

Warsaw, 5th August 2014

### **Dudek vs Hannawald – clash of the athletes as Volkswagen Castrol Cup reaches half of the season**

**Volkswagen Castrol Cup - an international, innovative racing series returns after the summer break. The fourth round of the cup will be held on the weekend of 8-10 August at the racetrack in the Czech town of Most. In addition to twenty regular participants Sven Hannawald, former ski jumper, will compete in Czech Republic as a VIP driver. For Olympic silver medallist from Salt Lake City (2002) it will be a chance for rematch with Jerzy Dudek. Famous athletes have already had the chance to check who is faster during the recent Scirocco R-Cup Stars Race in Moscow. Meanwhile it is Robertas Kupcikas who comes to Most as overall standings leader. Will he defend his position?**

[\(After the third round Volkswagen Castrol Cup - the movie with a summary\)](#)

As usual Volkswagen Castrol Cup Racing weekend will begin with the first practice session on Friday, August 8, at 13:50. The second 30-minute practice is scheduled on 17:30. Positions on the grid are going to be decided during 30 minutes long qualifying session. Drivers will try to cover two fastest laps on Saturday morning, starting from 10:00. First race is about to start at 13:50. Just after red lights will go off competitors are going to cover 13 laps of the Autodrom Most track. Meanwhile second race will start on Sunday at noon. This weekend Autodrom Most will also host other racing series. In addition to Volkswagen Castrol Cup there will be drivers competing in Porsche GT3 Cup Challenge Central Europe and FIA Central Europe Zone Championship.

### **Who's going to stop Kupcikas?**

After the first three rounds of this year's Volkswagen Castrol Cup there is Lithuanian driver's name at the top of the overall classification. So far Robertas Kupcikas gathered as many as 220 points. Driver from Vilnius has won three races in a row - two at EuroSpeedway Lausitz and one in Poznan. One win and 26 points less than Kupcikas has Marcus Fluch. The Swede, however, must remember not only about chasing Kupcikas, but also watch out for Jeffrey Kruger, who has just two points less than Fluch. Sensational rookie from South Africa already showed that he instantly get used to tracks, which are new for him. In the second race on the track in Poznan Kruger scored his first win of the year. At the halfway point of the season highest ranked Pole is experienced Maciek Steinhof (158 points), who certainly didn't say his last word. 156 points scored Jan Kisiel. Top eight is completed by Jonas Gelzinis (152 pts.), Krystian Korzeniowski (141 pts.) and Pawel Krężelok (119). Just behind eight first gentlemen there is Gosia Rdest with 100 points. 17th place belongs to Jerzy Dudek, who won 61 points so far. During the last round in Poznan, well-known goalkeeper reached his best result in his career of Volkswagen Castrol Cup driver. In the first race Dudek was eleventh, and total number of points he scored in Poznan is 30. We have eight races remaining until the end of the season (during 4 rounds: Most, Slovakia Ring, Brno, Poznan) and a total of 400 points to win, so nothing is decided yet. However, very tight and fierce competition in this year's Volkswagen Castrol Cup shows that at the end of the season every point can be extremely precious. In Czech Republic fastest Polish drivers for sure will try to get promoted into the top three of the overall standings. Both experienced Steinhof and Kisiel are very familiar with Autodrom Most. Czech track is very winding and tricky, so experience can bring Polish aces closer to success.

### **Olympic champion vs. Champions League winner**

Behind the wheel of one of 22 racing Golfs GTI, which will enter the Czech track, we will see Sven Hannawald. German athlete made his debut in Ski Jumping World Cup in 1992. He is the only one jumper who managed to win all four competitions in the prestigious Four Hills Tournament. In addition Hannawald has many other titles under his belt such as team Olympic gold medal, team World Champion, as well as two individual victories in the Ski-flying World Championship. In 2002, at the Olympic games in Salt Lake City German jumper also won a silver medal on a small hill. After finishing his professional ski-jumping career Hannawald looked for adrenaline in racing. His first contact with professional racing took place during the final round of the German Seat Leon Cup. In subsequent seasons, the 39-year-old from Erlabrunn also competed behind the wheel of a Porsche 911 GT3 in the ADAC GT Masters round. In the 2011, 2012 and 2014 seasons, Hannawald had a few guest

appearances in Scirocco R-Cup races. His best result behind the wheel of a cup Volkswagen Scirocco was 18th place in the second race at the Red Bull Ring in 2011. For Hannawald Czech round of Volkswagen Castrol will be a second opportunity this year to compete with Jerzy Dudek. These two outstanding athletes, in mid-July, raced each other in the Scirocco R-Cup Star Race in Moscow. In the competition at Moscow Raceway the Pole was faster. Hannawald hit the Dudek's car, but the former Real Madrid goalie did manage to defend his position and finish the race. Hannawald, after another contact, this time with Inessa Tushkanova, did not finish the competition. Which of them will be faster in Most? We'll find out on Saturday and Sunday, 9 and 10 August.

