

WORLD RX OF
 **NORWAY**

16-18 JUNI 2023: LÅNKEBANEN, HELL



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WELCOME TO HELL!

A very warm welcome to Hell for World RX of Norway – the milestone 100th round in FIA World Rallycross Championship history.

It's fitting that we should celebrate our century in Hell, as the Lånkebanen circuit is synonymous with this wonderful sport and has provided the backdrop to some truly sensational battles over the years. The setting is spectacular, with an undulating track layout that lends itself perfectly to thrilling racing – and we expect much more of the same this weekend.

Last year, World RX's exciting new electric era got underway in Norway, and this season, we are back with more cars, more drivers and – if the Montalegre curtain-raiser earlier this month is any indication – some mouth-watering entertainment in prospect.

The field is peppered with legendary names. Johan Kristoffersson is chasing a sixth World Championship crown in 2023, and has already gained a head-start over his rivals by triumphing in Portugal, while Timmy Hansen – championship runner-up in each of the past two seasons – is determined to stop him and to add a second title to his own career CV. Both of them have previously stood on the top step of the podium in Hell.

Ole Christian Veiby is the local hero, of course, and after reaching the rostrum five times during his comeback campaign last year, the Volkswagen driver will be fired-up to try to take his first series victory in front of his home fans.

Klara Andersson was a revelation in Hell last summer, progressing through to the final on her World RX debut and going on to finish ahead of her CE Dealer Team stablemate, Niclas Grönholm – a former winner here himself.

And not forgetting, of course, arguably the story of the winter off-season – the return of WRC record man Sébastien Loeb in the evocatively-liveried Lancia Delta Evo-e RX. The car was a head-turner weekend-long in Portugal, and the Frenchman showed that he has lost none of his magic touch behind the wheel in the five years since he last competed in rallycross...

We have a full bill of support series here in Hell, with the opening round of the 2023 FIA RX2e Championship – featuring four rapid female drivers in the field – as well as the continuation of the Euro RX1 and Euro RX3 campaigns, and if you're here on Saturday, make sure to head over to the after-race party with DJ Aasbø in the VIP/Festival area.

Once the weekend is done-and-dusted, you can continue to soak up every moment of the on-track thrills and off-track insights season-long via our pioneering broadcast platform RX+, soon to be re-launched as Rally.TV. In the meantime, it's time to tighten your seatbelts – because things are about to heat up in Hell!

Arne Dirks

Managing Director
Rallycross Promoter GmbH



TIDSSKJEMA

FREDAG 16. JUNI 2023

- 15:00 Free practice - World RX
- 15:30 Practice - Hell of a Race
- 15:55 Free practice - World RX
- 16:45 Hell of a Race - **H1**
- 17:30 Hell of a Race - **H2**
- 18:15 Hell of a Race - **H3**

LØRDAG 17. JUNI 2023

- 09:00 Practice - All categories
 - 11:05 SuperPole - World RX
 - 12:00 Autograph session
Opening Ceremony / Drifting-show
 - 13:00 Euro RX3, Euro RX1, RX2e & World RX - **H1**
Drifting & Volvo Construction Equipment promo car
 - 15:00 Euro RX3, Euro RX1, RX2e & World RX - **H2**
Drifting & Volvo Construction Equipment promo car
 - 17:00 Euro RX3, Euro RX1 & RX2e - **H3**
 - 18:05 Hell of a Race - **Semi-Finals**
 - 18:30 Hell of a Race - **Final**
- After Race Party!** *DJ-Session with special guest (ends 20:00)*

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SØNDAG 18. JUNI 2023

- 10:00** Warm-up - All categories
Drifting-show
- 11:00** World RX - **H3**
Euro RX3, Euro RX1 & RX2e - **H4**
Drifting & Volvo Construction Equipment promo car
- 12:30** Autograph session
- 13:30** World RX - **H4**
Euro RX3, RX2e & Euro RX1 - **Semi-Finals**
Euro RX3 & Euro RX1 - **Finals**
- 15:05** Local support races
Drifting & Volvo Construction Equipment promo car
- 15:45** World RX in pre-grid
- 16:00** World RX - **Semi-Finals**
RX2e - **Final**
World RX - **Final**
- 16:50** Podium

VM-RALLYCROSS TILBUD!



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ARRANGEMENTSBYEN STJØRDAL ØNSKER VELKOMMEN!

Vi er glade for at man igjen velger Stjørdal og Hell som arrangementssted for VM og EM i rallycross. I fjor fikk vi starte opp igjen etter pandemi og det var vi så glade for. Med en verdens premiere i tillegg – de elektriske rallycrossbilene gjorde sitt inntog! Vi er så glade for at de er her også i år! Det betyr at man fortsetter å bryte en barriere og at sporten tar nye steg mot en spennende og bærekraftig fremtid.

Stjørdal er et kommunikasjonsknutepunkt i Trøndelag. Trondheim lufthavn Værnes ligger midt i kommunen. Her går det jernbane både nord-, sør- og østover. Hovedveiene E6, E14 og Fv705 møtes i Stjørdal og gjør det enkelt å komme til vår flotte kommune. Bare 25 minutters reise fra Trondheim finner du oss, Trøndelags nest største by med over 24 000 innbyggere.

Stjørdal kommune vokser! Gjennom et desentralisert tjenestetilbud, en aktiv boligpolitikk og fokus på høy bolyst har vi lagt til rette for at alle som bor her og flytter hit får være en del av lokalsamfunn som er i vekst og i fremgang. I sentrum av kommunen bygger vi en by hvor vi har de høyeste ambisjonene for en bymessig utvikling. Der skal vi opp i høyden og vi skal skape offentlige rom som skal aktivisere både besøkende og fastboende. Dette var også grunnen til at vi bygde Kimen kulturhus for noen år siden – den største kulturinvesteringen i Trøndelag siden Nidarosdomen. I tillegg har vi flotte parker og skatepark i sentrum – og vi skal videre.

Overnattingskapasiteten i kommunen er stor og her er det plass til alle! Kjente attraksjoner som den nesten 1000 år gamle Værnes kirke, Steinvikholm slott, Hegra festning og dalførets mange helleristningsfelt er alene verdt et besøk. I tillegg sørger et stort og aktivt miljø av lag og foreninger for et rikt tilbud av idretts- og kulturarrangement i kommunen. Vi har høye ambisjoner når vi sier at vi skal bli arrangementskommune nr. 1 i Norge og vi mener at dette er mulig gjennom kommunens geografiske fortrinn, kommunens samlede overnattingskapasitet, distriktets attraktive turistmål og våre mange svært aktive frivillige lag og foreninger, som ivrer etter å bidra i gjennomføringen av større arrangement slik som VM og EM-runden i rallycross.

Kommunen bidrar på med arrangementsstøtte, som aksjeinnskuddsyter i arrangørorganisasjonen, og gjennom investeringer i infrastruktur i arrangementsområdet.

Verdensmesterskapet i rallycross er det eneste verdensmesterskapet innenfor Trøndelags grenser, og hadde ikke vært mulig uten et stort engasjement fra lokale krefter, ikke minst de mange ildsjelene på frivillig basis. Takk til dere!

Dere er alle så velkommen til Stjørdal og VM i rallycross!

