

PRESS RELEASE

Volkswagen Race Polo thrills Colombo at the night races

Colombo, December 19, 2011 – Volkswagen Race Polo put up a thrilling show at the Colombo Night Races on Saturday night. Polo R Cup 2011 drivers, Munjal Savla and Mihir Dharkar won race one and race two respectively. The extravaganza had many other car series participating with a crowd of over fifty thousand enjoying the race and music throughout the night. In a line-up of eleven cars, eight drivers were from India and three guest drivers from Sri Lanka.

Race One started with Munjal at the pole and leading from start to finish. Munjal had a lead of 10 seconds by the end of the race. The fight was bumper-to-bumper for the second and third positions among Mihir Dharkar (Mumbai, India), Romani Di Silva (Sri Lanka) and Aditya Patel (India; Scirocco R-cup 2011 driver). Mihir defended his position very well to finish second while Aditya finished fourth starting from the last position. Romani, the Srilankan driver, showed good driving skills but had to settle behind Mihir for the third position.

Race Two began with a reverse grid for the first four finishes of Race One. Aditya Patel began on the pole while Munjal started fourth on the grid. During the race Munjal fell back one place to fifth and tried hard to overtake Rahil in front of him. In an effort to overtake Rahil, his manoeuvre resulted in an under-steer and scrapped the barriers which resulted in a pile-up of all the cars behind him. Five cars had to be taken off the grid and the race resumed after a 10 minutes break to remove the debris from the track. At the restart, Mihir took the lead to win the race. Aditya put up a tough fight with Mihir and finished second. Avdumber Hede who finished third, put up a good fight with Rahil and Romani which proved to a good spectacle for the audience present to watch the race.

Commenting on the races, Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Volkswagen Motorsport India said, "It was a great experience for Volkswagen Motorsport to participate in this special exhibition street race. It was great to see the enthusiasm and zest of the people in this country. The love for Motorsport here is comparable to any other country and we will definitely explore other opportunities like these for our Polo R Cup 2012 drivers."

Race One Result:

1. Munjal Savla
2. Mihir Dharkar
3. Romani Di Silva
4. Aditya Patel
5. Avdumber Hede
6. Rahil Noorani
7. Angad Singh Matharoo
8. Rajvirdhan Vijaykumar
9. Dinesh Jayawardana
10. Sauvrav Bandyopadhyay
11. Rohan Di Silva

Polo R Cup India 2011



PRESS RELEASE

Race Two Result:

1. Mihir Dharkar
2. Aditya Patel
3. Avdumber Hede
4. Rahil Noorani
5. Romani Di Silva
6. Dinesh Jayawardana

DNF

7. Rajvirdhan Vijaykumar
8. Sauvrav Bandyopadhyay
9. Angad Singh Matharoo
10. Rohan Di Silva
11. Munjal Savla

Motor sports enthusiasts interested in getting further information can log on to the website, www.polocup.in. This website displays information about Polo R Cup format, race updates and driver profiles. Follow Polo R Cup on www.facebook.com/vwpolocupIndia

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.

The commitment encompasses the internationally renowned Dakar Rally. Diesel and bio natural gas powered as eco-conscious alternatives to conventional spark ignition engines and clever downsizing are the core elements of this strategy. Volkswagen is already in the process of putting the aims of eco-conscious motorsport of the future into action. Bio natural gas engines in the Scirocco R-Cup and at the Nürburgring 24 Hours have already proved that eco-consciousness and top-calibre racing. Volkswagen consistently banks on production-based technology and the conservation of resources. In an overall assessment of racing operations and logistics for the Scirocco R-Cup Volkswagen has achieved a reduction of CO₂ emissions by 80 per cent.

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Motorsport

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