## **21 corners on 4 kilometres**

Czech town Most is a place where motorsport in post-war Czechoslovakia was reborn. Initially – since 1947, on the track built around local brewery, motorbike races were held. Car racing was resumed five years later. Circuit which will be visited by cup Golfs, was built between 1978 and 1983. It took the area of former open-cast mine. In 1995 the track was taken over by company Autodrom Most s.r.o. New owner focused their efforts on improving the safety and functionality of a neglected track. Interestingly, the engineers who designed this track had a very difficult task. Due to restrictions of the socialist Czechoslovakia, they could not visit the tracks in Western Europe or cooperate with foreign specialists. Track in Most is 4,2 km long with 9 left and 12 right turns. There is also long (792 m) straight. This means that the driving line will be crucial at this track as well as finding suitable places for efficient use of the Push - to Pass system. Track record – 1:26,610 s belongs to the Stefan Mucke, who is well-known from the DTM. German driver obtained this result behind the wheel of the DTM car.

## **50 hp extra**

As in previous rounds of the competition will be spiced-up with Push - to - Pass system, which allows to increase the engine power of racing Golf from 260 to 310 hp for 10 seconds. Each driver has the right to use a 50-horsepower accelerator 19 times during one race. Drivers who this season made their debut in the Volkswagen Castrol Cup are getting better, and better with this system. In Most Push-to-Pass button probably will be in use mostly on the beginning of nearly 800 m straight. Shall we expect the Cup Golf speed record to be beaten there? The numbers displayed on the side windows of Golfs show how many times the driver can use the system Push - to - Pass. Its activation is indicated with the blue light placed behind the windshield.

## **Quotes before the fourth round of the Volkswagen Castrol Cup at Autodrom Most:**

### **Jakub Litwin, 12th place in the overall standings:**

Czech track is familiar to me and I really like to race there. Next round is very important to me for one reason - I want to regain the joy of rivalry, which in recent rounds, I could not feel because of the not very fair behaviour of other drivers. Therefore, as always, I look forward to the fair play competition. After several failures, I go back even stronger to fight for the top places. I want to make my mark during this round. I believe that it will be successful and happy weekend both for my team and me.

### **Marcin Jaros, 14th in the overall standings:**

During first three rounds of the season I gained a lot of valuable experience. After successful races in the second round of the Cup, my expectations are higher, so I focus on fast and clear driving. I do not think about the results. These are sure to come with time. I know Most track very well. I love this venue, as its configuration suits my driving style. I am optimistic and I look forward to interesting races, not only for the drivers.

### **Dylan Pereira, 13th place in the overall standings:**

Round in Poznan for me was far more successful than the previous races in Volkswagen Castrol Cup, so I look forward with optimism to the first visit in the Czech Republic. I have never been at this track, so before this round I used the simulator extensively to learn layout of the track. I already know that it will not be an easy race. The route is very winding and so many corners require good practice, because you can lose a lot of precious time. In addition, as an athlete, I prepare myself physically as well, cause we can expect really high temperatures at the track. I hope that this track will become one of my favourites and I will leave Czech Republic with many points.

### **Paul Krężelok, 8th place in the overall standings:**

It's been a long time since the last round in Poznan. I did my best to work efficiently during this period, both in terms of driving the car and physical training. I really like Autodrom Most. I had a chance to

race it last year. It is very demanding and difficult to drive. However, it's the type of track I like the most. My goal is to be quick and consistent in qualifying.

**Calendar of Volkswagen Castrol Cup:**

- \* April 25-27 - Hungaroring (Hungary)
- \* May 23-25 - EuroSpeedway Lausitz (Germany)
- \* June 13-15 - Tor Poznan (Poland)
- \* August 8-10 - Autodrom Most (Czech Republic)
- \* August 22-24 - Slovakia Ring (Slovakia)
- \* September 12-14 - Automotodrom Brno (Czech Republic)
- \* September 26-28 - Tor Poznan (Poland)

**www.volkswagencastrolcup.pl – all latest information**

On the official website of the Cup [www.volkswagencastrolcup.pl](http://www.volkswagencastrolcup.pl) you can find all information about calendar, drivers, circuits and car. During the race weekend will be published to-date information about the course of training, qualifications and races. On the media page there are also press releases and photos.

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