Eli Arnstad
Ordfører
Stjørdal Kommune





ENTRY LISTS

World RX of Norway



NO.	DRIVER	NAT.	TEAM	NAT.	CAR
1	Johan KRISTOFFERSSON	SWE	Volkswagen Dealersteam BAUHAUS	SWE	Volkswagen RX1e
9	Sébastien LOEB	FRA	Special ONE Racing	FRA	Lancia Delta Evo-e RX
12	Klara ANDERSSON	SWE	CE Dealer Team	SWE	PWR RX1e
17	Gustav BERGSTRÖM	SWE	Volkswagen Dealersteam BAUHAUS	SWE	Volkswagen RX1e
21	Timmy HANSEN	SWE	Hansen World RX Team	SWE	Peugeot 208 RX1e
36	Guerlain CHICHERIT	FRA	Special ONE Racing	FRA	Lancia Delta Evo-e RX
44	Timo SCHEIDER	DEU	ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport	DEU	SEAT Ibiza RX1e
68	Niclas GRÖNHOLM	FIN	CE Dealer Team	SWE	PWR RX1e
71	Kevin HANSEN	SWE	Hansen World RX Team	SWE	Peugeot 208 RX1e
96	Ole Christian VEIBY	NOR	Volkswagen Dealersteam BAUHAUS	SWE	Volkswagen RX1e



NO.	DRIVER	NAT.	TEAM	NAT.
2	Catie MUNNINGS	GBR	#YellowSquad	SWE
5	Pablo SUÁREZ	ESP	Zeroid Motorsport	ESP
13	Viktor VRANCKX	BEL	VMV Racing	BEL
14	Nils ANDERSSON	SWE	Team E	SWE
19	Mikaela ÅHLIN-KOTTULINSKY	SWE	Team E	SWE
28	Filip THORÉN	SWE	Zeroid Motorsport	ESP
44	Laia SANZ	ESP	Acciona Sainz XE Team	ESP
82	Isak SJÖKVIST	SWE	#YellowSquad	SWE
88	Ole Henry STEINSHOLT	NOR	Ole Henry Steinsholt	NOR
97	Cristina GUTIÉRREZ	ESP	Zeroid Motorsport	ESP

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NO.	DRIVER	NAT.	TEAM	NAT.	CAR
1	Anton MARKLUND	SWE	SET Promotion	FIN	Ford Fiesta
2	Oliver O'DONOVAN	IRL	Team RX Racing	GBR	Proton Iriz
6	Jānis BAUMANIS	LVA	RX Team Latvia	LVA	Peugeot 208
7	Patrick O'DONOVAN	GBR	Team RX Racing	GBR	Peugeot 208
22	Máté BENYÓ	HUN	Korda Racing KFT	HUN	Peugeot 208
24	Sivert SVARDAL	NOR	Sivert Svardal	NOR	Volkswagen Polo
30	Tom André SÆTNAN	NOR	Sætnan Motorsport	NOR	Volkswagen Scirocco
38	Mandie AUGUST	DEU	ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport	DEU	SEAT Ibiza
39	Zoltán KONCSEG	HUN	Kárai Motorsport Sportegyesület	HUN	Audi A1
50	Attila MÓZER	HUN	Nyirád Motorsport KFT	HUN	Ford Fiesta
55	Paulius PLESKOVAS	LTU	TSK Baltijos Sportas	LTU	Škoda Fabia
67	Frank VALLE	NOR	Frank Valle	NOR	Ford Fiesta
70	Sverre ISACHSEN	NOR	Sverre Isachsen	NOR	Ford Fiesta
73	Tamás KÁRAI	HUN	Kárai Motorsport Sportegyesület	HUN	Audi S1
77	René MÜNNICH	DEU	ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport	DEU	SEAT Ibiza
85	Hans-Jøran ØSTRENG	NOR	Hans-Jøran Østreng	NOR	Hyundai i20
91	Enzo IDE	BEL	Enzo Ide	BEL	Audi S1

NO.	DRIVER	NAT.	TEAM	NAT.	CAR
6	Damian LITWINOWICZ	POL	Volland Racing	POL	Audi A1
8	Espen ISAKSÆTRE	NOR	Volland Racing	POL	Audi A1
12	Jens HVAAL	NOR	Jens Hvaal	NOR	Škoda Fabia
14	David BOUET	FRA	Team RX Evolution	FRA	Renault Clio
18	Zsolt SZÍJJ 'JOLLY'	HUN	Speedy Motorsport	HUN	Audi A1
20	Siim SALURI	EST	RS Racing Team	EST	Renault Twingo
30	Nils VOLLAND	DEU	Volland Racing	POL	Audi A1
33	Martin KJÆR	NOR	Martin Kjær	NOR	Škoda Fabia
58	Dominik SENEGACNIK	AUT	KRTZ Motorsport	CZE	Škoda Fabia
99	João RIBEIRO	PRT	Volland Racing	POL	Audi A1
131	Balázs KÖRMÖCZI	HUN	Szada Ring Racing KFT	HUN	Volkswagen Polo

DRIFTING-SHOW!

Hva er vel en folkefest uten underholdning? Under World RX of Norway er vi så heldige å få besøk av to av Norges beste driftere - Fredric Aasbø og Morten Lyngøy! De skal skape liv og røre på og utenfor arenaen!

FREDRIC AASBØ

Opplev magien til motorsportens mester!

Er du en som liker fart, spenning og adrenalinkick? Da vet du hvem Fredric Aasbø er - en living legend innen motorsporten! Han har blått kåret til Formula D Rookie of the Year i 2010, og FIA Norway Driver of the Year i 2015!

Fredric Aasbø er ikke bare en sjåfør, han er en ikonisk figur som har erobret hjertene til motorsportentusiaster over hele verden. Med hans ferdigheter, lidenskap og utrettelige driv - har han raskt blitt en av de mest respekterte og beundrede navnene i bransjen. Aasbøs presisjon og kontroll over kjøretøyet er intet mindre enn enestående. Enten det er i hans signatur Scion FR-S eller den ikoniske Toyota GR Supra, tar han deg med på en reise der hver sving, hvert skrik fra motoren og hvert hjulspinn får hjertet ditt til å slå raskere.

Men det er ikke bare på banen Aasbø imponerer. Han er også den fødte showmann. Med sin karismatiske personlighet og evne til å begeistre publikum, tar han deg med inn i opplevelsen. 37-åringen har også et imponerende merittliste som taler for seg selv. Med flere mesterskapstitler og utallige seire, har han bevist at han er en av de beste i sitt felt. Han har en grenseløse lidenskapen han for motorsporten. Han er ikke bare en sjåfør, han er et symbol på mot og utholdenhet, og en inspirasjon for alle som drømmer om å forfølge sin lidenskap.



Under AFTER-RACE på lørdag, er også denne driftige karen DJ! Kom og opplev magien selv!





MORTEN LYNGØY

Drifter og Norges blideste bergenser

Morten Lyngøy har også blitt kjent som Norges blideste bergenser! Lyngøy Motorsport er et drifte-team fra Bergen som vanligvis kjører pro-klassen i drifting i Norge.

Bilen? En Toyota Supra mk4 med 767 Whp og 895 NM!

Morten Lyngøy er ikke bare en utøver på banen, han er en kunstner bak rattet. Med sine presise og dristige kjøreteknikker tar han drifting til nye høyder og skaper en ballett av brennende gummi og kontrollerte slides. Hans evne til å beherske bilen og presist manøvrere den gjennom svinger og hårnålssvinger er rett og slett imponerende.





Mer enn bare bilkjøring

Både på og utenfor banen er samhold utrolig viktig for oss i Lyngøy Motorsport. Derfor har vi valgt å fokusere mye på barn og unge og ta opp kampen mot mobbing og har stort fokus på psykisk helse, forteller Morten.

Vi har stort fokus på at dette er noe vi gjør sammen med både sponsorer, samarbeidspartnere og den vanlige mannen i gaten. I den anledning så har vi laget #109SAMMEN. Dette er start nummeret til Morten og sammen står for at dette eventyret vårt ville ikke vært mulig uten hjelp og støtte fra folk rundt oss.

