

Mattighofen, April 6th 2011

RECORD NUMBER OF STARTERS FOR KTM: 35 X-BOW BATTLE RACERS AT THE SALZBURGRING

Who would have thought it? Whereas other one make series in Central Europe have continually struggled with diminishing numbers of participants, some of us even have to impose limits on numbers because the KTM X-BOW BATTLE, inaugurated last year is experiencing a real boom in terms of entries. There is even a “waiting list” for the first races on the Salzburgring (April 29-30) because the circuit homologation does not allow more than 35 cars on the grid!

At the moment, organizer Georg Silbermayr is to be envied – but then again, perhaps not. On the one hand he can hardly get away from those who want to be on the starting grid, and on the other, he doesn't want to upset anyone who will not be able to be at the Salzburgring. “At the moment it is really not easy. Naturally it is a kind of dream situation for any race organizer to be faced with a groundbreaking, packed grid but for the first races of the season we didn't calculate on having more than 35 cars, which is the specification of the motor sports officials. These are regulations that both the circuit management and the event management must adhere to. It's just that I don't really want to shut out anyone who had decided to compete in the entire season. But at the moment it looks like I may not be able to avoid this...”

So this has led to a waiting list, which is based on the date of receipt of the entry fee. In other words, the first to pay are the first to drive. What is certain is that there will be a lot of familiar faces in the three classes, who either raced regularly or from time to time last year: Jim Gebhardt, Raphael Sperrer, Marko Klein, Klaus Angerhofer, Hubert Trunkenpolz, Ernst Kirchmayr, Wolfgang Fritsch, Jürgen Pipp, Gerhard Trenker, Uwe Schmidt, Eyke Angermayr or Jakub Havrlant. With them there will be a whole lot of new faces spread across all classes: Christoph Schrezenmeier, Marcus Winkler, Pierre Lüdigkeit, Sebastian Grunert, Sehd Sarmini, Ondrej Bach, Marco Pezzutto, Klaus Hoflehner, Thomas Neugebauer, Daniel Ebner or Rudy Lemmens. To this can be added Reini Kofler, most probably Class 3 starter Pavel Heinik and with some luck even two participants from the UK – because they can still grab a seat.

What is interesting is that the field of starters is spread evenly across the three classes – “Unlimited”, “Pro-Am” and “Rookies” and this means there will be plenty of excitement and action across all of these classes. It only remains to be seen who the ominous “Bernie Silverstone” in the unlimited class might be! Organizer Georg Silbermayr, who last year was present in the double function as event organizer and driver under the pseudonym “Michel Vaillant” claims that he is innocent, “No idea,” he said. “Maybe the boys from Formula 1 finally want to start in a sensible race series?”