



Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup at the Nürburgring (D)

First victory for Indian Aditya Patel – Olaf Manthey on podium

Wolfsburg (07 August 2010). The first Scirocco victory for an Indian: Aditya Patel has won the fourth race of the season in the Volkswagen Scirocco R-Cup at the Nürburgring. The 22-year-old from Chennai in his sport coupe powered by bio natural gas achieved a crystal-clear start-finish victory, ahead of leader of the standings Maciek Steinhof (Poland) and Nordschleife legend Olaf Manthey (Germany). Juniors Kris Heidorn (Germany), Jann-Hendrik Ubben (Germany) and Arne Larisch (Germany) clinched places four to six in their Scirocco R cars that deliver up to 275 hp.

The thrilling 14-lap race offered numerous overtaking manoeuvres and close duels galore. Maciek Steinhof managed a perfect start – from position eight, he made up as many as four places on the first lap. Nürburgring legend Olaf Manthey proved duelling prowess as well. He made clever use of his additional push-to-pass power and took third place on the podium on his return to touring car racing. But not all of the duels ended without harm: the Swiss Rahel Frey fought a close battle for second place with touring car ace Uwe Alzen until both were forced to retire after their cars touched. A similar fate was suffered by seasoned Nordschleife campaigner Harald Grohs and junior racer Isabelle Biela (Czech Republic) who had a heavy collision and caused a safety car period. None of the drivers were injured.

Kris Nissen, Volkswagen Motorsport Director:

“We saw a very thrilling race. I’m happy for Aditya Patel, who did a superb job. That’s nice for him and a great signal for the Polo Cup in India that is being held for the first time this year. Nürburgring legend Olaf Manthey showed that with the requisite fitness, good track knowledge and thorough preparation it is possible to be very quick even in a car with front-wheel drive to which he wasn’t accustomed. It’s too bad that Hans-Joachim Stuck wasn’t able to participate due to illness. The entire Volkswagen Motorsport team and I send him best wishes for a speedy recovery from the Nürburgring.”

Aditya Patel (India), qualifying: 1st place, race: 1st place

“An indescribable feeling! My first victory outside of India and at the famous Nürburgring straight away, that’s simply fantastic. I knew that I’m quick enough. Just after the re-start following the safety car period I was a little worried because Steinhof was right behind me – but I managed to defend my lead.”

Kris Heidorn (Germany), qualifying: 12th place, race: 4th place, Junior Cup: 1st place

“After the botched qualifying I’m very pleased with the race. At the end, I had a nice battle with Olaf Manthey but didn’t want to take any more risks in order to not jeopardise my points.”

Olaf Manthey (Germany), qualifying: 9th place, race: 3rd place, Legend Cup: 1st place

”Actually, I wanted to finish eighth so that I’d be able to start from the pole position tomorrow. But then ambition got the better of me. During the safety car period I took a look at the push-to-pass attempts of the competition – I knew that I hadn’t used much of my powder yet and was able to make good use of it at the end.”

Altfrid Heger (Germany), qualifying: 14th place, race: 9th place, Legend Cup: 2nd place

“It was a super-thrilling race with absolutely equal cars. The young people are optimally prepared for the races by Volkswagen: they drive fast but fair. The push-to-pass button is a great invention. I’m quite happy with my ninth place.”

Rahel Frey (Switzerland), qualifying: 2nd place, race: retired

“That’s racing, but I’m not upset because of the accident. Uwe Alzen drove a great race up to that point. He was a little quicker than I, which was partly due to the fact that I used the wrong tactics in terms of my inflation pressure. Still, it was difficult for him to pass me. Unfortunately, in the crucial turn we didn’t speak the same language.”

Harald Grohs (Germany), qualifying: 21st place, race: retired, Legend Cup: 5th place

”That was really a case of major misfortune. I was already running on the finish straight alongside Isabelle Biela when she suddenly pulled to the left – the collision was unfortunately unavoidable. It’s a shame that this ended the race for both of us. I’m okay, but of course I’m disappointed.”

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