Vårt hovedfokus er ikke alltid å være best, men å ta vare på de rundt oss og at så mange som mulig på en eller annen måte få ta del i det vi driver med.

Vi ønsker Lyngøy Motorsport hjertelig velkommen til Lånkebanen og Hell RX!

MARIUS SVORKÅS

Trøndertalentet klar for driftingsshow på Hell

Siste stjerne i showet er en trøndersk driftekononge - Marius Svorkås! Marius er 29 år og kommer fra Orkdal, men er bosatt på Melhus. Denne karen lever og ånder for motorsport, fart og spenning - ikke minst favorittsporten Drifting!

Drifting har vært min passion i flere år, og jeg har konkurrert på topp-nivå de siste 4 årene. Alt jeg gjør er for driftinga. Marius ler litt i telefonen. 29-åringen konkurrerer i øverste klasse i Norge, nemlig Pro-klassen.

Populær drifter

Mange vil ha en bit av 29-åringen. For andre året på rad, er han i august invitert til å kjøre i Tyskland under Iron Drift king 2023. Kun 100 utøvere kommer hit hvert år, og kun inviterte driftere får lov å kjøre løpet. I fjor endte jeg på en 16.plass, noe jeg er veldig fornøyd med. Det er tross alt her de beste i verden møtes! Fortsetter Svorkås.



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Teamet

Driftingteamet hans består også av Ole Peter Vatn – sammen er de Team Svorkås og Vatn. - Jeg tror teamet svidde av rundt 300 dekk i sesongen 2022, så det er det vi lever og ånder for! Sier Marius entusiastisk. Sammen har de gode prestasjoner i inn- og utland, i tillegg til at de jobber med å spre gleden de har til motorsport til andre. - I ønsket om å spre motorsport-glede, jobber vi i teamet med å finne en løsning hvor vi kan hjelpe vanskeligstilte ungdom. Vi ønsker å invitere de inn for å hjelpe til i verkstedet f.eks. Og hos Førerutvikling Orkland – leier vi ut isbilene til de som ønsker å kjøre på banen på Løkken. Vi ønsker å gi den gleden vi føler – videre til andre!

Hvilke forventninger har du til HellRX?

- Jeg storgleder meg til å få komme å lage show på Lånkebanen! Det har alltid krasjet med løp for oss, så jeg har faktisk ikke vært der under rallycrossen enda, så det er faktisk på tide! Superglad for invitasjonen og jeg storgleder meg!

Marius Svorkås #686 kjører en Bmw E92 med tusen hestekrefter under panseret.



Uten mat og drikke
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0-100 IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE: World RX marks major milestone in Hell

The FIA World Rallycross Championship will reach a milestone in Hell this weekend, as World RX of Norway plays host to the all-action, edge-of-the-seat series' 100th round - with a fabulous feast of electrifying entertainment in prospect.

World RX was founded in 2014, building upon the success of the popular FIA European Rallycross Championship, which had been captivating crowds across the continent for the best part of four decades.

Over its nine-year existence to-date, the World Championship has attracted some of the biggest stars in the sport, from Petter Solberg, Mattias Ekström, Johan Kristoffersson and Timmy Hansen - all of whom went on to clinch the coveted crown - to late Gymkhana hero Ken Block, 1997 Formula 1 World Champion Jacques Villeneuve, nine-time FIA World Rally Champion Sébastien Loeb and even multiple Olympic Games cycling gold medallist, Sir Chris Hoy.

Kristoffersson and Hansen are still very much at the forefront of the fight for honours this year, competing respectively for Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS and Hansen World RX Team. The former is chasing an extraordinary sixth career title at the highest level; the latter - champion in 2019 - is firmly focussed on stopping his compatriot in his tracks.

The pair head to Hell having experienced varying fortunes in the Portuguese opener earlier this month, with Kristoffersson notching up a 36th career triumph but Hansen finding himself eliminated at the semi-final stage following a spin and subsequent contact.



Johan Kristoffersson (with Timmy and Kevin Hansen in the background)



WRC record man Loeb is also in the mix, after returning to rallycross this season behind the wheel of Special ONE Racing's striking Lancia Delta Evo-e RX, a retrofitted model channelling the spirit of the legendary Lancia Delta Integrale and sporting an evocative 1980s-inspired livery.

In evidence of its commitment to fostering diversity and sustainability in the sport, World RX was delighted to welcome Klara Andersson to the fray last year, as the Swede became the first permanent female competitor since the series' inception. Not only that, but she advanced to the final on her debut in Hell, beating - amongst others - CE Dealer Team stablemate Niclas Grönholm, a multiple event-winner.

Her reward was a long-term contract with the team, and on the basis of her impressive performance in the Montalegre curtain-raiser, a second podium to add to her historic top three finish in Portugal last year can certainly not be ruled out.

Similarly looking to challenge will be Kevin Hansen (Hansen World RX Team) - runner-up in Norway in 2019 - two-time DTM Champion Timo Scheider (ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport), back following a season's absence from the grid, and home hero Ole Christian Veiby (Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS), who will surely receive the lion's share of fans' support.

So the scene is set. Last summer, World RX launched its new electric era in Hell with a sensational sporting show. Ten months on, the most spectacular and exciting cars on the planet are ready to light up Lånkebanen once more...



Sébastien Loeb



Klara Andersson



Ole Christian Veiby





JOHAN KRISTOFFERSSON #1

Country: Sweden
Team: Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS
Car: Volkswagen RX1e

The most successful rallycross racer of the current generation, Johan Kristoffersson is the son of former rallycross and touring car driver Tommy Kristoffersson.

In the early stages of his career, he contested the Junior Touring Car Championship for the family-run Kristoffersson Motorsport (KMS) outfit in 2008, winning two races on his way to fourth in the final reckoning, before spending the next two years competing in the Swedish Touring Car Championship.

The 2011 season yielded a brace of podium finishes and tenth position overall in the Scandinavian Touring Car Championship with Team Biogas.se, despite only entering just over half of the 18 races. A parallel campaign in the Porsche Carrera Cup Scandinavia saw Kristoffersson take the fight for glory right the way down to the wire.

2012 marked a breakthrough for the Swede, with title triumphs in the Italian-run Superstars Series, the Scandinavian Touring Car Championship and the Porsche Carrera Cup Scandinavia - and in 2013, he made his competitive debut in the FIA European Rallycross Championship on home soil at Höljes, reaching the semi-final stage behind the wheel of a KMS-run Volkswagen Scirocco.

Further European and World Championship outings followed in 2014 - including Euro RX victory at Franciacorta - before he truly turned up the wick in 2015 as he cemented his full-time switch to World RX. Piloting a Volkswagen Team Sweden VW Polo, he won the Montalegre curtain-raiser, with four additional rostrum results firing him to third in the Drivers' table.

A second career success came in France in 2016 as Kristoffersson improved to grab the runner-up spot in the standings behind countryman Mattias Ekström, setting him up for record-breaking back-to-back title charges in 2017 and 2018 with the rebranded PSRX Volkswagen Sweden team and a factory-developed Polo Supercar. From 24 starts over the course of the two seasons, he claimed 18 victories and only missed the podium on three occasions.

He did not return to defend his laurels in 2019, instead focussing on the FIA World Touring Car Cup, in which he took three wins en route to fifth in the points table for Sébastien Loeb Racing. That preceded a sensational World RX comeback in 2020 in a KMS-fielded Polo, with four victories from eight rounds and no finish lower than fourth securing Kristoffersson a third Drivers' trophy.

