

News release  
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## **Championship leader Solberg wins hearts, minds and points in Sweden**

All good runs come to an end. After finishing first or second at every round of the 2015 FIA World Rallycross Championship, Petter Solberg left the podium to his rivals in Sweden today. In front of a packed crowd of over 39,000 spectators at Höljes, the two-time FIA world champion maintained his record of qualifying for every single final in the series' history. It wasn't to be this time for Petter, but he still thrilled thousands of Swedes in his second-home race. The PSRX team packed up the party, cleared up the cans and made the short journey home to Torsby to prepare for a winning return in Canada.

Solberg said: "Both good news and not so good news from Höljes. Good news is that we extended the lead in the FIA World RX Championship by 9 points to our closest rival Johan Kristoffersson. We are now in the lead by 44 points and we are very happy with that. The main difference regarding the points score we have done this season compared to 2014 is that we have a much more steady score in the intermediate standings. So far this season we have four top spots and only given away two points in that category.

"Unfortunately we started the race on Saturday with some technical problems after setting a new lap record in the free practice. I couldn't get the starts right and had to make the best I could out of bad situations. Still I managed to save a fourth place after two heats.

"On Sunday we had sorted out the problems, and I managed to win both heats and grab 16 World Championship points. In the final the clutch was broken and I couldn't get the start right. So I chose to follow Mattias Ekström into the joker lap. The two of us started to chase the three cars in front and closed the gap pretty well. But in the fifth lap I cut one corner too hard and broke the steering arm. It was my own mistake and a calculated risk to try to reach the podium in a very difficult situation. I was not able to finish the race.

"I'm not happy with the result, but I'm more than happy to extend the championship lead. Next up is Canada where I won in 2014. I can't wait to go there to defend both the World RX Championship lead and last year's win."

### **The three-word weekend:**

No Swede dreams.

### **The big number:**

**118,675** that's (roughly) how many cans of Pripps BLA were consumed at Höljes last weekend. Hey, Petter-watching is thirsty work...

**Final result:**

1 Timmy Hansen	4m27.812s
2 Mattias Ekström	4m28.114s
3 Andreas Bakkerud	4m29.931s
4 Toomas Heikkinen	4m32.507s
5 Reinis Nitiss	4m38.087s
<b>6 Petter Solberg</b>	<b>DNF</b>

**Drivers' championship positions:**

<b>1 Petter Solberg</b>	<b>159pts</b>
2 Johan Kristoffersson	115pts
3 Andreas Bakkerud	113pts
4 Timmy Hansen	105pts
5 Reinis Nitiss	96pts
6 Davy Jeanney	88pts

**Teams' championship positions:**

1 Ford Olsbergs MSE	209pts
2 Peugeot-Hansen	193pts
<b>3 SDRX</b>	<b>182pts</b>

**Next time out** World RX of Canada August 07/08

Remember here last year? The Trois-Rivières race was a very special one for Petter Solberg. He won all but one of his qualifying heats and the semi and the final, becoming the first driver to win two World RX rounds. And, more importantly, it was the start of a hat-trick (France and Germany wins followed) of which took him to the verge of the title. Happy memories behind the wheel and in front of the bagel. The wood-fired Montreal bagel is a thing of wonder. As is the maple syrup and as for those lobster rolls... Canada here we come.

**Almost finally, an answer:**

ABBA has sold more than 300 million albums worldwide. And Petter has them all – you don't become a disco-dancing king without wiggling it to Waterloo.

**Finally, a question:**

What's Petter's favourite film on long-haul flights (the one he'll be watching on his way to Montreal in a few weeks)?

**Want to know more about your FIA World Rallycross Champion?**

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