

Mattighofen/Tulwitz, 25th April 2010

KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY PROVIDES THRILLS TOO: 14 X-BOWS AND A RECORD CROWD AT THE RECHBERG!

The start of the motor sports season 2010 could not have gone better for KTM's four-wheel department, that is the X-BOW fraction. After thrilling, spectacular races at the KTM X-BOW Battles opening events on Friday and Saturday on the Salzburgring the participants of the KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY heated up the vibe on Saturday and Sunday. No less than 14 pilots started their season on the Styrian Rechberg in line with the Hill European Championships and thus the biggest and most international motor sports event in Austria!

Drivers in their own class caused a stir in front of a record-breaking backdrop of 35.000 spectators, who made the pilgrimage to the Rechberg near Graz on both days. Just like last year the spectacular, open super sports cars burned impressive times into the asphalt, furthermore the organiser duo Dominik Olbert („olbertsports“) and Sigi Buchegger (KTM) brought fresh wind into the paddock in Tulwitz by hosting a brilliant drivers party for over 250 guests on Saturday night and with the Red Bull eventcar including a DJ on Sunday.

The Austrian Gerald Hierzer was the fastest man after two heats on Sunday, in front of his compatriot Erwin Friezl. Third place in this international field went to a really famous hill pilot: Milos Zmeskal. The Czech-born 1998 ex-European hill climb champion also managed the fastest time of the entire weekend (2:30,109), but did not have an optimal run on Sunday and so had to settle for third place. One would have presumed – due to his training performance – Daniel Ebner at the top of the field as well, but he had to bury all his hopes for a top position after a spin during the first race.

Fourth place went to a celebrity: Rallye shooting star Patrick Winter handled his X-BOW spectacularly, and that despite driving with road tyres (!). He was thrilled with the atmosphere and the vehicle: „Taking part in hill climb races is like being part of a big family and I like that a lot. The spectators are brilliant, incredible to see so many people here on the Rechberg! I don't have to say too much about the X-BOW, apart from COOL – I think that describes it pretty well!“ Lining up behind Winter there were Günther Zanker, Dominik Olbert, Andreas Kriegl and Sebastian Jakl – the man from Slovenia is at the same time series sponsor of the X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY. The top ten were rounded off by ex-KTM plant driver Cathi Felser. The fast lady from Bavaria had her second guest appearance at the Rechberg and was just as enthusiastic as last year: „The atmosphere, the countless fans and the X-BOW under me – it can hardly get any better“ the racing instructor was completely satisfied, just like everyone else. Straight behind her it was with Melanie Moser the second fast lady of the weekend, yet in front of gents Franz Olbert, Michael Trawniczek (who made his way as roving reporter) and the already mentioned Daniel Ebner.

The organiser duo Sigi Buchegger/Dominik Olbert were happy with the premiere as well. For the next race in Kitzreck (Styria) on 22nd/23rd May the two expect a starting line-up of nearly 20 cars, as they had three cars running simultaneously on this weekend at the Salzburgring as well.

Results KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY, 1. heat, Rechberg:

1. Gerald Hierzer, AT, 5:03,822 Minutes
2. Erwin Friezl, AT, 5:05,155
3. Milos Zmeskal, CZ, 5:08,233
4. Patrick Winter, AT, 5:12,320
5. Günther Zanker, AT, 5:08,412
6. *Dominik Olbert, AT, 5:16,974**
7. Robert Gobli, AT, 5:19,463
8. Andreas Kriegl, AT, 5:19,740
9. Sebastian Jakl, SI, 5:25,518
10. *Catharina Felser, DE, 5:26,911**
11. Melanie Moser, AT, 5:32,223
12. Franz Olbert, AT, 5:34,118
13. Michael Trawniczek, AT, 5:44,927
14. Daniel Ebner, AT, 6:05,038

**) not entitled to points in the overall ranking*

Score KTM X-BOW HILLCLIMB TROPHY, standings after 1 of 6 heats:**

1. Gerald Hierzer, AT, 27 Points
2. Erwin Friszl, AT, 22
3. Milos Zmeskal, CZ 18
4. Patrick Winter, AT, 17
5. Günther Zanker, AT, 14
6. Robert Gobli, AT, 11
7. Andreas Kriegl, AT, 8
8. Melanie Moser, AT, 4
9. Sebastian Jakl, SI, 3
9. Franz Olbert: AT, 3
11. Michael Trawniczek, AT, 2
11. Daniel Ebner, AT, 2

***)* Points scheme according to Formula 1, furthermore every participant gets two points awarded for the proper administrative and technical inspection at each event, irrespective of ranking.

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

- 22./23.05.2010: St. Andrä-Kitzeck (AUT)
12./13.06.2010: Verzegnis-Sella Chianzutan (ITA)*
28./29.08.2010: Ilrska Bistrica (SLO)
18./19.09.2010: Esthofen St. Agatha (AUT)
02./03.10.2010: Mickhausen (GER)*

**) count towards Hill Climb European Championship*