A move to KYB EKS JC in 2021 produced a fourth crown in five years, as the Arvika native rebounded from a luckless start to proceedings to ultimately get the verdict on countback - winding up tied on points with countryman Timmy Hansen at the conclusion of a dramatic Nürburgring decider. Kristoffersson then made history in 2022, dominating the first season of World RX's electric era for Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS, with eight triumphs from ten rounds catapulting him to a fifth career title.

Successful rallying exploits over the years have served to underscore the multiple champion's versatility, while he also signed up to the inaugural campaign of Extreme E with Rosberg X Racing, winning three events out of five in partnership with Molly Taylor to scoop the spoils.





OLE CHRISTIAN VEIBY #96

Country: Norway

Team: Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS

Car: Volkswagen RX1e

Ole Christian Veiby is a name well-known in both rallycross and rallying circles, having achieved considerable success in both disciplines.

After finishing seventh in the Porsche Carrera Cup Scandinavia at the age of just 16 in 2013, Veiby turned his attentions to rallycross, making four World Championship appearances in 2014 and 2015 in a Kristoffersson Motorsport-prepared Volkswagen Polo and twice advancing to the semi-final stage.

The Norwegian simultaneously excelled in European competition, triumphing in Barcelona in his sophomore season in the headlining Supercar (now Euro RX1) class and additionally ascending the podium at Mettet and Franciacorta on his way to third in the title table.

Veiby subsequently switched to rallying, making sporadic appearances in the FIA World Rally Championship and placing inside the top ten on multiple occasions. In parallel with that, he has showcased his talents via a brace of victories and multiple rostrum results in the supporting WRC2 category, where he has been a consistent front-runner, securing a career-high fourth in the standings in 2020 behind the wheel of a Hyundai Motorsport-run i20.

The Kongsvinger native returned to rallycross with JC Raceteknik's Audi S1 in RallyX Nordic in 2022, prior to rejoining the Euro RX fray for Höljes' famous 'Magic Weekend' in the same car. Barely a month later, he announced a full-time World RX comeback as team-mate to Johan Kristoffersson at Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS for the beginning of the sport's electric era - going on to tally five podium finishes en route to fourth in the overall classification.





GUSTAV BERGSTRÖM #17

Country: Sweden
Team: Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS
Car: Volkswagen RX1e

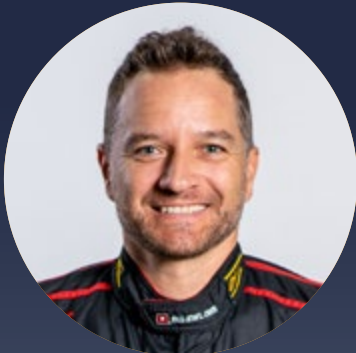
A successful ice hockey player in his youth – competing at elite U16 and J18 level – Gustav Bergström made his motor racing debut in 2021 in the second-tier Supercar Lites category in both RallyX Nordic and the Swedish Rallycross Championship, before stepping up to the headlining Supercar class.

The Stockholm native – the son of Ronnie Bergström, a Kristoffersson Motorsport engineer for many seasons in Sweden's domestic touring car series (STCC) – joined the Euro RX1 fray for Höljes' 'Magic Weekend' in 2022, missing out on a semi-final berth by barely two seconds in the high-calibre field. He went on to partner multiple world champion Johan Kristoffersson and Ole Christian

Veiby at Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS for World RX's inaugural electric campaign, impressing as he reached the rostrum on three consecutive occasions en route to sixth in the overall standings and top rookie honours.

Away from rallycross, Bergström has contested the Porsche Carrera Cup Scandinavia, Porsche Sprint Challenge Scandinavia and a number of 24-hour races, winning the 992-Am category of the 24H Dubai in a Porsche 911 GT3 Cup and scooping the runner-up spoils in-class in the 12H Mugello alongside World RX stablemates Kristoffersson and Veiby.





TIMO SCHEIDER #44

Country: Germany
Team: ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport
Car: SEAT Ibiza RX1e

Timo Scheider began his motorsport career in karting, before graduating to single-seaters in Formula Renault. In 1997, he moved up again to Formula 3 level, finishing runner-up in his rookie campaign in the domestic series to future Formula 1 star, Nick Heidfeld.

In 2000, Scheider joined the DTM touring car championship, contesting five seasons in Opel machinery before taking a year out, during which he raced to second overall in the FIA GT Championship for Vitaphone Racing Team - winning the Spa 24 Hours along the way - and was selected to represent his nation in the inaugural A1 Grand Prix campaign, reaching the rostrum in the final race.

In 2006, he returned to the DTM, registering his first podium finish the following year and claiming back-to-back championships with factory Audi outfit Abt Sportsline in 2008 and 2009 - in so doing, becoming only the second driver in the series ever to successfully defend the title. Scheider continued in the DTM until the end of 2016, winning one more race in his penultimate season.

Showcasing his versatility, the German has also won the Nürburgring 24 Hours, while he finished third in the GT2 class of the Le Mans 24 Hours in 2010 and contested the 2018 World Touring Car Cup in an ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport Honda Civic Type R, achieving a podium finish in Macau.

He debuted in World RX with the same team in 2015. After making sporadic appearances that year and the next, he entered all but one round of the 2017 campaign for MJP Racing Team Austria, racing to the runner-

up spoils in the Barcelona curtain-raiser. Four further outings followed in 2018 - back behind the wheel of Münnich's SEAT Ibiza - which would be a precursor to his first full season in the series in 2019, progressing through to the final on three occasions en route to ninth in the Drivers' standings.

Remaining with the team in 2020, Scheider improved a spot to eighth overall, adding another podium to his tally in the opening round at Höljes. He replicated that championship finish in 2021, despite only contesting five of the nine rounds, advancing to the final twice. After sitting out the 2022 campaign, the Lahnstein native returned to the fray for the second season of World RX's electric era in 2023, once more with ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport.





SÉBASTIEN LOEB #9

Country: France
Team: Special ONE Racing
Car: Lancia Delta Evo-e RX

The world’s most successful rally driver - with an unrivalled 80 WRC event wins and nine consecutive World Championship titles to his name - Sébastien Loeb has gained a reputation for mastering whatever motorsport discipline he turns his hand to. Rallycross included.

A championship-winning gymnast in his younger days, Loeb made his rallying debut in 1995 and clinched the Junior World Rally Championship crown six years later. After joining Citroën World Rally Team in 2002, he achieved his first WRC victory in Germany that same season before finishing runner-up in the standings - just a single point behind Petter Solberg - in 2003. From then until the end of 2012, he would be unbeaten.

Away from the WRC, the Frenchman has also showcased his versatility in a number of other series. In 2006, he took the chequered flag second in the Le Mans 24 Hours, while he is a four-time individual winner of the ‘Race of Champions’ and twice placed third in the title table in the FIA World Touring Car Championship (WTCC) behind the wheel of a Citroën C-Elysée, winning six races along the way.

In 2013, Loeb broke the existing Pikes Peak hillclimb record by a minute-and-a-half in a Peugeot 208 T16 - with a time that would go unchallenged for the next five years. He has twice been named French Sportsman of the Year and was made a knight of the Légion d’honneur in 2009, and he even flirted with Formula 1 in the late 2000s, lapping eighth-quickest out of 17 drivers in an official test in Barcelona with Red Bull Racing.

