

Mattighofen/Orechová Potôň, 11th of September 2010

THE KTM X-BOW BATTLE ON THE SLOVAKIARING: DESPITE RAIN 21 PILOTS PRESENTED GRIPPING RACES!

The record for the most participants, established during the last leg of the KTM X-BOW Battle on the Hockenheimring – where 22 pilots were at the start – was nearly broken. Unfortunately four drivers had to cancel due to professional reasons. Still, no less than 21 pilots took up the battle against the Slovakiaring. It proved to be absolutely good and right to extend the time frame for the ‚free driving‘ to two and a half hours. The new track, 35 kilometres south-east of Bratislava (Slovakia) presented itself as an enormously difficult mixture of ultra-fast bends, long straights, technically challenging slower sections and crests demanding quite a bit of courage. The underfloors unscrewed at the Slovakiaring added up to more than all those dismantled during the four preceding races together – the gravel from the gravel traps was extracted by the kilo from each X-BOW in turn. The fact that the first qualifying was accompanied by constant drizzle caused many pilots stress lines. Battle organizer Georg Silbermayr remained optimistic: „The guys will make it, even though I have to say that the track is really difficult and very challenging.“ The man in charge of motor sports at KTM was correct – apart from a few spins both races remained accident free!

1st Race KTM X-BOW Battle, Slovakiaring, 11th September 2010:

Both races were held on the Sunday – and both started as a ‚wet race‘. Even though the rain abated shortly before the first race started, the track was constantly wet. A huge challenge for the amateur racers, who - so far this year - have not been able/did not have to train, qualify or race in rainy conditions. Just like in Hockenheim KTM service partner Raphael Sperrer called the shots. He arrived in Slovakia with an improved version of his X-BOW and managed to distance himself from the series' winner Jim Gebhardt by nearly two seconds. But his chance of victory in his first and only race (Sperrer had not planned for the second race, since he had to leave early) was buried, since the ex-rallye star fitted wet tyres, which were not compliant to rules. And so the Upper Austrian managed a runaway victory, but was taken from the score board, which made Jim Gebhardt from team CCS-Racing the true overall and Class-3 winner. Behind him the actual sensation of the race in the shape of Markus Lungstrass. The former Alfa-Cup double winner and present-day racing instructor positively ‚walked across water‘ and drove his Class-1 X-BOW into a sensational second position! The third place and with it victory in Class 2 went to an old acquaintance: Klaus Angerhofer managed to hold fast approaching Pavel Heinik at bay by three tenths of a second and managed to extend his lead in the overall rankings. Guest starter Christian Kerbler also had a sensational race and managed to drive his Class 2 X-BOW across the finish line even before Gebhardt's main rival Jiri Heinik. Seventh place was for Gerhard Trenker, eighth was another ‚newcomer‘: Dr. Andrej Dziacky, the only real local hero flying the flag for Slovakia had borrowed a Class 1 X-BOW ‚just to try it‘ and sensationally managed to come in second of his class. KTM-chairman Hubert Trunkenpolz, weakened by a bout of flu, fought his way to ninth place, Peter Gögler was tenth. Great performances by two rookies: Ingo Hartmann, who gained his racing experience with the Fun-Cup, came in eleventh, Erwin Frieszl, normally taking part in the KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY, landed - as youngest participant (22 years old) - in twelfth position on his first circuit race in the KTM X-BOW. Bad luck for the fourth-placed in the starting line-up, Ernst Kirchmayr: Due to a spin in the first bend he lost many places and only landed on position thirteen, in front of a surprisingly slow ‚Michel Vaillant‘. The further order: 15th place for Uwe Schmidt, 16th for Eyke Angermayr, 17th for Jakub Havralant, who arrived on Saturday night at short notice and had to start his race from the last position. The scores were completed by the newcomers Hubert Schmalnauer, Ferdinand Madrian and Erich Graf, who, thanks to the weather conditions, certainly did

not have it easy on their premiere at the X-BOW Battle. The fact that each one of them managed it to the finish speaks for the quality of the pilots as well as for the quality of the X-BOW

2nd Race KTM X-BOW Battle, Slovakiaring, 11. September 2010:

