

News release  
June 29, 2017  
World RX of Sweden

### **Petter and Johan, the successful (re-)union**

Sweden and Norway. Norway and Sweden. Thanks to PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden, they're two countries that work as one.

We'd like to say we're making history here in Torsby. We're not. But we are re-creating it.

"You know," said PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team owner Petter Solberg, "Norway and Sweden used to be *really* close. We were united."

It's true, known as the United Kingdom of Sweden and Norway, the countries shared a common king for 89 years. Right up until Norway went in its own direction in 1905.

Now, Petter and team-mate Johan Kristoffersson are working on their own union: the United Kingdom of PSRX Volkswagen Sweden (and Norway).

Petter added: "With my family half-Swedish, the team based in Sweden (Torsby) and Johan driving alongside me I feel so close to Norway's nearest neighbour. I love the way this works so well; I love the way we co-operate across the border. It says a lot for what this team is about."

Scandinavian history lesson done, let's go racing.

And let's start that talk with the man at the top of the tree. Step forward, Mr K. This guy was super-quick at Höljes 12 months ago. He hit the heats hard and led into the semi-final. Second quickest in the penultimate race, it went south in the final. Fifth. Nobody goes home for fifth.

"I was really disappointed last year," said Johan, "but you get over it and start to look forward to the next time you're going to be in your own backyard. That time has come around again and I couldn't be more fired up for it.

"To go into my home World RX round leading the championship is a special, special feeling. Right now, the PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team is working so well. What Petter says about the co-operation is absolutely true; everybody in this team has just one goal and that's to win. And winning this weekend would be like a dream come true for me. There will be so many Swedish people there, so many people having so many big parties and I want to be joining in with the singing on Sunday night."

It's been a good while since Sweden celebrated with a king called Johan (465

years since King Johan III died in 1592). That could all change come Sunday night in Höljes.

Ultimately, this high-speed union has one aim: to put Sweden and Norway on top of the world. On top of the world in a beautiful Volkswagen Polo.

### **What? When?**

Qualifying 1/2: Saturday July 1 1400/1630

Qualifying 3/4: Sunday July 2 1000/1200

Semi-finals/Final: Sunday July 2 1500

### **World RX of Sweden**

1.21km

60% asphalt/40% dirt

Just north of Torsby, close to Sweden's border with Norway rests the sleepy village of Höljes. The world comes, goes and passes Höljes and its very happy 150-strong population by. There's a spot of fishing to be done on the Klarälven or maybe a day trip to see the neighbours. Otherwise, it's a summertime Värmland idyll. And then July happens. Overnight, Höljes matches Östersund as Sweden's 24<sup>th</sup> most populated city with more than 44,000. That's World RX's magic weekend for you.

### **Previous winners:**

Andreas Bakkerud (2016)

Mattias Ekström (2015)

Mattias Ekström (2014)

### **Closest international airport:**

Oslo Gardermoen 114km

### **Currency:**

Swedish krona

### **Capital city:**

Stockholm

### **Language:**

Swedish

**Seriously...** More beer will be drunk by partying fans than petrol consumed by World RX supercars this weekend. And that's going some – these cars are downing a couple of litres each lap!

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