

News release
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PSRX Volkswagen Sweden lead grows after Portuguese domination

PSRX Volkswagen World RX Team Sweden dominated the second round of the FIA World Rallycross Championship, with drivers Petter Solberg and Johan Kristoffersson setting the Portuguese pace from the first qualifying race of the weekend.

As they did at the season opener in Barcelona earlier this month, both Petter and Johan made the final and were lightening-quick off the line to run one-two through the early part of the weekend's last race. Unfortunately for three-time FIA world champion Solberg, a left-rear puncture slowed his Volkswagen Polo GTI Supercar. The Norwegian was sixth, while Johan took the all-new PSRX Volkswagen Sweden alliance's maiden podium with third.

While ultimately disappointed not to have capitalised with a win ahead of a sun-drenched capacity crowd close to the Spanish border, both Petter and Johan were full of praise for the PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team and the upgrades and improvements made to the Polo GTI after round one.

The Torsby-based squad, which only came together three months out from the start of the season, moved nine points clear at the top of the Teams' standings, with Johan and Petter running an impressive second and third in the Drivers' title race.

Petter said: "My plan was to get away from the line as quickly as possible. We had the speed all weekend and the plan was for Johan to stay behind me in the beginning of the race. But then I picked up a slow puncture on the left-rear and I just wanted to get out on the straight to let Johan past me. It came at the worst possible moment; I slowed him down and there was nothing I could do.

"That's tough, but these things can happen – punctures are part of our sport. Putting that behind us, I'm so happy with the way things are moving forward with the team and to be leading the championship is fantastic when you consider where we were just before the start of the year!

"I must say it's very good for me to have Johan alongside me in the team – he did a great job of safeguarding our position today (Sunday). I am learning stuff from him and I hope I am able to teach him the odd thing as well! This is only good for PSRX Volkswagen Sweden."

Johan added: "We went straight in behind Petter in the final, we had a plan to stay there for a while and it was all working well before he got the puncture. It was another really good weekend for the team, but it would have been nice to take the win – I think we both had the speed for it.

"I missed the joker lap in Q3 which was really frustrating and maybe that cost me the chance of a better position in the final, but these things can happen. It was a simple mistake, nothing more.

"Looking ahead, I have to say what an incredible job the team has done since Barcelona. Everybody worked really hard, we had some things on the car which needed some work and it's all coming together now. I can't wait for the next race where Petter and I are so determined to bounce back with the first win of the year for PSRX Volkswagen Sweden."

Result:

1	Mattias Ekström	3m59.345s
2	Sébastien Loeb	3m59.912s
3	Johan Kristoffersson	4m00.254s
4	Timmy Hansen	4m01.074s
5	Reinis Nitiss	4m01.935s
6	Petter Solberg	4m30.488s

Drivers' championship positions:

1	Ekström	58pts
2	Kristoffersson	44pts
3	Solberg	42pts
4	Hansen	33pts
5	Bakkerud	30pts
6	Scheider	28pts

Teams' championship positions:

1	PSRX Volkswagen Sweden	86pts
2	EKS	77pts
3	Team Peugeot-Hansen	59pts

Next time out World RX of Hockenheim (May 6-7)

It's back to a Formula 1 track for round three as World RX makes its first of two trips to Germany, this time to the world-renowned Hockenheimring (the second is to Estering at the end of September). Petter won at Hockenheim in 2015 and made the final last year, while Kristoffersson will be chasing his first final appearance at the south-west German circuit.

Want to know more?

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