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Rally Hungary: ŠKODA privateer Andreas Mikkelsen wins Rally Hungary – Oliver Solberg finishes fourth

- › Driving a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo of Topp Cars Rally Team, the Norwegian crew of Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene achieved a dominant win at Rally Hungary, fourth round of the FIA European Rally Championship
- › After being delayed by two punctures, ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) took fourth place for Eurosol Racing Team Hungary
- › ŠKODA crews won nine of the 16 special stages of Rally Hungary

Nyíregyháza, 8 November 2020 – They came, saw and won: Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Ola Fløene made a successful return to competition. Driving a Topp Cars Rally Team entered ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, the Norwegian crew took victory at Rally Hungary, fourth round of the FIA European Rally Championship. ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg (SWE) and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) finished fourth in Eurosol Racing Team's similar car. Fighting back after two punctures during the first leg, they finished fourth and collected valuable points for the ERC1 Junior Championship.

Back in 2017, Andreas Mikkelsen competed for ŠKODA Motorsport in the WRC2 category of the FIA World Rally Championship. He won the category at Rally Monte Carlo and Rally France, during both finishing a remarkable seventh in the overall classification among the more powerful WRC1 cars. With a ŠKODA FABIA S2000 he also won the Intercontinental Rally Championship (IRC) in 2011 and 2012. For Rally Hungary, fourth round of the FIA European Rally Championship 2020, he returned to the Czech brand, together with his co-driver Ola Fløene.

After some testing mileage, Mikkelsen felt immediately at home behind the steering wheel of the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, prepared by the Hungarian Topp Cars Rally Team. "I feel comfortable with the ŠKODA and I am here to win", said Mikkelsen before the start. He proved himself right by claiming the lead after the second stage of the rally, eventually winning five of the nine special stages of the Saturday leg. During the second leg, Mikkelsen and Fløene continued their dominant performance, finally taking the victory with a margin of more than one and a half minute.

ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg (SWE) had less luck during Rally Hungary's opening leg. After six stages, he and co-driver Aaron Johnston (IRL) were leading the ERC1 Junior classification and third in the overall rankings. But when a puncture during the seventh stage cost around 45 seconds, they dropped to fifth position. Another flat tire on the last Saturday stage caused an additional time loss of more than one minute, which relegated the Swedish-Irish crew to ninth spot. "These stages are really not easy ones. They are nice roads, but the changes in grip and the surface – going from mud, to lots of mud to dry, then wet – it made it really complicated," Solberg said. "I really don't know, how the punctures happened. Honestly, I drove in the middle of the road."

Emil Lindholm and Mikael Korhonen, another private team in a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, were even less lucky. The Finns got stuck during the last special stage of the day while lying in fourth position and had to retire.



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Oliver Solberg and Aaron Johnston used the second leg to claw back time and positions on the leader board. They eventually stormed back to fourth overall, finishing the day's classification in second. "The car and the Eurosol Racing Team Hungary have been perfect," the 19 years old said. "We have worked well together and made some changes to the set-up of the car which have really improved the speed through the weekend." Solberg finished third in the ERC1 Junior Championship, collecting valuable points for the European Championship's main junior class.

Proving the ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo's class, Mikkelsen and Solberg won in total nine of Rally Hungary's 16 special stages.

Final result Rally Hungary (ERC)

1. Mikkelsen/Fløene (NOR/NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 1:48:31.1 hrs.
2. Munster/Louka (LUX/BEL), Hyundai i20 Rally2, +1:32.2 min.
3. Llarena/Fernández (ESP/ESP), Citroën C3 Rally2, +2:00.3 min.
4. Solberg/Johnston (SWE/IRL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +2:04.8 min.
5. Mayr-Melnhof/Welserheimb (AUT/AUT), Ford Fiesta Mk II Rally2, +2:08.2 min.
6. Herczig/Ferencz (HUN/HUN), Volkswagen Polo GTI Rally2, +2:31.4 min.

Championship Standings ERC (after 4 of 6 rounds)

1. Alexey Lukyanuk (RUS), Citroën, 115 points
2. Grégoire Munster (BEL), Hyundai, 89 points
3. Oliver Solberg (SWE), ŠKODA and VW, 84 points

Championship Standings ERC1 Junior (after 4 of 6 rounds)

1. Grégoire Munster (BEL), Hyundai, 125 points
2. Oliver Solberg (SWE), ŠKODA and VW, 122 points
3. Llarena Efrén (ESP), Citroën, 79 points

Number of the day: 7

Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene powered their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to seven fastest times on the 16 stages of Rally Hungary – no other crew won more stages than the Norwegian pairing.

The calendar of the 2020 FIA European Rally Championship (ERC)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Rally di Roma Capitale	24/07–26/07/2020
Rally Liepāja	14/08–16/08/2020
Rally Fafe Montelongo	02/10–04/10/2020
Rally Hungary	06/11–08/11/2020
Rally Islas Canarias	26/11–28/11/2020
Spa Rally	12/12–13/12/2020

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ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Hungary

Norwegian duo Andreas Mikkelsen/Ola Fløene (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) celebrated a dominant victory at Rally Hungary, fourth round of the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC)

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Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Hungary

ŠKODA Motorsport supported Oliver Solberg/Aaron Johnston (SWE/IRL) brought their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo home fourth at Rally Hungary

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ŠKODA Motorsport Overview

2019 was the most successful year in the history of ŠKODA Motorsport so far. Kalle Rovanperä and Jonne Halttunen (FIN/FIN) won the WRC 2 Pro drivers' and co-drivers' title of the FIA World Rally Championship 2019 as well as substantially supporting ŠKODA Motorsport to win the WRC 2 Pro manufacturers' title. Also in 2019, ŠKODA customer teams conquered five FIA championships and took additional 23 national titles around the world.

Driving a ŠKODA FABIA R5, Chris Ingram/Ross Whittock (GBR/GBR) won FIA European Rally Championship (ERC). Filip Mareš/Jan Hloušek (CZE/CZE) took the FIA European Rally Championship/ERC1 Junior title. Manvir Singh Baryan/Drew Sturrock (KEN/GBR) powered a ŠKODA FABIA R5 to the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), while Ricardo Triviño/Marc Martí (MEX/ESP) won the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM).

The ŠKODA FABIA R5 evo, a high-tech 4x4, was homologated by the International Automobile Federation FIA on 1 April 2019 and is successfully continuing the long tradition of ŠKODA Motorsport.
In total, both generations of the Czech rally car have been sold more than 320 times worldwide.

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.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is this year celebrating 125 years since the company was founded during the pioneering era of the automobile in 1895, making it one of the longest-established car manufacturers in the world.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the CITIGO[®] iV, FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ and ENYAQ iV.
- › delivered 1.24 million vehicles to customers around the world in 2019.
- › has belonged to Volkswagen Group since 1991. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world. In association with the Group, ŠKODA AUTO independently develops and manufactures vehicles, as well as components such as engines and transmissions.
- › operates at three locations in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India mainly through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine and Kazakhstan with local partners.
- › employs approximately 42,000 people globally and is active in more than 100 markets.
- › is pressing ahead with the transformation from a traditional car manufacturer to the 'Simply Clever company for the best mobility solutions' as part of the ŠKODA 2025 Strategy.