

Polo Cup India



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PRESS RELEASE

Sailesh Bolisetti does it again and wins race 2 of inaugural race day of Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010

Driver from Vishakhapatnam makes a clean sweep at inaugural race at Shri Shiv Chhatrapati Race Track in Balewadi

Pune, May 30, 2010 – Sailesh Bolisetti, the 22-year old driver from Vishakhapatnam, continued from where he left off this afternoon by winning race 2 of the inaugural Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup India 2010 on the street track in the Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune. The racer from Vishakhapatnam put on a strong display to finish ahead of Karthik Shankar and Mohd Fahad Kutty.

Sailesh clocked a total time of 24:12.060 and had the best lap time of 1:35.717 and was followed closely by Karthik who clocked a total time of 24:18.420. Mohd Fahad Kutty clocked a total time of 24:21.634 bringin him in as the thid position on the podium.

Sailesh commented, "I never imagined winning both races, but am thrilled with the result today. The organizers have done a great job and without them none of us would be here, so a big thank you to them. This is a great way to start the season so will now make sure we continue to be strong throughout"

As he did in the first race Bolisetti moved into the lead from the start and remained there for the rest of the race even though Karthik Shankar and Mohd Fahad Kutty put a strong fight to the finish.

The winners were presented their prizes by Prof Dr Jochem Heizmann, Member of Board of Volkswagen AG, Mr Joerg Miller, Volkswagen Group Chief Representative India and Mr Kris Nissen, Volkswagen Motorsport Director.

Mr. Joerg Mueller, Volkswagen Group Chief Representative India, commented, "I am very pleased to see that we have managed to put on such a great event. My congratulations to all the drivers as they have all surpassed our expectations. A big thank you to the whole team who have worked so hard to make this event such a success."

Second placed Kartick Shanker commented, "I feel this is a great start to my Polo Cup season. I had a great start to the second race, but problems with my clutch gave Sailesh the edge he needed to steal the top spot at the podium. The technicalities in driving a saloon car is different from that of driving a hatchback."

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Third placed Mohd Fahad Kutty commented, "It is great feeling winning a place in the podium for the first time. I had good start to my second race and a great experience participating in the first-ever Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup."

The next race will be held at the Kari Motor Speedway in Coimbatore on 17/18 July, 2010.

There were a host of dignitaries present for the inaugural race of the Volkswagen-JK Tyre Polo Cup in India. This included Mr. Suresh Kalmadi, President, IOA, Mr. Suresh Shetty, Minister of Sports for the state of Maharashtra, Mr. Raghupati Singhania, VP & MD, JK Tyre and Industries, Prof. Jochem Heizmann, Member of Board of Volkswagen AG, Mr. Joerg Muller, Volkswagen Group Chief Representative India and Mr. Kris Nissen, Volkswagen Motorsport Director.

Another surprise was in store as Bollywood actress Soha Ali Khan was invited to flag off the first race, along with Prof. Heizmann and Mr. Kris Nissen. The Bollywood star was an instant hit with both the fans and media as she attended her first race.

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.

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. In 1983, the second-generation Polo followed as the cup vehicle – initially using the 88-hp normally aspirated engine version and, from 1986, the 112-hp compressor engine. 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.

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