The pole position in the second race should have gone to Jim Gebhardt – but the fast man from Cham had to depart early. And so Ernst Kirchmayr opened the second race of the weekend, the tenth race in the KTM X-BOW Battle this year. The conditions, compared to the first race, had worsened, the rain was stronger and especially the ultra-fast start-/finish-line was awash with water. First ‘victim’ of these circumstances was Christian Kerbler after his flying start. He spun in the first bend and wasted his chance of a far better positioning. Neither could Ernst Kirchmayr maintain his leading position and was overtaken by Jiri Heinik. ‚Man of the Race‘ was – once again – Markus Lungstrass: The German made use of his qualities in the rain and soon found himself – coming from ninth starting place – in second position, from where he started his major offensive on the leader Heinik two laps before the end. With success: In the very last lap he cleverly used the traffic to lap and overtook the until then leading Czech on the outside (!) and so celebrated a sensational victory – in a Class 1 X-BOW! Jiri Heinik was rattled so much by this that he fell back to fourteenth place after an unlucky braking manoeuvre and a visit to the gravel trap just a few corners before the finish. The ‘family honour’ was saved by Heinik’s son Pavel, who was a great second-placed in his Class 2 X-BOW, before – would you believe it - newcomer Ingo Hartmann, who felt more than comfortable in the wet conditions. Behind the fourth placed Ernst Kirchmayr Dr. Andrej Dziacky confirmed his great performance from the first race by coming fifth. Sixth place went to the youngster Erwin Frieszl, who managed to wrestle Christian Kerbler in a thrilling duel. Michel Vaillant managed better in his second race and came in eighth, Gerhard Trenker won in Class 3 and was ninth, Klaus Angerhofer - after a spectacular high speed spin - was ‚only‘ tenth. Hubert Schmalnauer bettered himself and took eleventh place, Eyke Angermayr twelfth. Peter Gögler, Jiri Heinik, Uwe Schmidt, Jakub Havralant, Ferdinand Madrian and Erich Graf completed the field. After the race Georg Silbermayr summed up what many thought: „Congratulations to all participants and respect to everyone. It was extremely difficult today. I have seen quite a bit, but today was especially hard. The fact that everyone came through accident free shows real class as far as driving is concerned!“

Voices after the race:

Markus Lungstrass: „I don't know what to say. My congratulations go to the organizers and the drivers of this racing series. Not only are they all treating each other fairly, with a great atmosphere in the paddock, they also know how to really put their foot down! It was great fun to take part. The X-BOW is great to drive, a real racing car, fast and at the same time exact and sensitive. It was a real pleasure and I hope to be taking part again soon. The races themselves were thrilling, especially in the second race I had to fight, Jiri Heinik drove really well. All the more I'm sorry that he went out so short off the finish. I seem to be good at driving in the rain. I think everybody has seen that today...“

Pavel Heinik: „After my bad result during the qualifying I spent all night refining the set-up. This has paid off and it went really well today. It was terribly difficult in the rain and I have no explanation for the fact that Markus (Lungstrass, note) was able to drive so fast in the second race, he must be mad. My father was unlucky, but now we're looking forward to Brno. That's my home track, on which I have been racing many times, so I'm expecting quite a lot.“

Ingo Hartmann: „Well, what can I say? It simply went really well today, especially in the second race. I already have some racing experience, since I have taken part in the Fun-Cup. The races there may be decidedly longer – but this is definitely more fun! I'm sure that this is not the last time I am taking part in the X-BOW Battle. Perhaps we'll see each other in Brno!“

Georg Silbermayr: „Like I already said, you can only salute the players here. The Slovakiaring is already an extremely challenging track when dry; in the rain it is really difficult. I expect a record participation in Brno. We've already had 50 different participants during five racing weekends, which is quite impressive. And the interest increases every time, we're getting more and more inquiries. This shows that we are on the right track. In Brno we will announce details regarding the rules and racing calendar for the 2011 season. I just hope that it'll be dry then, because it's so much more fun - and all classes await exciting decisions regarding the championship!“

The Results KTM X-BOW Battle, Slovakiaring:

1st Race, 11th September 2010:

