

News release
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Petter and Pernilla both go home for more rally action

When the World Rally Championship comes to town and that town is Torsby, it's impossible for the Solberg family to stay away. This is their town. Their sport.

So, Petter and Pernilla are back. Having dominated the Rally Sweden Historic for three years between 2013 and 2015, they will return to the event, where they compete in a 'new' Ford Escort RS1800 built by British preparation expert Viking Motorsport.

"Rally Sweden is 500 metres from our workshop in Torsby," said Petter. "How can we not compete? We are both really looking forward to it – it's a lot of fun to do this event, especially in such a cool car."

Petter admits adding to the tally of three wins will be tough on the February 15-18 event won't be easy, with the increased level of four-wheel drive competition.

"We beat some Audi Quattros last time," said Solberg, "but now there are more and more of these four-wheel drive cars coming. I think now we have to focus on the two-wheel drive competition, that's the aim. And, of course, the other aim is to go out there and have some fun and show the fans a good time."

Viking Motorsport is owned and run by Phil Mills, the man who won the 2003 World Rally Championship with Petter.

"Phil has done a fantastic job with this car," said Petter. "You know when you want the historic car – the proper *historic* car – building, Phil is doing the perfect job. Honestly, this thing is beautiful! And it's Pernilla's birthday on the Friday when we are starting, so this is a really nice way to celebrate."

The route for Rally Sweden is perfect for Petter and Pernilla, with stages in both Norway and Sweden.

"For two of the stages [Svullrya and Rödjen] were are competing on, we go across the border in the stage, while we are driving flat-out. It's nice to be in Norway and Sweden, it makes it more fair for Pernilla and me; we both get to go home!"

Rally Sweden Historic runs on eight of the main World Rally Championship stages, with the crews starting immediately on the back of the WRC field.

Draft itinerary

Friday February 16
Start Torsby 0920
SS2 Hof Finnskog (21.26km) 1059
SS3 Svullrya 1 (24.88km) 1224
SS4 Røjden 1 (19.13km) 1318
SS8 Torsby 1 (9.56km) 1434
Service Torsby 1501
Parc fermé Torsby 1546

Saturday February 17
Service Torsby 0915
SS9 Torntorp 1 (19.88km) 1000
SS10 Hagfors 1 (23.40km) 1129
SS11 Vargåsen 1 (14.21km) 1228
SS16 Torsby Sprint (3.43km) 1329
Finish Torsby 1344

Note – the stage numbers and names relate to Rally Sweden, which is why they don't follow sequentially on the Rally Sweden Historic itinerary.

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