this weekend."

Shall we just carry on then, Mr S?

"The track in Lohéac is good, but it's not the best one of the year – but the atmosphere and the organisation, these are as good as anywhere else for the rest of the season. I love it, it's really good fun."

Johan feels the same way. It's not surprising the Polo GTI Supercar pair are on the same page – World RX of France has run three times and they've won one each (Solberg, 2014 and Kristoffersson, 2016).

"Petter's right," says championship leader (by 35 points from Solberg) Johan. "The feeling around the weekend is really nice – so nice, it's almost as good as my home race! Obviously there's a big crowd here for Séb [Loeb] and you can understand that, he's a megastar in his own backyard and, of course, he's going to be right at the front when we're fighting this weekend. But the focus for us is on putting together another team performance."

“Things are looking good for PSRX Volkswagen Sweden, we’re 108 points up and we’ve earned that position. But, like every race, we start at zero on Friday and we have to earn everything all over again.

“The priority for the team is the World RX Teams’ Championship – we’ve never changed that.”

Yeah, but what about the drivers’ title, surely you’ve got more than a passing interest in that, Johan?

“You could say that! Of course I want to be champion; to be a world champion is what everybody dreams about and I’m no different. But when Petter and I started to talk about this year we talked about working as a team, working together and always sticking to the plan – that’s what we’ve done and that, I believe is how we’re in the strong place we are now.”

Unsurprisingly, Petter agrees 100 per cent.

“That’s exactly right,” said Petter. “I have been in a few teams when you have people pulling in different directions and it doesn’t work. Like Johan said, we wanted to work together for this year and we’ve done that.

“Everything is working well for us right now, but that’s because we put this structure in before the start of the season.

“It’s the same with the car. We took the car at the start of the year and then we didn’t do any more development work through the season; what we worked on was getting the best out of it and widening that working window in all conditions: Tarmac, gravel, mud, wet, dry, everything. We made the car work in all conditions, then we concentrated on getting everything right between Johan and myself. Teamwork has been everything in helping us build this season.”

What? When?

Qualifying 1/2: Saturday September 2 1300/1520

Qualifying 3/4: Sunday September 3 1005/1040

Semi-finals/Final: Sunday September 3 1500

Bretagne World RX of France

Like Höljes in Sweden, Lohéac is a corner of Brittany transformed to a motorsport mecca once a year. But it’s not the roar of 3,600 horses leaving the line that makes the most noise – it’s the 75,000 fans cheering them on that will be heard for miles around. Hugely popular with European fans anyway, a certain Peugeot-driving Sébastien gave the locals even more to smile about when he landed on the podium last season. But who was two steps above the nine-time World Rally Champion? That’s right, our own PSRX hero JK. One more thing: anybody actually ever heard a horse roar?

Previous winners:

Johan Kristoffersson (2016)

Timmy Hansen (2015)

Petter Solberg (2014)

Closest international airport:

Pleurtuit International 80km

Currency:

Euro

Capital city:

Paris

Language:

French

Seriously... That language thing isn't quite right. Yes, French folk speak French, of course they do, but in Brittany some also speak Breton – which mixes a bit of Welsh and Celtic in with French.

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