1. Jim Gebhardt, DE, (Class 3) 20:56,380 Minutes*
2. Markus Lungstrass, DE, (Class 1) + 18.742 Seconds*
3. Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 36.323*
4. Pavel Heinik, CZ, (Class 2) + 43.178
5. Christian Kerbler, AT, (Class 2) + 43.439
6. Jiri Heinik, CZ, (Class 3) + 1:04.718 Minutes
7. Gerhard Trenker, AT, (Class 3) + 1:05.104
8. Dr. Andrej Dziacky, SK, (Class 1) + 1:07.893
9. Hubert Trunkenpolz, AT, (Class 2) + 1:29.045
10. Peter Gögler, DE, (Class 1) + 1:54.002
11. Ingo Hartmann, DE, (Class 1) + 1:54.289
12. Erwin Friszl, AT, (Class 1) + 1:57.079
13. Ernst Kirchmayr, AT, (Class 2) + 1:59.714
14. Michel Vaillant, AT, (Class 1) + 2:07.506
15. Uwe Schmidt, DE, (Class 2) + 2:16.488
16. Eyke Angermayr, AT, (Class 2) + 2:29.630
17. Jakub Havralant, CZ, (Class 1) + 2:55.490
18. Hubert Schmalnauer, AT, (Class 1) + 2:59.649
19. Ferdinand Madrian, AT, (Class 3) + 3:01.738
20. Erich Graf, AT, (Class 1) + 1 Lap

2nd Race, 11th September 2010:

1. Markus Lungstrass, DE, (Class 1) 19:23.372 Minutes*
2. Pavel Heinik, CZ, (Class 2) + 21.835 Seconds*
3. Ingo Hartmann, DE, (Class 1) + 23.890
4. Ernst Kirchmayr, AT, (Class 2) + 32.338
5. Dr. Andrej Dziacky, SK, (Class 1) + 52.292
6. Erwin Friszl, AT, (Class 1) + 54.091
7. Christian Kerbler, AT, (Class 2) + 58.695
8. Michel Vaillant, AT, (Class 1) + 1:18.696
9. Gerhard Trenker, AT, (Class 3) + 1:34.449*
10. Klaus Angerhofer, AT, (Class 2) + 1:35.654
11. Hubert Schmalnauer, AT, (Class 1) + 2:41.522
12. Eyke Angermayr, AT, (Class 2) + 2:42.926
13. Peter Gögler, DE, (Class 1) + 3:05.967
14. Jiri Heinik, CZ, (Class 3) + 1 Lap
15. Uwe Schmidt, DE, (Class 2) + 1
16. Jakub Havralant, CZ, (Class 1) + 1
17. Ferdinand Madrian, AT, (Class 3) + 1
18. Erich Graf, AT, (Class 1) + 1

*) Class winner respectively

Scores KTM X-BOW Battle, after 10 of 12 Races:

Class 1*:

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

1. „Michel Vaillant“, 85 Points
2. Jakub Havrlant, 20
2. Markus Lungstrass, 20
4. Peter Gögler, 18
5. Horst von Saurma, 16
5. Pavel Heinik, 16
7. Ernst Kirchmayr, 14
7. Tomas Miniberger, 14
7. Thomas Franz, 14
7. Dr. Andrej Dziacky, 14
11. Ingo Hartmann, 13
12. Manfred Wolf, 12
13. Franz Sauer, 11
13. Eyke Angermayr, 11
15. Marcus Winkler, 9

Class 2*:

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

1. Klaus Angerhofer, 91 Points
2. Ernst Kirchmayr, 46
3. Hubert Trunkenpolz, 41
4. Pavel Heinik, 39
5. Uwe Schmidt, 33
6. Gerald Kiska, 16
7. Athanasios Ladas, 12
7. Reiner Kuhn, 12
7. Christian Kerbler, 12
10. Martin Westerhoff, 10
11. Marcel Schoonhoven, 9
12. Siegfried Käser, 9
13. Hans Knauss, 8
14. Eyke Angermayr, 6
15. Ruud de Jong, 5

Class 3:

1. Jim Gebhart, 78 Points
2. Jiri Heinik, 74
3. Gerhard Trenker, 42
4. Jürgen Pipp, 35
5. Wolfgang Fritsch, 29
6. Raphael Sperrer, 14
7. Ferdinand Madrian, 11
8. Martin Jansa, 7
9. Andreas Kitzerow, 5
10. Erik Helfferich, 3