

Mattighofen/Brno, 10th October 2010

VICTORY FOR MARKO KLEIN & JIRI HEINIK IN BRNO, BUT: TITLE FOR JIM GEBHARDT AND KLAUS ANGERHOFER!

The last racing weekend of the KTM X-BOW Battle in Brno (Czech Republic) capped a sensational first season for the one make series of the Austrian super sports car. 22 starters came to the beautiful circuit, a short distance away from Brno, and once again proved the exceptional attractiveness of this amateur racing series. After a little 'glitch' regarding the weather – when the cool temperatures brought some rain on the Slovakiaring – there was once again glorious sunshine and on two wonderful autumn days participants from no less than five nations presented thrilling motorsport. It speaks for itself that the titles were only decided on this last racing weekend, in the case of the jointly scored Class 1 and 2 even during the very last race of Saturday afternoon. In the end the favourites prevailed: Jim Gebhart was successful in the open Class 3, Klaus Angerhofer won in the combined score. For KTM and the X-BOW Battle's organizer, Georg Silbermayr, the encouragement of the customers and participants, received over the entire first season, was the biggest compliment, because all of them were unanimously delighted. Numerically the success of the "Battle" is reflected in the championship, for which no less than approx. 60 (!) drivers have signed up. The last October weekend sees the celebration of this fact and the winners alike: On the 29th, 30th and 31st of October the KTM X-BOW Battle makes a special guest appearance (not scored) within the supporting programme of the DTM, where the annual winners will be honoured and the champions' celebration will take place. Incidentally none of the 32 seats for this race by invite on the Adria International Raceway (Italy) are available anymore!

1st Race KTM X-BOW Battle, Brno, 08th October 2010:

It came as it had to: The first leg on Friday saw the first real collision of the year 2010. Not least because the track in Brno, due to its width, allows several lanes and practically invites overtaking manoeuvres.... But one after the other: After a clean, flying start pole-setter Jiri Heinik lead the field into the first bend, behind him newcomers Marko Klein and August Eder lined up. The calm only lasted up to the second corner, where the X-BOW pilots proved that four cars next to each other do not fit into one and the same bend. This was realized by Raphael Sperrer, Ernst Kirchmayr and Pavel Heinik, especially bitter for the latter, who had planned great things on his home circuit and who was by far the fastest Class 2-pilot during training. Leg 1 seemingly was not the Heinik family's race, because after only one lap the leader at the time, Jiri Heinik, had to stop his X-BOW at the end of the start-finish straight – a defect on the left front wheel meant the early end. From there the race was more or less decided, Jim Gebhart won the title for himself and CCS-Racing prematurely, provided he finished the race in second place, which he managed without problems. In front of him and behind him the debutants Marko Klein and August Eder respectively brought a breath of fresh air. Klein drove his Zawotec-X-BOW to victory in his very first race. Eder, who in 2009 decided the GT4 European Cup for himself, was happy with third place.

Behind this there were already the first Class-2 starters: Klaus Angerhofer was, despite a moment of shock in the second bend's turmoil, confidently on his way and prevailed strongly before guest starter Roger Green. Sixth place went to the first Class-1 starter, and like so often he answered to the name Michel Vaillant. Georg Silbermayrs Alter Ego kept all his chances for the title battling with his favourite rival, Klaus Angerhofer. Very shortly afterwards Jürgen Pipp (Class 3) crossed the finish line, while Andrej Dziacky missed his big goal to beat Michel Vaillant in order to win Class 1 by 3,5 seconds, coming in eighth. KTM-chairman Hubert Trunkenpolz battled with Green and Vaillant for a long time, but fell behind after spinning and reached ninth place, before the Styrian Gerald Hierzer, who drove in his very first circuit race and who delivered, with tenth place, a real show of talent, in front of 'regular' Uwe Schmidt. Further placing: Jan Ondrak, a Czech newcomer, in twelfth place, Eyke Angermayr thirteenth and Wolfgang Fritsch fourteenth. Fifteenth place went to Harduin Putrich on his debut in the 'Battle', he, right up to the end delivered a thrilling fight with Hubert Schmalnauer, which he could decide for himself. Werner Langer completed the field of the classifieds in position seventeen. The aforementioned Jiri and Pavel Heinik, as well as Raphael Sperrer and Ernst Kirchmayr were not ranked. Also not finished: Gerhard Trenker, who already managed to drive up into fifth place, but had to retire early after spinning out of control.

