

Mattighofen/Salzburg, 24th April 2010

FURIOUS START TO THE „KTM X-BOW BATTLE“: TENSION, DRAMA AND ACTION ON THE SALZBURGRING!

It was the perfect premiere for the KTM X-BOW Battle: Best weather conditions saw the first heats of the newly created one make series go without a hitch on Friday and Saturday – and the expectations of the organisers as well as the participants were exceeded by far: No less than 16 or rather 17 starters took part in the races on the ultra-fast traditional track outside the gates of Salzburg and delivered motor sports at its finest. Especially remarkable was the mixture of novices, who tackled a 'real' circuit race for the first time this weekend and the dedicated amateurs, who already had some racing experience. It was also unique how fair the two races were conducted: Despite lasting fights for best position and the narrowest of time differences there was no 'contact with the enemy'. After the second presentation ceremony on Saturday there were only happy and satisfied faces to be seen, after a fantastic first racing weekend of the KTM X-BOW Battle!

1st Race, 23rd April 2010:

The so often rainy Salzburgring presented itself – as if on order – with warm temperatures and glorious sunshine in optimal conditions for the 15 vehicle-strong field. That the overall winner in shape of Jim Gebhart – the fast man from Charm (Germany) is not only KTM service partner, but has also been racing on a semi-professional level for many years – was already established in advance was not detrimental to the tension. Behind Gebhart, who sped away from the rest of the field right after the start, a thrilling fight throughout the laps developed between Gerhard Trenker, Klaus Angerhofer, Gerald Kiska, „Michelle Vaillant“, guest starter Hans Knauss as well as the 'last minute' starter Ernst Kirchmayr. Separated by mere tenth of seconds real slipstream battles were fought – until ex-skiing star Hans Knauss had to retire due to gear box problems and Gerhard Trenker delivered a spectacular off on entering the start/finish straight. After this the positions in the groups were established, but further at the back of the field the fights continued in a refreshing manner: KTM chairman Hubert Trunkenpolz duelled with the Greek Athanasios Ladas and Sport Auto chief-editor Horst von Saurma, who was also one of the guest starters. In the end Ladas asserted himself in front of von Saurma and Trunkenpolz. The Czech Jakub Havrlant defeated Marcus Winkler in the duel for 10th place, the places behind the top ten were taken by Wolfgang Fritsch, Christian Burgstaller as well as Christian Steiner.

2nd Race, 24th April 2010:

Second day and for the second time perfect conditions. Obviously not only the many spectators, but also the sun was thrilled with the action-packed race of the KTM X-BOW Battle. Right at the front it was like a transfer picture of the first race. Jim Gebhart escaped and celebrated his second start-to-finish win. Second place was taken by Jiri Heinik – after a very lonely race for him as well. The Czech could only start on Saturday, but managed his Class-3-X-BOW very well right from the start. In third place and again winner in Class 2 was Klaus Angerhofer, who thus justified his role of favourite. The parts in the thrilling fights for position in the Saturday race were taken by Gerald Kiska, Gerhard Trenker (who, after his crash on Friday, had his X-BOW repaired in no time), Horst von Saurma and Michel Vaillant. The order of the home straight was only decided during the very last lap, when the top-motivated chief designer of KTM, Gerald Kiska, secured his overall fourth place. A brilliant performance was delivered by guest starter Horst von Saurma, who managed a victory in Class 1 in the

bustle of the last lap. The further order was: Athanasios Ladas, Ernst Kirchmayr – who, after a problem during the heats managed to drive from last place to ninth position – Andreas Kitzerow, Hubert Trunkenpolz, Marcus Winkler, Jakub Havrlant, Wolfgang Fritsch, Christian Burgstaller, Christian Steiner – and Hans Knauss, whose luck was not on his side during this weekend: After a gear box problem in the first heat on Friday he experienced a clutch defect in the second race, which left the likeable ex-ski downhill racer and current ORF co-commentator, who was as swift as an arrow during training, empty-handed.

Voices after the Race:

Georg Silbermayr: „A historical moment! We'll probably only see what we've really created here in a few years time, because I am convinced that this concept of affordable, but still qualitative high-class motor sports will prevail! A big "Thank you!" to all participants, who have helped with the preparation and the realization of the KTM X-BOW Battle, and naturally also a massive thanks to KTM's entire board, who supported us throughout. This was exactly the start that we'd hoped for: Thrilling, fair races, a friendly atmosphere in the paddock. Each participant, no matter if novice or experienced racer had such a lot of fun, it was a unique experience for everyone. This weekend was the perfect motivation for every X-BOW owner to perhaps take part in the next race in Most already – the door to our paddock is wide open for everyone and we are looking forward to many people taking part!“

Hans Knauss: „Apparently I've taken a lease on bad luck. Practically all X-BOWs have worked without any problems for the entire racing weekend – only with mine technology obviously went mad even twice. But that hardly reduced the fun I had on this weekend. Because not only is the X-BOW a wonderful car to drive, but also the atmosphere among the drivers in the paddock and the fairness on the race track was incomparable. This gave me so much pleasure that I'm seriously considering to be seen in a KTM X-BOW once or twice more this year!“

Hubert Trunkenpolz: „I admit that I am really weary now. But I am also very happy that we could experience such a great weekend here. Every single participant had fun and yesterday and today we have proven our motto "Ready to Race!" in a very impressive manner. The KTM X-BOW Battle is the perfect format for our product and our customers. I'm already looking forward to the next race – always pedal to the metal!“

The Results:

1st Race, 23rd April 2010:

1. *Jim Gebhart*, (Class 3) 25:06,417 Minutes*
2. *Klaus Angerhofer* (Class 2) 39,780 Seconds*
3. Gerald Kiska (Class 2) 40,552
4. „*Michel Vaillant*“ (Class 1) 44,162*
5. Ernst Kirchmayr (Class 1) 48,787
6. Athanasios Ladas (Class 2) 1:08,574 Minutes
7. Horst von Saurma (Class 1) 1:10,184
8. Hubert Trunkenpolz (Class 2) 1:11,012
9. Jakub Havrlant (Class 1) + 1 Lap
10. Marcus Winkler (Class 1) + 1 Lap
11. Wolfgang Fritsch (Class 3) + 1 Lap
12. Christian Burgstaller (Class 1) + 1 Lap
13. Christian Steiner (Class 1) + 1 Lap
14. Hans Knauss (Class 2) + 5 Laps
15. Gerhard Trenker (Class 3) + 6 Laps

2nd Race, 24th April 2010:

1. *Jim Gebhart* (Class 3) 25:54,943 Minutes*
2. Jiri Heinik (Class 3) + 49,583 Seconds
3. *Klaus Angerhofer* (Class 2) + 1:15,002 Minutes*
4. Gerald Kiska (Class 2) + 1:31,495
5. Gerhard Trenker (Class 3) + 1:32,885
6. *Horst von Saurma* (Class 1) + 1:33,919*
7. „*Michel Vaillant*“ (Class 1) + 1:34,351
8. Athanasios Ladas (Class 2) + 1 Lap
9. Ernst Kirchmayr (Class 1) + 1 Lap
10. Andreas Kitzerow (Class 3) + 1 Lap
11. Hubert Trunkenpolz (Class 2) + 1 Lap
12. Marcus Winkler (Class 1) + 1 Lap
13. Jakub Havrlant (Class 1) + 1 Lap
14. Wolfgang Fritsch (Class 3) + 1 Lap
15. Christian Burgstaller (Class 1) + 1 Lap
16. Christian Steiner (Class 1) + 2 Laps
17. Hans Knauss (Class 2) + 6 Laps

*) *respective class winners*