

News release  
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Motorsport News World RX of Great Britain preview

So, *Top Gear* takes a beating from PSRX and look what happens...

That's what happened last time we were at Lydden Hill; we showed James May the way home. And he hasn't been seen since. It's a shame, the captain wasn't actually that slow.

Made for telly the race might have been, but competing at Lydden in tricky conditions gave me some really useful data for our new car and how we should go about setting it up if the weather does turn damp.

Last year Britain didn't really go the way we wanted it to, but I come back in a very, very good mood. The car feels incredible. My fantastic PSRX team made a big step with the car last year from 2013 and this year is probably an even bigger step in the right direction. The car does everything beautifully; it handles, changes direction, delivers the power, brakes, rides the bumps – everything I could want. And I feel like I'm driving well at the moment.

A few people came to me after the semi-final in Belgium last weekend and told me they didn't think I could make the final after our jump-start. I reminded them of what I always say: "Everything is possible!" And it is. I have to say though, that drive was quite special. I was so focused on every corner, on every gear change, everything was perfect.

Three races, three podiums, the lead in two championships and one race win. It's true to say this hasn't been a bad start to the season! Belgium was the second event in succession we departed on top of not just the drivers' standings, but also leading the charge to the teams' title.

Of course, I want to win every race I start. But even at this point in the season we're thinking about the championship. Last year at Lydden I lost out in the final because I pushed a little bit too hard into Devils Elbow, this time I would probably take a slightly different approach and *maybe* come out of the corner a little sooner. Really? Ah, I don't know... it's hard to know exactly what you would do when you are in the heat of the battle and trying to make the apex just before the other guy.

It's always nice to come back to Britain, though. And it's really nice to race at an event which is backed by *Motorsport News* – my favourite newspaper in Britain!

I have so many incredible memories of competing in this place – especially in Wales, where I won Rally GB four times and took my first world championship title in 2003.

One guy who definitely knows his way around Lydden Hill is my fellow Monster driver, Britain's Liam Doran. He's had a pretty tough start to the season and I know he's going to be one to watch this week.

**Circuit:**

Length: 1170m

Max width: 15m

Min width: 10m

Tarmac: 60%

Dirt 40%

Website: [www.lyddenhill.co.uk](http://www.lyddenhill.co.uk)

**Timetable – all local times**

Saturday May 23

1000 practice

1230 qualifying heat 1

1500 qualifying heat 2

Sunday May 24

1030 warm up

1130 qualifying heats

1500 semi-final/final

1610 World RX press conference

**Last time out...**

Go. No... Go! Was the story of Petter's semi-final last time out in Belgium. But, in a quite astonishing display of forceful and focused driving, Solberg took the required two joker laps as his penalty for a jump-start and still almost won! In the final, he had a nibble at Toomas Heikkinen, but spied a shot at stretching his top-of-the-table advantage and took it. The runners-up spot was a stunning result after Petter's left-footed eagerness an hour earlier...

**Great Britain in numbers:**

**0** is how many times *Top Gear* has beaten PSRX at Lydden

**1** is how many times PSRX has beaten *Top Gear* at Lydden

**007** Bond's code came from the bus route author Ian Fleming took to London

**30** is the number of minutes it takes the London Eye to rotate fully

**38.5** degrees is the highest temperature ever recorded in Britain

**74.5** (119km) miles is the furthest anywhere in Britain is from the sea

**151** is how many press-ups Petter will do this race weekend

**300** is how many languages are spoken in Britain

**409** is how many escalators there are on London's underground

**64,100,000** people live in UK. But there are still more chickens living there

**165,000,000** is how many cups of tea are drunk in Britain every day

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