2nd Race KTM X-BOW Battle, Brno, 09th October 2010:

After much excitement during the first leg (and a lavish barbecue party on Friday night) the second race was awaited with great anticipation, especially since this was all about the combined Class 1 and Class 2 title. Raphael Sperrer had already positioned his 'Gendarmerie-X-BOW' in pole, but after his disappointment in the first race Jiri Heinik did not hesitate for long and already took the lead in the starting phase from the Upper Austrian. Behind the duo Jim Gebhard, Marko Klein and August Eder came together and entertained for their part with regularly changing positions. Unfortunately the brakes on Jim Gebhard's new car left him in the lurch during the race, on Eder's car, however, it was the gearbox that would not allow third or fourth gear. This was the end for Eder, while Gebhart fell behind, but still managed to cross the finish line. So the overall score result was Jiri Heinik before Raphael Sperrer and Marko Klein (all Class 3). The total family triumph was completed by Jiri's son Pavel, who fulfilled his role as local hero in the end and managed to get an overall fourth place as well as the victory in Class 2. Fifth in the race and deserved champion was, after a great fight with Plus-City manager Ernst Kirchmayr (sixth place) and Jürgen Pipp (seventh), the Upper Austrian Klaus Angerhofer. Behind the eighth-placed Jim Gebhart Roger Green completed his great weekend as guest starter with another top position, behind him Andrej Dziacky was finally able to cheer about his first victory in Class 1, leaving behind Gerhard Trenker and especially his direct rival Michel Vaillant. The result of this second race was completed by Uwe Schmid, Eyke Angermayr, Jan Ondrak, Hubert Schmalnauer and Werner Langer.

Voices after the race:

Marko Klein: „That was a great debut. To be honest I didn't think that we would be so far at the front and manage to keep up with the established pilots of the KTM X-BOW Battle. All the more we are really happy about this. Basically I and our team Zawotec like being at the Battle extremely well. The entire environment is great, the organisation is professional and all the people are very nice, there's a friendly family atmosphere in the drivers' camp. We definitely want to take part next year, with a car for myself and ideally a few cars for the customers. But this year there's still the race on the Adria Raceway, which I'm really looking forward to. To start at the DTM certainly is a unique and great opportunity!“

Jim Gebhart: „What can I say? Off course I'm pleased winning the title for myself and the entire CCS-Racing team. Unfortunately our new car encountered problems with the brakes during the second race; otherwise it would have been a pretty close-run thing once again. We're generally very happy with this X-BOW Battle that KTM has managed to put together. A great racing series with a great atmosphere during the events, we're already looking forward to next year!“

Klaus Angerhofer: „I am delighted that it all worked out in the end. This was a fierce battle with Ernst Kirchmayer today. A big „Thank you!“ to him and also to all other drivers for the fact, that everything was so fair. I needed the second place and this I managed to achieve...There's no beating Pavel Heinik; he's simply too strong on his home circuit. I pity this Michel Vaillant. He was simply too slow today! No, seriously, I congratulate Georg, who also had a great season. Now I'm looking forward to the big finale in Adria and the end-of-season party. We already had a practice run for that yesterday!“

Georg Silbermayr: „I thank all KTM X-BOW Battle's participants and KTM. I cannot say much more than this. We are overwhelmed and happy. I'd have never thought that our concept would already have such an impact in its first year. A good 60 different participants in one year, fair racing on a high level, even though almost all pilots are amateurs, and a great atmosphere in the drivers' camp – you can't ask for more than that. Within the course of our appearance at the DTM in Italy we'll be announcing the first details regarding the rules and the events next year. 2011 is approaching very fast!“

Hubert Trunkenpolz: „My thanks and compliments to Georg Silbermayr and his team. What was put together here in the shortest of times is truly impressive. Above all the concept and the realization of the KTM X-BOW Battle embody exactly the brand contents of KTM: Ready to Race and KTM Family – these are no empty keywords, but, just like with the bikes, are really applied. The fun racing together and the enthusiasm for the unique product X-BOW are at the forefront. We are now finalizing our plans for 2011 and after our guest appearance at the DTM we start into the new season – full throttle!“