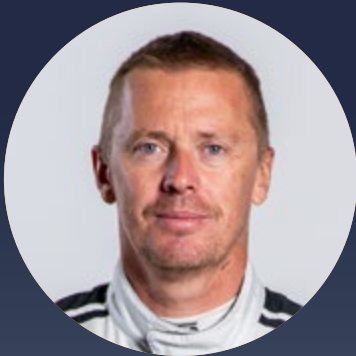
The Haguenau native made his Dakar Rally debut in 2016 - establishing a lead of almost eight minutes at one stage - and has since gone on to finish second in the gruelling event on three occasions. After scooping the runner-up spoils in the inaugural season of Extreme E in 2021, he lifted the laurels 12 months later alongside Cristina Gutiérrez for Lewis Hamilton’s Team X44.

Loeb returned to rallycross in 2023 following an absence of almost five years - having previously achieved success in the dual-surface discipline between 2012 and 2018, beginning with an X Games gold medal in California. He subsequently contested his home round of the FIA European Rallycross Championship at Lohéac in 2013 in a Citroën DS3.

The Alsacien joined the factory-backed Team Peugeot-Hansen outfit for a full season of World RX competition in 2016. A maiden podium finish in Belgium would be the first of four that year - including a breakthrough victory in Latvia - propelling him to fifth in the overall standings ahead of team-mate Timmy Hansen, the 2015 championship runner-up and a driver who would go on to clinch the Drivers’ crown in 2019.

The next year yielded six rostrum results and an improvement to fourth in the title table, which Loeb matched in 2018 as Peugeot took its programme in-house under the Team Peugeot Total banner. A second career triumph at Mettet was the highlight of what would prove to be his finest season in the championship to-date, before he returned to the fray with Special ONE Racing in the retrofitted Lancia Delta Evo-e RX in 2023.





GUERLAIN CHICHERIT #36

Country: France

Team: Special ONE Racing

Car: Lancia Delta Evo-e RX

Guerlain Chicherit is a four-time Free Skiing World Champion-turned-rally, rallycross and stunt driver who famously performed the world's first unassisted, 360-degree backflip in a car.

A professional skier, Chicherit clinched the World Championship crown in the discipline of free skiing in 1999, 2002, 2006 and 2007, while simultaneously making his motorsport debut in the French Rally Cup.

After triumphing in the Dakar Challenge in 2005, he tackled the gruelling Dakar Rally for the first time in 2006, piloting a BMW X3 to a stage win en route to a ninth-place overall finish. Further Dakar participations would follow, yielding a best result of fifth position in an X-Raid BMW in 2010, a year after clinching the FIA Cross Country Rally World Cup alongside co-driver Tina Thörner. In 2013, Chicherit made history with his MINI backflip in

the French Alps, but a year later, he failed in his attempt to break the world record for the longest car jump in Tignes, crashing spectacularly upon landing – albeit fortunately escaping with only relatively minor injuries.

The Frenchman joined the FIA World Rallycross Championship midway through 2015 at Lohéac, behind the wheel of a JRM Racing MINI, scoring his first points in Italy a month later. He continued to make sporadic appearances in 2016 and – having switched to a FORS Performance Renault Clio – 2017, while also testing his mettle in the supporting RX2 Series.

After establishing his own team – GC Kompetition (GCK) – Chicherit contested full seasons over the following two years in a Renault Mégane, reaching the final for the first time at Montalegre in 2018 and claiming his finest finish to-date with fourth place in Canada in 2019.

He entered six of the eight rounds in 2020 – running under the Unkorrupted banner – before returning to action in the 2021 finale at the Nürburgring, taking the chequered flag fifth in the last race of World RX's combustion-powered era. He subsequently debuted GCK Motorsport's eagerly-anticipated Lancia Delta Evo-e RX – the electric reincarnation of 1980s rallying legend, the Lancia Delta Integrale – at the same circuit the following year, the precursor to a full campaign with two cars in 2023.

Chicherit's GCK Energy company additionally won the FIA tender to power the FIA RX2e Championship grid in the all-electric series' inaugural season, adding the World Championship to its green energy portfolio in 2022.





TIMMY HANSEN #21

Country: Sweden
Team: Hansen World RX Team
Car: Peugeot 208 RX1e

The eldest son of Kenneth Hansen – the most successful rallycross driver in history, with 14 European Championship titles to his name – Timmy Hansen has gone on to establish himself as a master of the discipline in his own right, clinching the coveted World Championship Drivers’ crown in dramatic fashion in the 2019 season finale in South Africa.

Notwithstanding his roots, Hansen began his motorsport career in karting and single-seaters before focussing on rallycross, reaching the final on his international debut in the discipline, in the Finnish round of the FIA European Rallycross Championship at Kouvola in 2012.

After placing third overall in his maiden full campaign of Euro RX in 2013, he stepped up to the FIA World Rallycross Championship at the wheel of a Peugeot 208 WRX the following season and scored his and the car’s maiden success at World RX of Italy, with three further podium finishes propelling him to fourth in the title table.

A successful 2015 campaign yielded three more wins (Norway, France, Turkey) and the runner-up spot in the standings behind Petter Solberg, before Hansen was joined at Team Peugeot-Hansen by nine-time FIA World Rally Champion Sébastien Loeb in 2016. The Swede won World RX of Canada that year and reached the podium in half of the events he contested, bolstering his tally with an additional four rostrum appearances in 2017.

Peugeot took its World RX effort in-house in 2018, utilising resources from the firm’s winning Dakar Rally programme. Hansen again partnered Loeb, now under

the Team Peugeot Total banner, and picked up two podiums on his way to sixth in the championship.

His 2019 season was his most accomplished to-date, recording four victories from ten starts to secure both the Drivers’ laurels as well as the Teams’ trophy for Team Hansen MJP alongside younger brother and teammate, Kevin. The 2020 campaign delivered another four rostrum results – including a win in Barcelona – en route to third in the classification, while in 2021, despite leading the way right up to the Nürburgring finale, Hansen was ultimately forced to give best to countryman Johan Kristoffersson in a dead-heat duel for the crown.

The pair reprised their battle the following season – the first of World RX’s electric era – and although unable to stop his compatriot’s march towards a fifth world championship title, the Lidköping native once more proved to be Kristoffersson’s closest challenger, triumphing in Catalunya and spraying podium champagne on five further occasions.





KEVIN HANSEN #71

Country: Sweden
Team: Hansen World RX Team
Car: Peugeot 208 RX1e

2016 FIA European Rallycross Champion, and younger brother of 2019 FIA World Rallycross Champion, Timmy Hansen, Kevin Hansen began his career in karting in 2005 before claiming the ROK Junior World Championship title in 2010.

Running under the Hansen Junior Team banner, in 2012, Hansen won the JRX Junior Rallycross Cup – on the support bill to the FIA European Rallycross Championship – which he retained in 2013. Stepping up to RX Lites in 2014, he finished runner-up in his rookie campaign before going one better in 2015 to lift the trophy. Impressively, he reached the rostrum in each of his 11 outings in the single-make series.

Shortly after, the Swede made history as the youngest driver ever to compete in a World RX event when he debuted at the highest level in the season-closing World RX of Argentina aged 17 years and 6 months – progressing through to the final in the high-calibre, 19-strong field.

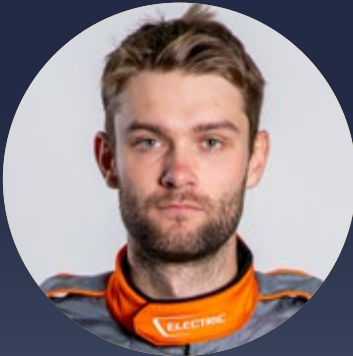
In 2016, he moved up to Supercar full-time to contest Euro RX, where four wins and a runner-up finish from five starts saw him crowned champion at the first time of asking. He dovetailed that successful title bid with a partial World RX challenge – and picked up the FIA ‘Rookie of the Year’ accolade at the end of the season.

