

Mattighofen/Hockenheim, 04th July 2010

RECORD STARTER FIELD IN THE KTM X-BOW BATTLE: 22 PILOTS DELIVERED GREAT RACES IN HOCKENHEIM!

22 KTM X-BOW pilots – this is how many drivers took on leg seven and eight of the KTM X-BOW Battle in Hockenheim. A new record for the racing series with the open super sports car from Austria, a series which has only come into existence this year, but which has already created a stir among the dedicated amateur racing drivers in the European circuit scene. The entire potential of this unique one make series becomes apparent when one takes a glance at the scores: No less than 40 drivers are already registered! The organiser Georg Silbermayr is accordingly optimistic, not only with regard to the two remaining events on the Slovakiaring and in Brno, but also for 2011: „We are already preparing the way for 2011. After one year there are certainly suggestions for improvements and many ideas, which we want to implement for the coming year. The participants' feedback is altogether practically euphoric, which makes us very happy and motivates us immensely at the same time!“

1st Race KTM X-BOW Battle, Hockenheimring, 2nd July 2010:

The „established“ X-BOW pilots could just stand and stare: The Austrian „rookie“ Raphael Sperrer managed the fastest time during the training and snatched the pole position from dominator Jim Gebhart. The fast guy from Charm was finally to be found near Sperrer's car: „I'm searching for half a second“, he puzzled faced with this year's first defeat during qualifying. However, the well-known pecking order was re-established during the race. Sperrer produced a false start („I didn't know that I was only allowed to accelerate from the white line, a circuit beginner's mistake“, he said after the finish) and was awarded a drive-through penalty, whereby Gebhart could celebrate an uncontested victory. Sperrer meanwhile ploughed through the field from twelfth place and came third, merely the fast Czech Jiri Heinik was out of reach for him. Behind this Klaus Angerhofer managed to keep the upper hand in the battle with „Michel Vaillant“, finished fourth and won in Class 2, while „Vaillant“ managed the same in Class 1. Behind that Jürgen Pipp and Gerhard Trenker, who fought the great old battle Austria versus Germany. Wolfgang Fritsch came in eighth place, the German constantly improving, and drove a pretty fast race on the Hockenheimring. KTM-chairman Hubert Trunkenpolz was not happy with his race, even though ninth place in such a strong field was still very good. Behind him Uwe Schmidt on position ten, on positions eleven, twelve and 13 the „Battle rookies“ Georg Zoltan, Thomas Franz and Marcel Schoonhoven. Pavel Heinik struggled with an overheating car and fourteenth place. KTM service partner Erik Helfferich from the Netherlands was in fifteenth position the last to cross the finish line and saw the chequered flag in the same lap as overall winner Jim Gebhart. One lap behind Eyke Angermayr, Ruud de Jong and Josef Rumpf finished their race, all of them with their debut in the „Battle“. Actor and presenter Carsten Spengemann had a lot of fun, but also a lot of bad luck, he coasted to a stop in the very last lap and the final corner due to a faulty intercooler. Apart from that the heat did not claim too many victims from the X-BOWs' field, only Martin Jansa and Pierre Lüdigkeit had to finish prematurely next to Spengemann and therefore were placed behind Prince Michael of Anhalt, who approached his debut very carefully, but continued broadening his experience.

2nd Race KTM X-BOW Battle, Hockenheimring, 3rd July 2010:

While the duels on the challenging Hockenheimring were a bit rare during the first race the gloves were finally off in the second race. There were fights from the first to the very last position, using everything material and conditions could offer. Ultimately the Saturday was hotter than the Friday and the thermometer climbed to an unbelievable 37 degrees centigrade. Rally ace Raphael Sperrer proved once more his talent as circuit racer, avoided any mistakes and remained – after falling back from pole position into second place behind Gebhart – behind the German. Especially during the last laps he placed Gebhart under enormous pressure, placed himself next to him twice, but fell behind at the last moment and had to be content with second place. Jiri Heinik came third, he nearly was beset by Klaus Angerhofer, who drove a sensational race and in fourth place was overwhelming winner in Class 2. Gerhard Trenker improved significantly and gave his best performance since his first race on the Salzburgring, which bought him fifth place before Jürgen Pipp and the strong newcomer Pierre Lüdigkeit. Hubert Trunkenpolz, too, was happier with his second race, in a spectacular battle with Pipp, Lüdigkeit and „Michel Vaillant“ he managed to keep up with the Class 3 pilots for a long time and at the end even left the extremely fast „Vaillant“ and Pavel Heinik behind, whereby the latter still struggled a little with loss of performance. Places eleven to fifteen went to Uwe Schmidt, Martin Jansa, Thomas Franz, Erik Helfferich and Marcel Schoonhoven. Carsten Spengemann was away with this very Flying Dutchman team, spun during the hard fight and started a great race to catch up, which landed him a sixteenth place. The field was rounded off by Ruud de Jong, Eyke Angermayr, Josef Ruml and Prince Michael von Anhalt, who improved his lap time between the first and the second race by seven seconds and, thrilled by his success, bought a KTM X-BOW there and then!

Voices after the Race:

Raphael Sperrer: „I'm very satisfied with the result, I was close to Jim, but I didn't manage to get past him. But that's no shame, ultimately Jim regularly calls the shots in the X-BOW Battle. I won't become a circuit racer now, still the races were a location decision for me. The result makes me very happy and I know now that I haven't become rusty just yet.“

Erik Helfferich: „This was my first time taking part – but certainly not the last. The races are the ultimate thrill, it was so much fun, I cannot describe it, you have to experience this for yourself. It's great that this time several pilots from Holland were at the start, and they'll certainly be back!“

Carsten Spengemann: „I have driven many different race cars, in the VLN and the 24 Hours on the Nürburgring. But what your engineers have created is simply sensational. I have never driven a car that was so much fun and that can be driven in such an exact manner. You can't get closer to a formula racing car than this, it's faster than most of the Porsche, the missing roof gives a crazy racing feeling – and all this at a fraction of the costs to be paid for other, sometimes more boring racing series. The idea, the concept and the implementation are simply great and especially the mood in the drivers' paddock and among the participants is superb. If my diary allows me I'd love to take part in the entire KTM X-BOW Battle next year“

Hubert Trunkenpolz: „That was a tiring weekend. The 37 degrees centigrade outside temperature make it really hard, still the driving is great fun. During the first race everything was pulled apart a little, but during the second race we had great battles again in the entire field. The 22-strong starter field, I believe, speaks for itself and confirms the enormous success that we are having with the KTM X-BOW Battle during its first year of existence. Even more impressive is a look onto the points table, on which no less than 40 different drivers have registered. All drivers can be sure that we are already putting all our efforts into the KTM-X-BOW Battle 2011 to make this ideal activity even more attractive to all X-BOW owners!“

The Results KTM X-BOW Battle, Hockenheimring:

1st Race, 2nd July 2010:

1. *Jim Gebhart, DE, (Class 3) 25:08,334 Minutes**
2. Jiri Heinik, CZ, (Class 3) + 8.757 Seconds
3. Raphael Sperrer, AT, (Class 3) + 25.034
4. *Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 28.741**
5. *Michel Vaillant, AT, (Class 1) + 31.828**
6. Jürgen Pipp, DE, (Class 3) + 1:06.287
7. Gerhard Trenker, AT, (Class 3) + 1:06.587
8. Wolfgang Fritsch, DE, (Class 3) + 1:16.792
9. Hubert Trunkenpolz, AT, (Class 2) + 1:17.070
10. Uwe Schmidt, DE, (Class 2) + 1:20.386
11. Georg Zoltan, AT, (Class 1) + 1:27.618
12. Thomas Franz, AT, (Class 1) + 1:35.226
13. Marcel Schoonhoven, NL, (Class 2) + 1:43.217
14. Pavel Heinik, CZ, (Class 2) + 2:16.554
15. Erik Helfferich, NL, (Class 3) + 1 Lap
16. Eyke Angermayr, AT, (Class 1) + 1
17. Ruud De Jong, NL, (Class 2) + 1
18. Josef Rumpl, AT, (Class 1) + 1
19. Carsten Spengemann, DE, (Class 2) + 2
20. Prinz Michael von Anhalt, DE, (Class 1) + 2
21. Martin Jansa, CZ, (Class 3) 8 + 11
22. Pierre Lüdigkeit, DE, (Class 3) DNF

