

Polo Cup India



PRESS RELEASE

Vishnu Prasad wins 1st race in Round 2 of Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010 at Coimbatore

Coimbatore, July 18, 2010 – Vishnu Prasad, the 17 year old driver from Chennai, today won the 1st race in Round 2 of the Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010 at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore. The racer from Chennai led from start to finish in the 20 lap race as he became only the second winner of the Polo Cup today. He completed the race in 27 minutes and 57.043 seconds covered a total of 42 kilometres. He was followed home closely by Sahil Shelar from Pune and Karthik Shankar from Hyderabad.

Championship leader Sailesh Bolisetti finished in a competitive 4th position after starting in 6th place. Most impressive today was the only woman on the grid, Alisha Abdullah who finished in 6th position after starting in 13th position.

Vishnu had a great start and led comfortably with Sahil Shelar and Kathik Shankar close behind him. Sailesh Bolisetti made a brilliant overtaking move to pass Mohammed Fahad Kutty for 4th position on lap 11. The safety car came out on lap 12 after Suraj Bhagat stopped on track at the second corner due to a collision. It was back to racing when the safety car veered back into the pits with five laps to go. Vishnu had no trouble picking up from where he left off and crossed the chequered flag to win his first race in the Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup in India 2010.

Mr. K K Swamy Vice-President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India Private. Limited, commented, "Today marked the first time the Race Polos raced on an actual race track. It was thrilling to see a change in the rankings from debut race in Pune, the hometown Volkswagen. It was also fantastic to see the sole woman racer in the series, Ms Alisha Abdullah, finish in the top 6."

A delighted Vishnu expressed, "I had a great first race today. And I would like to thank Volkswagen for organising the event and the technical expertise from the coaches. Although I had few bad starts, it was a close race right till the end, and I fought hard to keep my 1st position."

Second placed Sahil said, "This is my first time on the podium and I hope to be back here after the second race this afternoon. I am looking forward to starting in the reverse grid, it should make for a very interesting race."

Third placed Karthik commented, "It feels good to be back on the podium, for he third time. My focus remains on the championship and I hope to be on the podium as often as I can."

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There were a host of dignitaries present for Round 2 of the Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup in India. This included Mr. K K Swamy, Vice-President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India Private Limited; Mr. Sashikumar, Chief Executive Officer Ramani Cars Private Limited, Volkswagen Dealer Coimbatore and Mr. Rick Bond, Managing Director, Lear Corporation, Sponsor of Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010.

Below are the results and the lap times from first race of Round 2 of the Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010.

Position	Car No	Name	Total time	Best Lap time
1.	6	Vishnu Prasad	00:27:57.043	1:16:554
2.	18	Sahil Shelar	00:27:58.893	1:16:774
3.	19	Karthik Shankar	00:27:59.608	1:17:008
4.	12	Sailesh Boliseti	00:28:01.701	1:16:734
5.	21	Parth Ghorpade	00:28:01.827	1:16:658
6.	3	Alisha Abdullah	00:28:09.658	1:17:772
7.	5	Mohd Fahad Kutty	00:28:13.889	1:16:831
8.	7	Imran Majid	00:28:14.363	1:18:756
9.	2	Gokul Krishna	00:28:14.736	1:18:756
10.	4	Munjal Savla	00:28:16.491	1:17:480
11.	10	Anthony George	00:28:21.321	1:17:794
12.	14	Oshan Kothadiya	00:28:21.595	1:18:294
13.	11	Jai Prashant Venkat	00:28:22.902	1:18:884
14.	1	Vikash Anand	00:28:24.031	1:18:617
15.	9	Samyak Shah	00:28:26.695	1:19:116
16.	17	Sourav Bandopadhyay	00:28:28.685	1:18:854
17.	20	Ameya Bafna	00:26:59.476 (19 laps)	1:17:518
18.	22	Betran Dsouza	00:27:48.798 (18 laps)	1:18:292
19.	8	Gurniaz Mann	00:26:40.514 (16 laps)	1:18:431
20.	15	Suraj Bhagat	00:12:14.680 (9 laps)	1:18:263
21.	16	Saran Vikram	-	-

Motor sports enthusiasts interested in getting further information can log on to the website, www.polocup.in. This website will display information about the format of The Polo Cup India, race updates and driver profiles.

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About Volkswagen Motorsport

Volkswagen is committed to broad-scale motor sport as in internationally staged cross-country rally racing programmes in countries including Germany, Europe and the United States apart from other countries in Asia and has a long tradition of promoting young talent. Following the legendary Formula V as of 1966 the brand, in 1976, sponsored a one-make touring car cup for the first time. Among others, the Scirocco Cup produced drivers like the subsequent Formula 1 racer Manfred Winkelhock. In 1977 the first-generation Golf GTI replaced the Scirocco as the cup vehicle and remained the popular competition car for a generation of young racers up to 1982. At the relaunch in 1998, Volkswagen presented the Lupo, which offered top-class sport at fair prices, as well as the Volkswagen New Beetle Cup.

The year of 1998 stands for an all-new concept in the world of racing. To this day, this new concept featuring centrally fielded vehicles and car swapping among the drivers guarantees maximum equality of opportunity. In 2004 the 150-hp Polo replaced the small Lupo as the cup vehicle and the concept was subjected to further refinement. The Polo Cup's success story is closely linked to the DTM-Deutsche Tourenwagen Meisterschaft. The premier league of touring car racing has evolved into a real crowd-puller and is envisaged as a concrete career goal by many junior racers.

Volkswagen Group Communications

Contact: Kurt Rippholz
Phone: +91/9930455597
E-mail: kurt.rippholz@volkswagen.co.in

20:20 Media

Contact: Nishant Maller	David Vaz
Phone: +91/9840070444	+91/9322652611
E-mail: nishant@2020india.com	david@2020india.com

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Photo 1 – From Left to right: Karthik Shankar, 2nd Runner-up; Vishnu Prasad, Winner of the race; Sahil Shelar, 1st runner-up at the post race press conference of 1st race in Round 2 of the Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010.

Photo 2 –Mr K K Swamy, Vice-President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India, flags off the 1st race of the 2nd Round of the Polo Cup

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Photo 3 - Mr K K Swamy, Vice-President and Managing Director, Volkswagen India, with Ms Alisha Abdullah, the only woman racer

Photo 4- Vishnu Prasad, winner of the 1st race of the 2nd round of the Polo Cup India 2010 crossing the finish line