

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 1 of 3

Wales Rally GB: ŠKODA junior Rovannerä dominates WRC 2 – teammate Tidemand second

- › After second day of Wales Rally GB ŠKODA Motorsport holds double category lead with works crews Kalle Rovannerä/Jonne Halttunen and Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson
- › Three days after he turned 18 Finnish ŠKODA junior Kalle Rovannerä heads WRC 2 at the 2018 FIA Rally World Championship's round eleven in the UK
- › So far ŠKODA factory crews set all fastest times in the WRC 2 category

Deeside, 5 October 2018 – During day 2 of Wales Rally GB ŠKODA junior Kalle Rovannerä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) powered their ŠKODA FABIA R5 into the lead of the WRC 2 category. After nine stages ŠKODA's reigning WRC 2 champions Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (SWE/SWE) are in second position at the eleventh round of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship. So far all fastest times of the WRC 2 category have been set by both ŠKODA works crews.

Wales Rally GB started on Thursday evening with a 1.70 kilometres show stage on the Tir Prince horse racecourse in the northwest of Wales. ŠKODA youngster Kalle Rovannerä, who turned 18 years old just three days before the start, set the fastest time of the WRC 2 category with his ŠKODA FABIA R5, followed by teammate Pontus Tidemand. On Friday morning, the crews were heading for eight special stages in the Welsh forests, covering around 110 kilometres of fast and smooth gravel tracks. On the opening stage of the day, reigning WRC 2 champion Pontus Tidemand chose a sensible approach. "I was a bit careful, but it was not bad for the first stage of the day," he commented. Kalle Rovannerä set his second fastest time at Wales Rally GB and defended the lead in the WRC 2 standings.

The longest stage of the day, the 29.13 kilometres of "Brenig", offered gravel tracks and some very slippery tarmac passages. Rovannerä stormed up, up and away, increasing his WRC 2 lead to more than half a minute with a fabulous fastest time. His comment was the understatement of the day: "The time looks quite okay, but this stage was really nice and technical." Meanwhile teammate Pontus Tidemand was struggling with understeering behaviour of his ŠKODA FABIA R5, but nevertheless moved up to third position on the WRC 2 leader board. In heavy rain on the fourth stage, Tidemand managed to conquer second place. Rovannerä, despite a puncture in stage 5, held on to a clear category lead.

After the midday service, the repetition of the three morning stages had to be driven. And 18 years old Kalle Rovannerä continued to impress his competitors and the rallying community, setting another three fastest times. At the end of the second day he was leading the category by 58.6 seconds and commented: "I am doing my normal drive, fast, but avoiding any risks. I am cautious to avoid the rocks on the track." Teammate Pontus Tidemand had a tense fight with Ford driver Gus Greensmith for second place in the category standings, but eventually managed to defend his position. "Tomorrow is a completely different day," he said.



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 2 of 3

On Saturday (6 October), the most challenging and longest day of the rally with nine stages totalling 150.24 kilometres and no service is waiting for the crews. The final leg on Sunday (7 October) features five more stages covering 55.64 kilometres. The winner will reach the podium at the village of Llandudno at around 13h15 (all times local).

Standings Wales Rally GB after Day 2 (WRC 2)

1. Rovannerä/Halttunen (FIN/FIN), ŠKODA FABIA R5, 1:09:12.7 h
2. Tidemand/Andersson (SWE/SWE), ŠKODA FABIA R5, +58.6 sec.
3. Greensmith/Gelsomino (GBR/ITA), Ford Fiesta R5, +1:06.3 min.
4. Lefebvre/Moreau (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 R5, +1:55.1 min.
5. Huttunen/Linnaketo (FIN/FIN), Hyundai i20 R5, +2:00.0 min.
6. Loubet/Landais (FRA/FRA), Hyundai i20 R5, +2:53.8 min.

Number of the day: 9

In the WRC 2 category the ŠKODA factory crews set all fastest times on the nine stages of Rally Wales GB so far. Kalle Rovannerä won eight, Pontus Tidemand one stage.

