

Mattighofen/Verzegnis, 15th June 2010

3RD LEG OF THE KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY IN ITALY: OLD HAND ROSENBERGER WINS IN VERZEGNIS!

For the first time this season the path of the KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY lead to our nearby foreign neighbours, last weekend the race took place in Verzegnis. In a tributary valley, half-way between Tarvis and Udine the road climbs up six kilometres to the „Sella Chianzutan“, up to 896 metres above sea level. After the first two training runs it was already clear that the track was difficult and technically challenging. Top speeds of up to 200 km/h, many turns and ridges, blind spots, walls and rocks did not leave any margin for errors - which were not made by any of the ten starters in the KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY.

And so there was a complete starting field on the day of the race, which welcomed the drivers with the best of outside conditions: Glorious sunshine, pleasant temperatures and - corresponding to this - many fans in the drivers' paddock and on the side of the track, which stretched itself idyllically through three mountain villages. However, the idyll was quickly forgotten during the two races. As ever the KTM X-BOW pilots fought a determined battle for the victory of the day.

Due to the difficult track the experienced pilots had the advantage: Old hand Kris Rosenberger, who decided on his start in Italy spontaneously, could not even be defeated by hill pro Herbert Pregartner: The man from Lower Austria won with a four second lead before Pregartner and the very fast Günter Zanker, who in turn asserted himself narrowly before guest starter Luka Bravec. Especially in the second race the Slovenian gave a great performance: If Rosenberger, with 3:08,73 (average speed 107,39 km/h!), managed to get the fastest time of the day, Bravec, who normally drives in the Renault Clio Cup Alpe Adria achieved 3:10,74 after the usual adjustment period!

Only Günter Zanker was faster in the second race, who, thanks to his top time (3:10:58) managed to climb from fourth up to third place. However, the weekend's unlucky fellow was Gerald Hierzer, who, up to the leg in Verzegnis, had the overall lead in the KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY: While he was in fifth place after the first race he hit an oil patch in a hairpin bend, turned and hit a massive Italian stone wall in slow motion – just hard enough to break off the triangular control arm. Thus Hierzer could not finish his race and therefore lost his overall lead to Günther Zanker.

The general observation was that despite the long track the time intervals remained small: Erwin Frieszl, Christan Nöst, series sponsor Sebastian Jakl, organizer Dominik Olbert and Alfred Sommerbauer also drove well with superb times during the racing weekend – one may already look forward to the next races after the summer break!

Results KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY, 3rd Leg, Verzeichnis:

1. Kris Rosenberger, AT, 6:17,11 Minutes
2. Herbert Pregartner, AT, 6:21,98*
3. Günter Zanker, AT, 6:24,68
4. Luka Bravec, SI, 6:26,94
5. Erwin Frieszl, AT, 6:28,05
6. Christian Nöst, AT, 6:30,69
7. Sebastian Jakl, SI, 6:35,80
8. Dominik Olbert, AT, 6:40,17*
9. Alfred Sommerbauer, AT, 6:42,89
10. Gerald Hierzer, AT, DNF

**) not eligible for points in the overall score*

Overall Score** KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY, after 3 of 6 Legs:

1. Günther Zanker, AT, 59 Points
2. Gerald Hierzer, AT, 56
3. Erwin Friszl, AT, 39
4. Christian Nöst AT, 36
5. Kris Rosenberger, AT, 27
6. Andreas Kriegl, AT, 22
7. Sebastian Jakl, SI, 20
7. Luka Bravec, SI, 20
9. Milos Zmeskal, CZ 18
10. Patrick Winter, AT, 14
10. Marcel Hirscher, AT, 14
12. Dominikus Sorger, AT, 11
12. Alfred Sommerbauer, AT, 11
14. Daniel Ebner, AT, 10
15. Robert Gobli, AT, 8
15. Melanie Moser, AT, 8
17. Franz Olbert, AT, 3
18. Michael Trawniczek, AT, 2
19. Manfred Reisenhofer AT, 1

****) Scores as in Formula One. Furthermore every participant is awarded two points for the proper administrative and technical inspection at the event, irrespective of ranking.*

The remaining races of the KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY in the 2010 season:

- 28./29.08.2010: Ilrska Bistrica (SLO)***
18./19.09.2010: Esthofen St. Agatha (AUT)
02./03.10.2010: Mickhausen (GER)

****) counts towards European Hillclimb Championship*