The results KTM X-BOW Battle, Brno:

1st Race, 08th October 2010:

1. Marko Klein, AT, (Class 3) 25:09.875 Minutes*
2. Jim Gebhardt, DE, (Class 3) + 8.226 Seconds
3. August Eder, AT, (Class 3) + 14.492
4. Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 19.564*
5. Roger Green, GB, (Class 2) + 51.762
6. Michel Vaillant, AT, (Class 1) + 54.056*
7. Jürgen Pipp, DE, (Class 3) + 54.378
8. Dr. Andrej Dziacky, SK, (Class 1) + 57.567
9. Hubert Trunkenpolz, AT, (Class 2) + 1:13.039
10. Gerald Hierzer, AT, (Class 2) + 1:28.819
11. Uwe Schmid, DE, (Class 2) + 1:41.006
12. Jan Ondrak, CZ, (Class 1) + 1:43.683
13. Eyke Angermayr, AT, (Class 2) + 1:47.635
14. Wolfgang Fritsch, DE, (Class 3) + 1:48.618
15. Harduin Putrich, AT, (Class 1) + 2:08.211
16. Hubert Schmalnauer, AT, (Class 1) + 2:08.491
17. Werner Langer, AT, (Class 1) + 1 Lap

2nd Race, 09th October 2010:

1. Jiri Heinik, CZ, (Class 3) 27:07.684 Minutes*
2. Raphael Sperrer, AT, (Class 3) + 5.242 Seconds
3. Marko Klein, AT, (Class 3) + 13.578
4. Pavel Heinik, CZ, (Class 2) + 23.739*
5. Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 39.101
6. Ernst Kirchmayr, AT, (Class 2) + 39.390
7. Jürgen Pipp, DE, (Class 3) + 47.122
8. Jim Gebhardt, DE, (Class 3) + 48.441
9. Roger Green, GB, (Class 2) + 1:10.507 Minutes
10. Dr. Andrej Dziacky, SK, (Class 1) + 1:12.460
11. Gerhard Trenker, AT, (Class 3) + 1:13.216
12. Michel Vaillant, AT, (Class 1) + 1:17.473
13. Gerald Hierzer, AT, (Class 2) + 1:28.764
14. Uwe Schmid, DE, (Class 2) + 2:00.689
15. Eyke Angermayr, AT, (Class 2) + 2:11.045
16. Jan Ondrak, CZ, (Class 1) + 1 Lap
17. Hubert Schmalnauer, AT, (Class 1) + 1
18. Werner Langer, AT, (Class 1) + 1

*) each class winners

Scores KTM X-BOW Battle, final scores:

Class 1:

1. „Michel Vaillant“, 103 points
2. Dr. Andrej Dziacky, 32
3. Markus Lungstrass, 20
3. Jakub Havrlant, 20
5. Peter Gögler, 18
6. Horst von Saurma, 16
7. Pavel Heinik, 16
8. Ernst Kirchmayr, 14
8. Tomas Miniberger, 14
8. Thomas Franz, 14
11. Ingo Hartmann, 13
12. Hubert Schmalnauer, 13
13. Manfred Wolf, 12
13. Jan Ondrak, 12
15. Eyke Angermayr, 11

Class 2:

1. Klaus Angerhofer, 109 points
2. Ernst Kirchmayr, 52
3. Pavel Heinik, 49
4. Hubert Trunkenpolz, 47
5. Uwe Schmidt, 40
6. Gerald Kiska, 16
7. Roger Green, 13
8. Athanasios Ladas, 12
8. Reiner Kuhn, 12
8. Christian Kerbler, 12
11. Eyke Angermayr, 11
12. Martin Westerhoff, 10
13. Marcel Schoonhoven, 9
13. Siegfried Käser, 9
13. Gerald Hierzer, 9

Class 3:

1. Jim Gebhart, 90 points
2. Jiri Heinik, 84
3. Gerhard Trenker, 45
3. Jürgen Pipp, 45
5. Wolfgang Fritsch, 33
6. Raphael Sperrer, 22
7. Marko Klein, 17
8. Ferdinand Madrian, 11
9. Martin Jansa, 7
10. August Eder, 6