

PSRX Friday facts

FIA World Rallycross Championship Round 4
World RX of Finland: Kouvola
June 28-29

Petter's guide to Kouvola.

After the tight, technical and twisty track at home for me in Norway, we are going across the Baltic Sea to Finland next week, where the circuit is quite a lot faster.

Racing at home is always special and, while it would have been fantastic to win, we took a lot of points away from Norway and that's the main thing for us this year. Hell is a tough place and it became a hell of a tough place as the races progressed. There were a couple of quite big holes coming in the track and we decided to take the slower line to avoid them. Honestly, this year is all about staying out of trouble and picking up the points for me. Right now we're only three points off the top of the table; the objective next weekend is to make that gap event smaller – if not overturn it!

OK, I want to stay out of trouble, but standing on the second step on the podium for the silver medal in Norway made me really want to get on top and take gold next week in Finland!

I was quick in Kouvola last year, we were leading the race, and I want to finish that job this time. The speeds aren't quite as high as they were at Lydden Hill (on round two in Great Britain) but you do definitely carry good speed through the corners.

When we left Norway, we went straight back to the team base to rebuild the cars and then went to the track in Holjes for some testing with my team-mate Alexander [Hvaal]. Alex's speed is really coming with the car now – and the 200 kilometres we did on Tuesday will help him some more.

This sport is so competitive now. Last year we were looking at grids of around 14 or 16 cars, so you were almost guaranteed a semi-final place from the start, but now there are 38 cars and it's really close. And Finland will be no different next week.

Fortunately, before then I have the chance to take my mind off the racing a little bit – by watching Oliver's latest crosskart race in Denmark. I'm not sure which is harder, driving or standing at the side watching my son race. Actually, I do – it's watching my son race, I get so emotional about the whole thing. It's just fantastic.”

Circuit:

Length: 1.060km

Width: 12-18m

Tarmac: 58%

Dirt 42%
Website: rxfinland.fi

Timetable

Saturday June 28
1100 free practice
1330 heats

Sunday June 29
0900 warm-up/qualifying heats
1500 finals
1725 podium

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