The following year, Hansen took the next step in entering every round of the World Championship as a third entry for Team Peugeot-Hansen. Piloting a Peugeot 208, he secured eighth place in the standings in both 2017 and 2018, advancing to the final on eight occasions.

2019 marked his breakthrough campaign in World RX, winning the Abu Dhabi season-opener and tallying four further podiums en route to third in the title table, while playing a vital role in Team Hansen MJM’s successful acquisition of the Teams’ crown.

Two more rostrum appearances in 2020 propelled the younger Hansen to fifth in the Drivers’ classification, while a second career triumph in the Catalunya curtain-raiser in 2021 – allied to six subsequent podiums – earned him fourth overall and the family-run outfit a second Teams’ title in three years. He followed that up with a trio of runner-up results in 2022 – the inaugural campaign of World RX’s electric era – but disqualification over a technical infringement in the Nürburgring finale cost him a top three championship finish.





NICLAS GRÖNHOLM #68

Country: Finland
Team: CE Dealer Team
Car: PWR RX1e

The son of two-time FIA World Rally Champion Marcus Grönholm, Niclas Grönholm enjoyed a rapid rise up the ranks in rallycross.

In 2014, he finished third in the autocross class of the Finnish Rallycross Championship, reaching the rostrum during a one-off outing in the World Championship-supporting RX Lites category on home soil at Kouvola along the way. A year later, he piloted an Olsbergs MSE-run Ford Fiesta Supercar to the Finnish title, while making his World RX bow that same summer at Höljes in Sweden.

After contesting the off-season RallyX on Ice series at the beginning of 2016, Grönholm committed full-time to World RX, completing his maiden full campaign in the championship with OMSE before switching to the family-run GRX outfit in 2017, securing his first final appearance with fifth position in Germany.

2018 marked a significant step forward for the Finn, with four visits to the final behind the wheel of the new Hyundai i20 yielding seventh place in the overall classification - comfortably the top independent entry.

That paved the way for a full-on title tilt the next season, when a brace of triumphs and two further podiums saw Grönholm wind up just 25 points shy of the Drivers' crown, despite missing two rounds due to appendicitis. His points-per-event tally was the highest in the field.

Another race win in 2020 cemented fourth spot in the standings for the second consecutive campaign, while 2021 would prove to be the Kauniainen native's most successful to-date, as he matched eventual champion Johan Kristoffersson for victories en route to third in the title table. Grönholm replicated that result the following season - the first of World RX's electric era - courtesy of a seventh career triumph and three additional rostrum finishes as Construction Equipment Dealer Team made its series debut.





KLARA ANDERSSON #12

Country: Sweden
Team: CE Dealer Team
Car: PWR RX1e

The younger sister of FIA Euro RX TouringCar event-winner Magda Andersson, Klara Andersson began competing herself in karting at the age of seven, spending the next six years racing in her native Sweden as well as further afield.

Multiple regional championship titles ensued, but it wasn't until 2018 that Andersson followed in her sister's wheeltracks by turning her attentions to rallycross. After scooping the runner-up spoils in the Swedish Junior Rallycross Championship in 2020, the FIA Rally Star ambassador impressively clinched the overall crown a year later behind the wheel of a BMW 120 before making her FIA RX2e Championship bow at Spa-Francorchamps.

Belying her rookie status in the single-make series, the Sweden Junior National Team member finished an impressive fourth first time out, missing the podium by barely a second after getting the better of champion-elect Guillaume De Ridder in an enthralling Q2 duel. She returned for the season finale, prior to stepping up to the World Championship - as the first permanent female competitor in World RX history - with Construction Equipment Dealer Team in 2022.

After advancing to the final and out-pointing experienced, race-winning team-mate Niclas Grönholm on her debut in Hell, Andersson made history again when she reached the rostrum at Montalegre and then came within an ace of pipping multiple world champion Johan Kristoffersson to the top spot in the pair's progression race at the Nürburgring. She was retained by the team for a second consecutive campaign at the highest level in 2023.



SÉBASTIEN LOEB TILBAKE PÅ HELL

Den verdenskjente rallycrossføreren Sébastien Loeb vil konkurrere i VM-runden på Hell i juni.

Loeb's promotør har nå kunngjort at franskmannen er tilbake i VM i rallycross. Han blir den ene halvparten av teamet Special ONE Racing. Den andre er franskmannen Guerlain Chicherit. Loeb stiller på heltid for det som nå blir et tobilsteam.

- En storsignering! At et av de virkelig store navnene er tilbake i VM, betyr mye for publikumsinteressen. Vi håper at mange kjenner sin besøkelsestid og kommer på Lånkebanen, sier Tor Helge Forbord Slind.



Sébastien Loeb konkurrerte i VM i rallycross fra 2016 til 2018. Han er best kjent som den mestvinnende føreren i VM i rally, der han var verdensmester ni år på rad fra 2004 til 2012.

Førrige gang Loeb kjørte i VM i rallycross, var det for Peugeot. Denne gangen vil han kjøre for Lancia. Den italienske fabrikanten har, i likhet med Loeb, et seierrikt navn i bilspporten.



Den nye Lancia Delta Evo-e RX bygger på det velkjente karosseriet fra 80- og 90-tallet.

- Jeg er av en generasjon som vokste opp og opplevde rallyseire med Lancia Delta, så jeg har en svakhet for denne bilen, men da Guerlain snakket med meg første gang om å gi seg i kast med en rallycrossesong med den, trodde jeg at han var gal. Så prøvde jeg bilen og ble umiddelbart overbevist om hvilke dynamiske kvaliteter den har. Jeg har stor tro på dette prosjektet og gleder meg til å konkurrere på baner rundt om i verden, sier Loeb i en pressemelding fra promotøren.

VM i rallycross ble helelektrisk fra og med 2022-sesongen.

- Jeg tror rallycross er den ideelle øvelsen for elektriske biler, fordi vi har mye kraft og korte løp. Disse bilene er spennende å kjøre, og VM i rallycross er den perfekte anledningen til å fremme utviklingen av dem, mener Loeb.



HELL OF A RACE

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LEVELLING THE PLAYING FIELD

The FIA RX2e Championship makes its seasonal debut in Hell this weekend, and while there are a number of intriguing plotlines heading into the series' third campaign on the FIA World Rallycross Championship undercard, there is one in particular that has truly got people talking in recent days...

The 2023 line-up is arguably the strongest to-date, with last year's top three overall finishers - Viktor Vranckx, Isak Sjökvist and Nils Andersson - set to resume battle for glory as they all return for a full-season assault. Home hero Ole Henry Steinsholt - whose only previous RX2e outing yielded a second-place finish in Catalunya in 2021 - is also in for the duration, and hoping that fan support will help to spur him on to victory in Norway.

Not only that, but two World RX heavy-hitters - Volkswagen Dealerteam BAUHAUS and Hansen World RX Team - have entered 'junior' outfits in the championship, in the shape of Team E and #YellowSquad.

All excellent news, and testament to RX2e's growing stature within the sport - but there is a bigger story still this weekend, as Mikaela Åhlin-Kottulinsky, Cristina Gutiérrez, Catie Munnings and Laia Sanz join the fray, meaning an unprecedented 40 per cent of the ten-car field is composed of fast female racers.



Mikaela Åhlin-Kottulinsky



Cristina Gutiérrez



All four are event-winners in Extreme E - with Gutiérrez the reigning champion after lifting the laurels last season alongside Sébastien Loeb, who will similarly take to the track in Norway at the helm of Special ONE Racing's head-turning Lancia Delta Evo-e RX.

