

News release  
June 8, 2017  
World RX of Norway

### **Solberg: nothing good came from Hell. Until now...**

Hell hasn't been kind to Petter Solberg and his PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden team-mate Johan Kristoffersson. Neither of the Nordic superheroes have won World RX of Norway previously. Both are desperate to put that right this weekend.

The Polo GTI Supercar-driving pair are both enjoying the deepest of purple patches at the moment, having dominated the previous two World RX rounds in Belgium and Great Britain. But now it's the home runs and Petter's up first, in front of his Norwegian faithful this week. For Johan (not to mention PSRX Volkswagen Sweden's extensive Swedish contingent) the home comfort comes at the very beginning of next month.

Neither can wait.

"It's true," said Petter, "both Johan and I have never really shone in Norway and Sweden, so these next two events are *so* important to us. Yes, every round of the World Rallycross Championship offers the same number of points, but racing at home is special."

Fortunately, Petter's pretty sure Volkswagen Motorsport has found the key to unlock Norway's front door.

"I'm not going to tell anybody what we've found," he said, "but it's fair to say that I always struggled to get my previous cars to work in these tracks. That shouldn't be the case this time."

Oh go on Petter, tell us a bit more.

"OK, but not much. I will only say this: Johan and I should be a bit more confident than normal in the slower corners. Especially the ones where the car has a bit more load. It's because of the..."

Enough already Petter; this is not the place to be telling our secrets.

"That's true. It's enough to say I'm excited. We have made lots of small gains with the car since the start of the season and last time out at Lydden, you know what? We did not have one thing wrong with the car, not one. It was absolutely and completely perfect."

If only everything in life was as reliable.

Almost as reliable and dependable is some first-corner action in Hell this

weekend. For Petter, it's a case of mind the gap.

"I've always been fairly cautious in rallycross," he said. "I'm not the kind of driver to dive into a gap. You might get away with it sometimes, but most of the time you won't – it's always a gamble and at this point in the season it's a massive gamble. A no-score now could knock any one of the top drivers out of the championship chase. As a team, we have to look to consolidate what we've been doing so far this season."

And FIA World Rallycross Championship leader Johan's all up for a bit of consolidation.

"I would definitely be happy to stay where I am for the rest of the year," he smiled. "Norway is always one of the trickiest races of the season and, for sure, it's important to be racing clean all of the time during this weekend."

"We have made a fantastic start to the season and the car and the team is getting better and better all of the time. To be honest, I still can't believe what we have achieved as the PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team in such a short space of time. But this is just the beginning. The focus is on keeping the momentum going in Hell this weekend, but we have to really keep the bigger picture and the championship – and championships – in focus as well."

Now, just before we go, you might have noticed a bit of furore around a Solberg win. No, not that one. Not Petter at Lydden. Try Oliver at RallyX Nordic in Arvika. Just six days after Petter's celebrations it was the turn of his and Pernilla's 15-year-old son Oliver. Driving a 600bhp Supercar, Oliver won the Swedish event. Predictably, Petter was pretty proud.

"I was lost for words," said Petter. "Pernilla and I couldn't be more proud of our boy. He has so much enthusiasm and motivation to get on in motorsport, it's just amazing. When he came to me last year and asked if he could drive the Supercar, I told him. "OK, go and get the licence, then come back to me." I was sure he wouldn't get the licence. But he did. And now he's started winning races. It's unbelievable. He's unbelievable."

You better believe it. *Unbelievable.*

### **What? When?**

Qualifying 1/2: Saturday June 10 1100/1400

Qualifying 3/4: Sunday June 11 1000/1200

Semi-finals/Final: Sunday June 11 1500

### **World RX of Norway**

1.02km

63% asphalt/37% dirt

It's fair to describe Trondheim as the home of Norwegian rallycross, not least because it's where Mr Rallycross himself – six-time FIA European Champion

Martin Schanche – is from. It's also the closest city to Hell, the home of Norway's round of World RX. But the track and the place are anything-but Hell, with undulations and camber changes ensuring this is one of the most entertaining circuits to race on each season. And that's before the sunshine and Petter Solberg fans come out to play.

**Previous winners:**

Andreas Bakkerud (2016)

Timmy Hansen (2015)

Reinis Nitišs (2014)

**Closest international airport:**

Trondheim 5km

**Currency:**

Norwegian Krone

**Capital city:**

Oslo

**Language:**

Norwegian

**Seriously...** Fancy a party? Then head for Hell Street, it's the go-to place for those who think sleeping's for sleepy people when World RX comes to Norway. Time to raise some...

**Contact:**

Per-Espen Lochen PR/media manager

[per-espen@pettersolberg.no](mailto:per-espen@pettersolberg.no)

+46 76 110 7 110

+47 952 43 245

[psrxvw.com](http://psrxvw.com)

@Petter\_Solberg

[www.facebook.com/PetterSolbergWRC](https://www.facebook.com/PetterSolbergWRC)

Produced in association with Words PR