

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE

Page 1 of 4



Rally Portugal: ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo driver Chris Ingram wins WRC2 Junior classification

- › Former FIA European Rally Champion, navigated by fellow Briton Craig Drew, dominates WRC2 sub-category for drivers under 30 years of age
- › Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland finish best-placed ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crew as second in WRC2
- › Despite a did-not-finish, reigning WRC2 Drivers' Champion Andreas Mikkelsen still holds second position in WRC2 overall rankings

Matosinhos (POR), 22 May 2022 – Two ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews finished on top of the WRC2 Junior classification at Vodafone Rally de Portugal (19-22 May 2022), fourth round of the FIA World Rally Championship. Britons Chris Ingram/Craig Drew won the category reserved for drivers under the age of 30 ahead of Mikołaj Marczyk/Szymon Gospodarczyk from Poland. Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (POL/POL) came best-placed ŠKODA crew in the WRC2 overall classification by finishing in second position.

The 21 very rough and sometimes even rocky gravel stages in the vicinity of Matosinhos, a coastal town north of Porto, caused a high number of retirements. On this list: reigning WRC2 Drivers' Champion Andreas Mikkelsen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo). On Friday, the Norwegian and co-driver Torstein Eriksen were locked in a duel for the WRC2 lead with Teemu Suninen/Mikko Markkula. After six stages, the two front-runners already had opened up a gap of more than half a minute to the rest of the field. A puncture from Suninen (SS7) turned the tables in favour of Mikkelsen. Despite some engine issues, the leading crew of ŠKODA Motorsport supported team Toksport WRT reached the finish of the leg's last stage with a margin of 37 seconds over their Finnish opponents.

But on the way to service park, the engine problems got worse. Andreas Mikkelsen eventually had to retire. With two victories already under his belt, he still ranks second in the WRC2 overall standings after four rallies.

The retirement of Mikkelsen – his Toksport WRT teammate Marco Bulacia suffered the same faith – left Polish crew Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak in the position of best-placed ŠKODA crew. They lost WRC2 position three only shortly when they were slowed in a stage by the dust of the car running ahead of them. "Luckily, the stewards assessed the situation and we got a corrected time for that stage," Kajetanowicz explained. Consequently, he was given back position three in WRC2.

The bronze medal was already being prepared for Kajetanowicz, when the rally ending Powerstage brought last minute changes to the classification. With only a couple of kilometres left, Suninen crashed out of the WRC2 lead. The following drivers all moved up one spot, handing an unexpected WRC2 victory to the French pairing of Yohan Rossel/Valentin Sarréaud. With his second second position in a row plus three extra points for winning the Powerstage, Team Lotos driver Kajetan Kajetanowicz climbed to third position in the WRC2 overall standings.

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](#) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 2 of 4

From the word go, two ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo crews fought for the lead in the WRC2 Junior category reserved for drivers under the age of 30. Initially, Mikołaj Marczyk from Poland led Briton Chris Ingram. When both youngsters were struck by punctures, Marczyk lost more time and Ingram emerged as the new WRC2 Junior leader. The man from Manchester, who won the 2019 FIA European Rally Championship at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, reached the finish more than one minute clear of Marczyk. The two ŠKODA crews also scored third and fourth position respectively in the WRC2 overall rankings. With his first category victory, Chris Ingram jumps to the lead in WRC2 Junior rankings.

The Portuguese WRC round was part of the national championship as well. That classification was won by Armindo Araújo/Luís Amalho, who shared a Racing Factory run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. The local heroes also finished fifth in the WRC2 classification.

Next stop for the FIA World Rally Championship is the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, where the gravel stages of Rally Italia Sardegna (2-5 June) await as round five of the 13 events series.

Result Rally Portugal (WRC2)

1. Rossel/Sarreaud (FRA/FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 3:58:08.1 hrs
2. **Kajetanowicz/Szczepaniak (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +1:12.2 min**
3. **Ingram/Drew (GBR/GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +5:54.7 min (winner WRC2 Junior)**
4. **Marczyk/Gospodarczyk (POL/POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +7:09.4 min**
5. **Araújo/Ramalho (PRT/PRT), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, +7:47.9 min**

Number of the rally: 55

Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) reached the finish of stage 6 with a driving time of 15:13.7 minutes. But the Polish crew was slowed by the competitor who started right before them and suffered a puncture. Because of the heavy dust, overtaking was not possible. Considering their usual pace, the Stewards later corrected their time to 14:18.7 minutes – a gain of 55 seconds.