2nd Race, 3rd July 2010:

1. *Jim Gebhart, DE, (Class 3) 25:08.016 Minutes*
2. Raphael Sperrer, AT, (Class 3) + 0.302 Seconds
3. Jiri Heinik, CZ, (Class 3) + 30.423
4. *Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 39.242*
5. Gerhard Trenker, AT, (Class 3) + 56.324
6. Jürgen Pipp, DE, (Class 3) + 1:03.008 Minutes
7. Pierre Lüdigkeit, DE, (Class 3) + 1:04.427
8. Hubert Trunkenpolz, AT, (Class 2) + 1:05.490
9. *Michel Vaillant, AT, (Class 1) + 1:06.493*
10. Pavel Heinik, CZ, (Class 2) + 1:06.585
11. Uwe Schmidt, DE, (Class 2) + 1:14.612
12. Martin Jansa, CZ, (Class 3) + 1:26.733
13. Thomas Franz, DE, (Class 1) + 1:40.021
14. Erik Helfferich, NL, (Class 3) + 1:40.370
15. Marcel Schoonhoven, NL, (Class 2) + 1:57.540
16. Carsten Spengemann, DE, (Class 2) + 1 Lap
17. Ruud De Jong, NL, (Class 2) + 1
18. Eyke Angermayr, AT, (Class 1) + 1
19. Josef Rumpl, AT, (Class 1) + 1
20. Prinz Michael von Anhalt, DE, (Class 1) + 2

*) *respective class winners*

Points KTM X-BOW Battle, after 8 of 12 Races:

Class 1*:

**) Class 1 and 2 will be scored together at the end of the year!*

1. „Michel Vaillant“, 78 Points
2. Jakub Havrlant, 17
3. Horst von Saurma, 16
3. Pavel Heinik, 16
5. Ernst Kirchmayr, 14
5. Tomas Miniberger, 14
5. Thomas Franz, 14
8. Manfred Wolf, 12
9. Franz Sauer, 11
9. Eyke Angermayr, 11
11. Peter Gögler, 10
12. Marcus Winkler, 9
12. Josef Rumpl, 9
14. Georg Zoltan, 8
15. Prinz Michael von Anhalt, 7
16. Christian Burgstaller, 6
17. Christian Steiner, 4

Class 2*:

**) Class 1 and 2 will be scored together at the end of the year!*

1. Klaus Angerhofer, 76 Points
2. Hubert Trunkenpolz, 36
3. Ernst Kirchmayr, 34
4. Uwe Schmidt, 27
5. Pavel Heinik, 21
6. Gerald Kiska, 16
7. Athanasios Ladas, 12
7. Reiner Kuhn, 12
9. Martin Westerhoff, 10
10. Marcel Schoonhoven, 9
10. Siegfried Käser, 9
12. Hans Knauss, 8
13. Ruud de Jong, 5
13. Carsten Spengemann, 5

Class 3:

1. Jim Gebhardt, 68 Points
2. Jiri Heinik, 58
3. Jürgen Pipp, 35
4. Wolfgang Fritsch, 29
5. Gerhard Trenker, 26
6. Raphael Sperrer, 14
7. Martin Jansa, 7
8. Andreas Kitzerow, 5
9. Erik Helfferich, 3
10. Pierre Lüdigkeit, 3