

Budapest, 27th April 2014

Fluch wins both races during the first round of Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014

On 26th and 27th April there was the first round of Volkswagen Castrol Cup held at Hungaroring track near Budapest. There were 22 competitors on the grid representing 8 countries. Among them there was Jerzy Dudek – a former goalkeeper of Real Madrid, FC Liverpool and Poland national team. Marcus Fluch won first race on Saturday and the second one on Sunday as well. The Swede started both races from pole position and led from the beginning to the end. It was Jeffrey Kruger and Maciej Steinhof respectively who finished second race on the podium. With 50 points Marcus Fluch took the lead in the overall standings of the cup.

After the first round of Volkswagen Castrol Cup Marcus Fluch is the leader of the classification with a 10-point margin over Maciej Steinhof. Third place belongs to Jeffrey Kruger (38 points). Jerzy Dudek, who competed in Hungaroring for the first time took in both races 20. and 19. place respectively.

Qualifying session

On Saturday morning April 26th at 8:40, there was a beginning of the qualifying session before the initial round of Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014. Just like on Friday's practice sessions, 22 drivers competing in Hungary had to tackle not only with legendary track, but also with extreme weather conditions. During 30 minutes we faced unforgettable emotions and many switches on top places. Eventually it was Swede Marcus Fluch, whose time (2:18.937) set in the final minute of the qualifying session, turned out to be the best. Second best lap time was set by Maciej Steinhof, as Ales Jirasek showed good pace, and took the third spot. Jerzy Dudek scored 15th time, and the only woman in the competition – Gosia Rdest was ranked one place higher.

First race

Marcus Fluch won the first race of the initial round of Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014. Starting from pole position he led from start to finish. Behind him the chequered flag waved for Maciej Steinhof who took the second spot, while Jan Kisiel was third. Kisiel showed great overtaking skills, as he moved from 10th to 3rd position. Jerzy Dudek, for whom it is the first encounter with the Hungarian track was classified on 20th position and the only woman in the pack, Gosia Rdest gained 10th place.

The first race at Hungaoring was full of emotions. After two practices and the qualifying session held in heavy showers, this time the track was dry. Marcus Fluch showed his utmost at the start and controlled his rivals. From the very beginning it was Maciej Steinhof who maintained the second spot.

The true hero of the race was Janek Kisiel who mastered Push – to – Pass system usage to overtake many other competitors. 19-year old driver from Warsaw eventually took the third spot. Kisiel, third overall in previous season overtook drivers such as Jakub Litwin, Paweł Krężelok and Robertas Kupcikas. Among the rookies in Volkswagen Castrol Cup, the best result was gained by representing South Africa Jeffrey Kruger. All 22 competitors finished the first race at Hungaroring.

Comments after the first race of Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014 at Hungaroring

Marcus Fluch: qualifications pos. 1, Race pos. 1

- I have to admit that Maciek Steinhof was very fast and took a lot of pressure on me. I managed to control the race and at the end I made a quite big margin. Despite the fact I led from start to finish, the race was full of emotions.

Maciej Steinhof: qualifications pos. 2, Race pos. 2

- The fight with Marcus was very fierce. Each of us knew it is the very beginning of the season and one has to have a strategic approach to the issue. Tomorrow the grid will be same, so there will be an opportunity to fight for the victory.

Jan Kisiel: qualifications pos. 10, Race pos. 3

- I had a tactic approach to the race. I started from the 10th place and I managed to overtake the competitors, which resulted in gaining the podium spot. I'm very happy I reached the finish without a single scratch on the car.

Second Race

Like on Saturday afternoon, also on Sunday morning April 27th Marcus Fluch used his first spot on the grid and took the victory in the second race of Volkswagen Castrol Cup. Behind Fluch, there was a fierce battle for the other places on podium. Starting from second grid Maciej Steinhof was overtaken by the VWCC rookie driver Jeffrey Kruger on the final lap. Jerzy Dudek improved his position from the Saturday race finishing the second run on 19th position.

After some days of miserable weather the nice sun shone over Hungaroring, which made the rivalry even more colourful.

Initially it seemed that first top spots were reserved for Fluch and Steinhof who begun the Sunday race from first and second grid respectively. After the kick-off, Paweł Krężelok showed his utmost skills and like Jeffrey Kruger managed to overtake Jonas Gelzinis and Ales Jirasek. In the middle of the race Kruger was ahead of Krężelok and started to chase Maciej Steinhof who had less opportunities to use Push – to – Pass system. On the final lap the VWCC rookie from South Africa was promoted to the second place, which he maintained to the very end.

There is a one-month break in Volkswagen Castrol Cup. Races three and four will be held on 23-25 May at German track Lausitzring.

Comments after the second race of Volkswagen Castrol Cup 2014 at Hungaroring**Marcus Fluch: qualifications pos. 1, Race pos. 1**

- It was a great weekend. If I won both practice sessions, it would have been perfect. At the beginning of the second race I had a lot of work as Maciek Steinhof pushed me hard. Afterwards, there was a battle between Steinhof, Kruger and Krężelok. Thanks to that I could make a progress and control the race.

Maciej Steinhof: qualifications pos. 2, Race pos. 2

- At the beginning I did my utmost to catch Marcus. Unfortunately in the second part of the race I had a slight contact with one of my rivals and the geometry of the car failed. Thus I could not drive with Marcus' pace so I had to fight with Jeffrey. I'm very pleased with the points I gained at Hungaroring.

Jeffrey Kruger: qualifications pos. 6, Race pos. 2

- At the beginning I wanted to thank all people who helped in competing in Volkswagen Castrol Cup. Especially Volkswagen India. In the second race there was no room for boredom. I had a great fight with Paweł Krężelok. We switched our positions many times.

Robertas Kupcikas: qualifications pos. 7, Race pos. 5

- I tried to use Push – to – Pass system wisely. I left some shots for the very end so overtaking Jan Kisiel who has less such opportunities was just a matter of time.

Ales Jirasek: qualifications pos. 7, Race pos. 5

- I need to go step by step and analyze my performance, because it is not easy for me to switch to front-wheel drive car after several seasons spent in the RWD cars. On a wet track is a lot easier for me, what is visible in the timetable, as I can set a very good laptime. I feel much worse in dry conditions. I need to remember to keep the front tires hot. Otherwise I have to fight hard to keep the front of the car in a good line. Things are not easy thanks to Push - to - Pass system, with which I deal the first time and I just have to learn it.

Latest news at www.volkswagencastrolcup.pl/en/

At the Cup website You can find information about every round, competitor, track, and car. During the race weekend up-to-date information about the practice sessions, qualifications and races will be published at the website. Press releases and high resolution photos can be found in media area.

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