Top-3 overall WRC2 Open/Drivers (after 4 of 13 rounds)

1. Yohan Rossel (FRA), Citroën C3 Rally2, 64 points
2. **Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 51 points**
3. **Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 39 points**

Top-3 overall WRC2 Junior (after 4 of 13 rounds)

1. **Ingram/Drew (GBR/GBR), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 52 points**
2. Erik Cais (CZE), Ford Fiesta Rally2, 47 points
3. **Nikolay Gryazin (ANA), ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo, 36 points**

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](#) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 3 of 4

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

Media images:



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Portugal

Kajetan Kajetanowicz/Maciej Szczepaniak from Poland drove the Team Lotos ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo to second position in WRC2.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Portugal

Britons Chris Ingram and co-driver Craig Drew (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) celebrated victory in the WRC2 Junior classification and third place in WRC2 overall.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Portugal

Miko Marczyk (POL) and co-driver Szymon Gospodarczyk (POL) brought their ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo home in second position in the WRC2 Junior classification.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Portugal

Local heroes Armindo Araújo/Luís Amalho won the separate Portuguese Championship classification in a Racing Factory run ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](#) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram

ŠKODA MOTORSPORT PRESS RELEASE



Page 4 of 4



ŠKODA Motorsport at Rally Portugal

Reigning WRC2 Drivers' Champion Andreas Mikkelsen and co-driver Torstein Eriksen (ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo) from Norway had to retire.

[Download](#)

Source: ŠKODA AUTO

ŠKODA Motorsport

- › ŠKODA has been active in motorsport since 1901, garnering success in rallies as well as circuit racing.
- › Highlights include winning the 1981 European Touring Car Championship (ETCC) with the ŠKODA 130 RS.
- › In recent years, the ŠKODA FABIA celebrated numerous successes for the Czech manufacturer on rally stages worldwide. From 2009 to 2014, the ŠKODA FABIA S2000 (2.0 naturally aspirated engine, four-wheel drive) secured 50 international titles and national rally championships. The ŠKODA FABIA S2000 also helped to win the FIA European Rally Championship (ERC) and the Intercontinental Rally Challenge (IRC) three times each.
- › The ŠKODA FABIA R5 (1.6 turbo engine, four-wheel drive) continued the S2000's success story in 2015. In the following years, ŠKODA Motorsport factory drivers took multiple titles in the FIA World Rally Championship's support category WRC2/WRC2 Pro with the models ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo. Titles went to Jan Kopecký (CZE), Esapekka Lappi (FIN), Pontus Tidemand (SWE), Kalle Rovanperä (FIN) and Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR). Supported by ŠKODA Motorsport, Toksport WRT became Team Champion of the WRC2 category in 2020.
- › ŠKODA Motorsport customer teams have also won titles in the FIA World Rally Championship (WRC), FIA European Rally Championship (ERC), the FIA African Rally Championship (ARC), the FIA North American and Central American Rally Championship (NACAM), the FIA South American Rally Championship (CODASUR) and the FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC).
- › In 2021, Andreas Mikkelsen (NOR, Toksport WRT) took the WRC2 Drivers' Championship and the FIA European Rally Championship overall at the wheel of a ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo.
- › By the end of the 2021 season, the ŠKODA FABIA R5 (Rally2) and ŠKODA FABIA Rally2 evo had secured over 1,500 victories and more than 3,700 podium positions in 65 countries.

ŠKODA AUTO

- › is successfully steering through the new decade with the NEXT LEVEL – ŠKODA STRATEGY 2030.
- › aims to be one of the five best-selling brands in Europe by 2030 with an attractive line-up in the entry-level segments and additional e-models.
- › is emerging as the leading European brand in India, Russia and North Africa.
- › currently offers its customers ten passenger-car series: the FABIA, RAPID, SCALA, OCTAVIA and SUPERB as well as the KAMIQ, KAROQ, KODIAQ, ENYAQ iV and KUSHAQ.
- › delivered over 870,000 vehicles to customers around the world in 2021.
- › has been a member of the Volkswagen Group for 30 years. The Volkswagen Group is one of the most successful vehicle manufacturers in the world.
- › independently manufactures and develops not only vehicles but also components such as engines and transmissions in association with the Group.
- › operates at three sites in the Czech Republic; manufactures in China, Russia, Slovakia and India primarily through Group partnerships, as well as in Ukraine with a local partner.
- › employs around 43,000 people globally and is active in over 100 markets.

Follow us on the [ŠKODA Motorsport](#) website and social media:



Facebook



YouTube



Twitter



Instagram