

News release
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Nations Cup winners Solbergs run into an old French friend at Race of Champions

Having made history by becoming the first ever family to combine to win the Race of Champions Nations Cup on Saturday, there was more record re-writing for Oliver Solberg in his quarter-final race against Sébastien Loeb on Sunday.

After teaming up under the Norwegian flag for the opening day of competition in Pite Havsbad on Saturday (Oliver: "I'm Norwegian *and* Swedish...") father and son would go their own way and potentially race each other in the pursuit of the Champion of Champions title.

Sunday's Race of Champions element takes the world's finest drivers and pits them against each other in machinery ranging from buggies to some of the fastest all-electric race cars around.

Nine-time world champion and family friend Loeb ended any hopes of a father versus son quarter-final when he pipped Petter in the final corner of the previous round.

Instead, it would be teacher versus student as Oliver went head-to-head with Loeb, the man who taught him to drive on asphalt.

The Frenchman won race one, but the second race?

A draw. A draw to the *thousandth* of a second. History. Made. (*More*. History. Made.)

That's the first time that's happened in a quarter-final of the Race of Champions.

"That was cool," said Oliver. "Of course I wanted to beat him, but I struggled a little bit in the first race – there was definitely more grip than I thought there was. But the second race was so, so good. I was giving it everything.

"I loved it! And to draw with him... it's not so bad result after all. He's such a cool guy.

"Honestly, to be here competing in this event, I've had to keep pinching myself. Winning Nations Cup with my Dad yesterday was something special and then coming back and racing against these guys today has been... well, you know, it's just fantastic!

"I have to say a big thank you to Fredrik [Johnsson RoC president] and his team. He and his team faced some typically Swedish winter weather this weekend and they have dealt with it so well – this has been a fantastic event!"

Solberg Sr, three-time FIA world champion Petter, echoed those thoughts.

“It’s always a fantastic event,” said Petter. “It was so special for me to win yesterday with Oliver and it would have been nice to race against him today, but Sébastien got in the way a little bit!

“I was just a little bit too quick in that last corner, a little bit too much sideways and I lost. I don’t mind. I love this event and Loeb is something special. Like Oliver said, the organisers did a fantastic job like always, so thank you for that and thank you to all of the fans who came and stood and cheered us on even though it was minus 10 and snowing like hell.

“Let’s do it all again next year.”

No arguments here.

And anyway, there’s a Team Norway Nations Cup crown to be defended...