The calendar of the 2018 FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Monte-Carlo	24/01–28/01/2018
Sweden	15/02–18/02/2018
Mexico	08/03–11/03/2018
France	05/04–08/04/2018
Argentina	26/04–29/04/2018
Portugal	17/05–20/05/2018
Italy	07/06–10/06/2018
Finland	26/07–29/07/2018
Germany	16/08–19/08/2018
Turkey	13/09–16/09/2018
Great Britain	04/10–07/10/2018
Spain	25/10–28/10/2018
Australia	15/11–18/11/2018

Further information:

Zbyněk Straškraba, Communications Motorsport
P +420 605 293 168

zbynek.straskraba@skoda-auto.cz

<http://skoda-motorsport.com>

ŠKODA Motorsport:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter

ŠKODA Media Services

media@skoda-auto.cz



FROM DETAILS TO STORY
skoda-storyboard.com

Follow @MotorsportSkoda



ŠKODA
SIMPLY CLEVER

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 3 of 3

Media images:



ŠKODA at Wales Rally GB 2018

After day 2 Finnish ŠKODA youngster Kalle Rovanperä and co-driver Jonne Halttunen are clearly leading the WRC 2 category with their ŠKODA FABIA R5

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA at Wales Rally GB 2018

Reigning WRC 2 champions and last year's category winners Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (ŠKODA FABIA R5) from Sweden are second in the WRC 2 interim standings after day 2

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

ŠKODA has been successful on the motorsport scene since 1901. Be it on the circuit or in rallies, ŠKODA has celebrated victories and won titles all around the world. Historical highlights include winning the title in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) for the first time in 2016, numerous title wins in the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC), as well as the victory in the European Touring Car Championship in 1981. ŠKODA teams have also triumphed in the world's oldest and most famous rally, taking several class victories in the legendary Monte Carlo, which was first held in 1911.

The ŠKODA FABIA R5, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2015. ŠKODA's new FABIA R5 is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport. Its predecessor, the FABIA SUPER 2000, won 50 national and international titles around the world. In the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC 2) 2016, Esapekka Lappi/Janne Ferm (FIN/FIN) won the title for the Czech car maker. In total, ten of the 2016 season's races in the World Rally Championship were won by a ŠKODA FABIA R5. ŠKODA drivers Gustavo Saba (PRY) and Gaurav Gill (IND) also won the continental championships in South America and the Asia-Pacific region at the wheel of the successful ŠKODA FABIA R5. Nasser Al-Attiyah (QAT) was unbeatable in the Middle East Rally Championship (MERC), while a further ten national titles also went the way of ŠKODA drivers. 2017 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport. Works duo Pontus Tidemand/Jonas Andersson (S/S) became WRC 2 Champions, ŠKODA Motorsport won the Team Championship. Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) won the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the third time in a row and are the spearhead of in total 14 crews winning their country's national titles. Furthermore the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC) have been won by teams competing in a ŠKODA FABIA R5. In 2018 Jan Kopecký/Pavel Dresler (CZ/CZ) managed to win the Czech Rally Championship (MČR) for the fourth consecutive time.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is one of the longest-established vehicle manufacturers in the world. The company was founded in 1895 – during the pioneering days of the automobile. Today, the company's headquarters remain in Mladá Boleslav.
- › currently offers the following models in the range: CITIGO, FABIA, RAPID, OCTAVIA, KAROQ, KODIAQ and SUPERB.
- › in 2017 delivered more than 1.2 million vehicles to customers worldwide.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. ŠKODA, in association with the Group, independently manufactures and develops vehicles, as well as components, engines and gear transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic, produces in China, Russia, Slovakia, Algeria and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan through local partners.
- › employs over 35,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.

ŠKODA Media Services
media@skoda-auto.cz



FROM DETAILS TO STORY
skoda-storyboard.com

Follow @MotorsportSkoda