The Spaniard and countrywoman Sanz have both conquered the gruelling Dakar Rally, while Åhlin-Kottulinsky finished runner-up in the TCR Scandinavia Touring Car Championship in 2021 and Munnings became the first British driver to clinch a European Rally Championship crown in almost half-a-century in 2016, so it's fair to say that their reputations precede them.

With their primary goal being to gain experience in rallycross and adapt to the nuances of the dual-surface discipline, expectations are modest - but factoring in their skill behind the wheel and all they have achieved so far, success could well be swift...



Catie Munnings



Laia Sanz



Volvo
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MULTITUDE

MARKLUND HOPING 'THIRD TIME'S A CHARM' IN HELL

In both Hungary and Portugal, defending FIA European Rallycross Champion Anton Marklund was arguably the fastest driver in the Euro RX1 field, but on both occasions, the Swede has come away without the winner's trophy. He is determined to belatedly open his 2023 victory account in Norway this weekend.

Despite having traded his Hyundai i20 for a Ford Fiesta over the winter, as a driver with three European titles to his name, Marklund was inevitably going to be one of the pre-season favourites, and that has certainly been reflected on the timing screens - if not necessarily the final results sheets.

The SET Promotion star has displayed a devastating turn-of-speed on occasion, but unavoidable contact at Nyirád and a start-line issue at Montalegre have kept him off the top step of the podium.

Marklund has been out of luck in Hell recently, too - losing a breakthrough World RX victory there due to a technical infringement in 2019, and then finding himself muscled out of the lead at the start of the Euro RX1 final in 2022 - so he returns seeking redemption and hoping that the old adage 'third time's a charm' rings true.

"It's been a very strong start to the season in terms of pace," the 30-year-old acknowledged. "I'm really happy with the way the car has been working, even though it has been a bit of a struggle compared to last year, when we had more data to lean back on. It seems that with the combined experience of myself and the team, we are able to be quick out-of-the-box every weekend, but the results have not really been with us.

"Second place in Hungary felt like a victory, but it wasn't a victory, and in Portugal, everything looked very good until something happened. The engineers haven't really understood exactly what happened yet so



we are still investigating, but for sure, we haven't had the results we hoped for and that our pace has deserved.

"In motorsport, sometimes it's your day and sometimes it isn't, and feeling sorry for ourselves is not in our nature. We will stay hungry, we will stay focussed and we have a big will to win, especially with Hell being my closest round to home. I have a lot of friends and family coming along and I want to show them what we can do. I'm pretty confident we will be quick again, so hopefully we can keep it together with no technical issues, have a great weekend and catch up a bit in the championship."

The drivers the Swede needs to catch are Jānis Baumanis and Enzo Ide, nine points clear and tied at the summit of the standings - with a win

apiece to their credit in 2023. Young guns Patrick O'Donovan and home hero Sivert Svardal have also been right on the pace so far this year, though the latter, like Marklund, has too often found himself on the receiving end of ill-fortune.

Seasoned campaigner René Münnich continues to take the fight to his younger rivals - racing to the runner-up spoils in Portugal - while there is an intriguing 'wild card' in the pack in the shape of Norwegian rallycross legend Sverre Isachsen, back in action for the first time in almost seven years. Has the three-time European Champion and fans' favourite still 'got it'? We're about to find out...



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MULTITUDE



ANTON MARKLUND #1

Country: Sweden
Team: SET Promotion
Car: Ford Fiesta

Anton Marklund made his debut in the FIA European Rallycross Championship in the now defunct TouringCar class in 2011, going on to lift the laurels the following year courtesy of two triumphs and six further podium finishes.

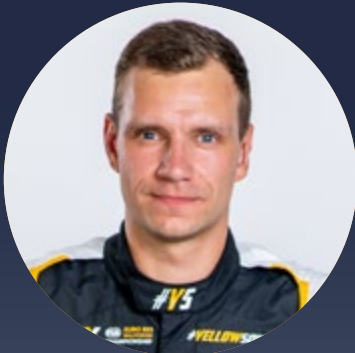
In 2013, he stepped up to Supercar (now Euro RX1) level, before contesting three seasons in the World Championship from 2014 to 2016, reaching the rostrum in Canada and placing a career-high sixth in the standings in his maiden campaign.

The Swede returned to Euro RX in 2017 and duly clinched the coveted crown behind the wheel of his Marklund Motorsport Volkswagen Polo - winning three times from five starts and never taking the chequered flag lower than fourth in a dominant display. He finished second overall in 2018, adding another victory to his CV in Belgium, while the 2019 and 2020 seasons yielded a trio of podiums in World RX competition.

Marklund rejoined the fray for the 2021 Euro RX1 curtain-raiser with his 2017 title-winning car, running under the Hedströms Motorsport banner. A spectacular roll at the end of Q4 - after setting the pace throughout the opening three qualifiers - brought a premature end to his challenge at Höljes, but he made three World Championship appearances later the same year, advancing to the final at Spa-Francorchamps in Hedströms' Hyundai i20.

He returned to action for a full campaign with the same car in 2022 - now fielded by SET Promotion - triumphing three times out of six and never finishing lower than fourth as he sped to his third championship in commanding fashion. For 2023, the Boliden native has embarked upon a new challenge, as he attempts to take a ten-year-old Ford Fiesta to the top of the podium.





JĀNIS BAUMANIS #6

Country: Latvia
Team: RX Team Latvia
Car: Peugeot 208

Jānis Baumanis has been a familiar name on the international rallycross scene since 2014, when he contested the FIA European Rallycross Championship's Super1600 (now Euro RX3) category, claiming three wins in a SET Promotion Renault Twingo on his way to third in the drivers' classification.

The following year, the Latvian added two more victories and the Super1600 crown to his rapidly growing résumé, while simultaneously making his debut at Supercar (now Euro RX1) level in Norway in a Peugeot 208 under the Hansen Talent Development banner - impressively reaching the rostrum at the first time of asking.

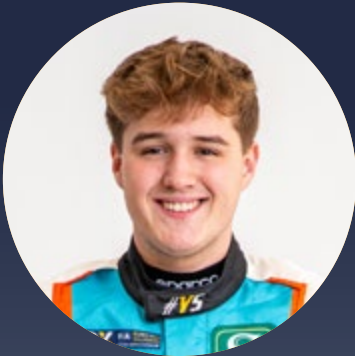
Sporadic World Championship outings the same season were highlighted by a maiden final appearance and fourth-place finish in the last round in Argentina, behind the wheel of a World RX Team Austria Ford Fiesta.

Baumanis remained with the squad in 2016, regularly progressing through to the semi-final stage and advancing to his second career final in Barcelona en route to a top ten championship ranking. He continued to score consistently over the following two years with STARD before breaking through in 2019 as he ascended the podium in both Norway and Canada, going on to clinch sixth spot in the end-of-season standings.

Following a year's absence, he rejoined the fray in an ESmotorsport Škoda Fabia in 2021, popularly triumphing on home soil in Rīga as he raced to third in the title table. In 2022, Baumanis returned to the Hansen Motorsport fold, switching to a Peugeot 208 run under the #YellowSquad banner and improving to second overall courtesy of a trio of rostrum results.

For 2023, the Mārupe native has resurrected the RX Team Latvia moniker - last seen in the World RX paddock in 2016 - and got his season off to the perfect start with victory in the Nyirád curtain-raiser.





PATRICK O'DONOVAN #7

Country: Great Britain
Team: Team RX Racing
Car: Peugeot 208

Patrick O'Donovan made his rallycross debut in 2018 - aged just 14 - racing a 1300cc Suzuki Swift in the Motorsport UK Junior Rallycross Championship. In only his second season in the category, he was a title contender in 2019 and went on to finish runner-up in the standings.

Midway through 2020, O'Donovan graduated to the single-make RX150 Rallycross Championship for buggies within the British Rallycross Championship 5 Nations Trophy. He clinched the crown the following year while dovetailing his efforts with a full-season assault on the inaugural FIA RX2e Championship, placing fourth overall and reaching the rostrum at Höljes along the way.

His success earned him recognition as Motorsport UK's Young Driver of the Year, and he subsequently stunned observers by scooping the runner-up spoils in his very first Supercar outing at Lydden Hill. He joined the Euro RX1 field for the 2022 curtain-raiser in Hungary, behind the wheel of the same Ford Fiesta that his father - former British Rallycross Champion and Euro RX Supercar podium-finisher Ollie O'Donovan - raced to third place in Catalunya in 2017.

That same season, O'Donovan won twice in RX2e on his way to fourth in the title chase, often proving to be eventual champion Viktor Vranckx's closest rival. He simultaneously lifted the British Championship laurels in the headlining Supercar class, before throwing his hat into the ring for a full campaign of Euro RX1 competition in 2023 in an ex-Hansen Motorsport Peugeot 208 WRX.





SIVERT SVARDAL #24

Country: Norway
Team: Sivert Svardal
Car: Volkswagen Polo

Sivert Svardal made his Euro RX debut on home soil at Hell in 2017, immediately reaching the semi-final stage in the TouringCar category behind the wheel of a Mazda RX-8. The following year, a full campaign looked to have yielded the class crown by a single point in the Höljes finale - TouringCar's last event as an FIA European Championship - only for a post-race fuel test failure to result in disqualification and relegate him to ninth in the overall standings.

The Norwegian could console himself with a title triumph in the domestic series that same season aged just 18, which he backed up with a second-place championship finish in 2019, earning him the Norwegian ASN's prestigious 'Talent of the Year' accolade.

Following an abortive attempt to step up to Euro RX's headlining Supercar (now Euro RX1) category in 2020, Svardal joined the field in 2021 in a former title-winning, ex-Marklund Motorsport Volkswagen Polo, progressing through to the final in Latvia and being voted Cooper Tires 'Rookie of the Year'.

The Kongsmo native returned to the fray in 2022, missing out on a top three championship finish by just three points as he improved significantly to leap from 15th in the Drivers' table to fourth. He was a finalist three times out of six, achieving a best result of fourth place in Belgium.



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RENÉ MÜNNICH #77

Country: Germany
Team: ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport
Car: SEAT Ibiza

A team owner, successful entrepreneur and experienced driver, René Münnich began his rallycross career in the FIA European Rallycross Championship in 2007, finishing fourth on his debut in Division 1A (now Euro RX3) in Hungary in a Münnich Motorsport Volkswagen Polo. He switched to Škoda machinery for the next four seasons after stepping up to Division 1 (now Euro RX1).

Two years in the Super1600 category followed - yielding tenth in the points table on both occasions - with subsequent outings in Euro RX's headlining class resulting in multiple podiums and final appearances. A high of fifth position in the overall standings in 2019 preceded a breakthrough victory at Lohéac in 2021.

Münnich has simultaneously been a regular in World RX since 2014, predominantly behind the wheel of a SEAT Ibiza and contesting full seasons in 2016 and 2022. He progressed through to the final for the first time in the 2021 curtain-raiser in Catalunya, finishing fifth.

Away from rallycross, the German contested the FIA World Touring Car Championship until 2016, while his ALL-INKL.COM Münnich Motorsport team won the 2012 FIA GT1 World Championship. Münnich himself reached the rostrum in the TCR International Series with WestCoast Racing in 2015 and took a clean sweep of sprint race victories in the 2019 TCR Middle East Series to clinch the Drivers' crown.





ENZO IDE #91

Country: Belgium
Team: Enzo Ide
Car: Audi S1

Enzo Ide followed a somewhat unconventional route into rallycross. Beginning his career in sportscars in the domestic Belcar series in 2010, he graduated to the FIA GT3 European Championship the following year, piloting an Audi R8 LMS for Audi Club Team WRT and winning three races on his way to third in the overall classification. He secured the same final position in Belcar, while triumphing in the 24 Hours of Zolder.

In 2012, Ide stepped up again to the FIA GT1 World Championship behind the wheel of an AF Corse-run Ferrari 458 Italia GT3, before switching to the Blancpain GT Series' Sprint and Endurance Cups in 2013 in a Phoenix Racing GmbH Audi R8 LMS GT3. He continued to contest the Blancpain Sprint series until 2017, winning the title in his penultimate season courtesy of four victories from ten starts.

Transitioning to rallycross in 2019, the Belgian made his debut in the dual-surface discipline in his home World RX event at Spa-Francorchamps in a JC Raceteknik-entered Audi S1. He returned in Barcelona the following year - advancing to the semi-final on the second day of the double-header season finale - and twice reached the rostrum in a one-off appearance in the British Rallycross Championship.

In 2021, Ide embarked upon his maiden full campaign in the World Championship alongside Johan Kristoffersson in an Audi S1 EKS RX Quattro fielded by EKS JC, increasingly honing his craft as he fought his way into the final more often than not. A best finish of fourth place at Höljes was complemented by his first fastest qualifying time at the Nürburgring. In 2022, he moved across to Euro RX1 with EKS, scooping the runner-up spoils first time out at Nyírád in Hungary.



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HOME HEROES AIMING TO TURN THE SCREW ON CHAMPIONSHIP LEADER

Damian Litwinowicz might be two-from-two in the FIA European Rallycross Championship heading to Hell, but there are a whole host of local heroes aiming to unseat the championship leader in round three of the 2023 Euro RX3 campaign in Norway.

In a fiercely-disputed field, honours have been shared during the heat races and semi-finals so far this season, but when it has come to the all-important finals – where the big points are handed out – Litwinowicz has subtly raised his game in both Hungary and Portugal to claim back-to-back victories, his Montalegre success marking his first at Euro RX3 level.

That means the Pole arrives in Hell – where last year, he ascended the rostrum for the second time in the category – holding a ten-point advantage over his closest pursuer in the chase for the coveted crown, but a third consecutive triumph is far from guaranteed.

The reason? Some of his closest pursuers call the undulating and demanding Lånkebanen circuit their home track, with Espen Isaksætre as well as Škoda stars Jens Hvaal and Martin Kjører all determined to put on a show for the enthusiastic Norwegian fans and halt Litwinowicz's winning run.

Isaksætre has already got the better of his Volland Racing stablemate in several heats this year in his maiden campaign in the all-conquering Audi A1, and has hassled him to the chequered flag in both finals to-date. The 29-year-old similarly has prior podium form in Hell, having raced to third place on his Super1600 debut here back in 2014.



Damian Litwinowicz



Espen Isaksætre

Scandic

SAMARBEIDSPARTNER

M.U.S

MaskinUtleie Stjørdal

SAMARBEIDSPARTNER

HELL
CATERING

SAMARBEIDSPARTNER

TANDEM

SAMARBEIDSPARTNER

Hvaal was a revelation on his own Euro RX3 bow at Germany's Nürburgring last November, while Kjær's performance to finish fourth at Montalegre earned him the Cooper Tires 'Racer of the Weekend' accolade - and the Larvik native is no stranger to giant-killing exploits.

Other likely protagonists include Nils Volland - a rostrum-finisher in Portugal and a driver increasingly knocking on the door of a breakthrough victory - and fellow Audi racer João Ribeiro, who has established himself as a consistent front-runner in his sophomore season in the series.

One thing's for sure - they will all be going Hell for leather for glory in Norway this weekend...



Martin Kjær



Damian Litwinowicz



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