

# Motorsport News

International Edition – June 2020

## Hungary

### Exciting new challenges for HTS KTM Racing

The eight riders of the HTS KTM Racing team are intensifying their training and practice races to increase their competitive skills for the first races of the season, which will take place in a few weeks. After a triumphant year in 2019 with a lot of victories and titles, it will be a harder challenge to dominate the championships this season. // Page 3.



## Germany

### Competition and charity

Driver Wolfgang Heinz and co-driver Rolf Pellini of MSC Losheim achieved 17th place overall in the prestigious Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique (Historical Monte-Carlo Rally), competing against 303 teams from all over the world. The team took advantage of this motorsport event to collect donations for those most in need. // Page 2.

## Japan

### A positive effervescence

Rider Eisuke Samura of the Tripoint & Factory Hiro with FUCHS Silkolene Team will be representing FUCHS during the 43rd "Coca-Cola" Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Race. This iconic competition – grand finale of the 2019-2020 FIM Endurance World Championship – was postponed on November 1. The team members are looking forward to setting up the bike, starting the tests, and developing strategies for posting the fastest time. // Page 4.





## Germany

### The FUCHS Team on the road to Monte-Carlo

The 23rd Rallye Monte-Carlo Historique (Historical Monte-Carlo Rally), which took place from January 29 to February 5, started as usual from seven European cities: Athens, Glasgow, Bad Homburg, Milan, Barcelona, Reims, and Monte-Carlo. 304 teams from 28 countries were selected by the Automobile Club de Monaco from among 600 applications. For the delight of the spectators, this exceptional edition hosted 40 brands of classic cars from among the most celebrated in the history of this rally. The teams drove 15 regularity stages (from 16 to 57 km), including a night race, over a total distance of between 2,004 and 3,604 km through the small villages of the south of France. A strict average speed was imposed and checked by the organizers via GPS, so crews who did not comply with this rule were penalized.

Wolfgang Heinz (Losheim am See) and Rolf Pellini (Frankfurt) of MSC Losheim (Motor Sport Club Losheim) took part in the Monte-Carlo for the first time. They drove from Bad Homburg (Germany) to Buis-les-Baronnies (France) against 29 other German teams in the first concentration stage of 1,257 km. Before the rally, Wolfgang explained: "It's a childhood dream to race in this renowned rally. We tested the car at similar events in France and Belgium in recent months. We made notes so as to

keep a clear overview, even under difficult driving conditions like snow, black ice, scree, and fog."

The Saar-Hesse duo won 17th place overall with a Ford Escort RS 2000 MK II from 1979, leaving a lot of legendary teams behind them, including the German Walter Röhrl and his co-driver Christian Geistdörfer. The absolute greenhorns Wolfgang and Rolf participated under the banner of HRRT-Germany (Historic Rally & Racing Team), a group composed of five German teams. They won 5th place overall out of 27 in the official team classification.

FUCHS Key Automotive Account Manager, Henrich Vogel, commented: "After successful participation in Le Mans, FUCHS has now also left its mark at the Monte-Carlo."

Prior to the start in Bad Homburg, Wolfgang and Rolf had promised to donate five euros to charity for each team that they outpaced in the final results. Achim Holz and Markus Heinz, the two managing directors of the Losheim company Extra-Haus, spontaneously offered to double this amount and together with a 300-euro donation from HRRT, they raised the total to an unexpected 3,300 euros. The successful duo has now handed this money over to mayor Helmut Harth. The beneficiaries are the supervised children's swimming program run by DLRG Losheim, youth work performed by TV Losheim, and the Losheim Food Bank, which supplies food to people in need, especially in these tough corona times.



## Hungary

### Intense training for the HTS KTM Team

Founded in 2011 by Lajos Horváth, HTS KTM Team has the objective of showcasing the talent of young Hungarian motocross riders in national and European championships as well as in international motocross races since 2013. This renowned team has always been successful, and the last season was no exception. In 2019, they won the Él sport MX1 Magyar Bajnok (Hungary MX1 Él sport Championship) and the Él sport MX1 Cseh Bajnok (Czech MX1 Él sport Championship) with their former rider Bence Szvoboda and the Él sport MX2 Magyar Bajnok (Hungary MX2 Él sport Championship) with Varga Imre. Hügyecz, Varga, and Szvoboda triumphed in the Él sport Magyar Csapatbajnok (Hungary Él sport Team Championship) for the third time in a row.

Since May, the team has resumed its training. "Although we're talking about individual sport, there's

serious competition between our riders, which is a very positive thing. We organized individual training and technical sessions. The group training and practice races generated serious battles between the riders, which allow them to improve their level," explained Lajos Horváth.

In 2020, Kristóf Jakob, Pergel Bence, and László Técsi took part in the Cseh Junior MX Bajnokság (Czech MX Junior Championship) in June at the MX-Enduro Park of Jinín, while the other riders raced in the Cseh MX Bajnokság (Czech MX Championship) a few weeks later at the MX Dacelin circuit. "We're waiting for more information about the Hungarian MX Championship. The international series should start in August," added Lajos.

For the HTS KTM Team, the support of their partners is crucial. "We're proud that our sponsors

trust and help us in this difficult economic period, allowing us to achieve our objectives. Thanks to FUCHS Silkolene for their support and the high-quality of their lubricants, which enable us to obtain exceptional results," said Lajos.

FUCHS Commercial and Technical Director Attila Pálffy has sponsored the team for the second season. "It's a popular and successful team with talented riders and a lot of followers. They give us effective advertising for relatively low costs. We built a good relationship with the team over the past year. In our opinion, motocross is a sport which could help us to develop the FUCHS Silkolene brand in Hungary."

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene PRO 4 10W-50 XP, Silkolene PRO PREP, Silkolene PRO CHAIN, Silkolene BRAKE & CHAIN CLEANER, Silkolene WASH OFF**



## Japan

### In the starting blocks at the “Coca-Cola” Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Race

Tripoint & Factory Hiro with FUCHS Silkolene Team was founded in 1984 by Munekazu Okumura and is now managed by the Team Manager Shigetaka Murayama. “Management isn’t an easy thing because riders and staff have various individual ideas and technical skills. Therefore, the most important thing is to give people the right tasks and objectives to be successful. There’s no secret to winning, we must continuously work hard to improve for each race,” explained Shigetaka. “Our selection criteria for the riders are motivation and racing experience. Our advice is to enjoy the race.”

At the age of 49, FUCHS driver Eisuke Samura has 28 years of motorsport experience. He took 1st place in the Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Race in the XXF division 2 class and SPP class in 2005 as well as 2nd place in the Suzuka Sunday Road Race in the ST600 class in 2002. “What I like most about racing is the thrill of competing with the other riders. The hardest thing is maintaining my concentration to win the race,” said Eisuke. “One of my 2020 goals is to record the best time in the “Coca-Cola” Suzuka 8 Hours Endurance Race. I had offers from two teams to race with them. I will officially announce my choice in a few weeks.”

All the team members agree: “It’s important to respond immediately when a mechanical problem has occurred. These aren’t always explained in the instruction manual so it’s necessary to use the experience of each team member. The rider must also

have mechanical skills to help us. The best can speak with other riders and teams, listen to them, look at the bikes, and collect information. There are no limits to learning.” They added: “90 percent of the work is required before the race. During the competition, we need to prepare the tires depending on changing weather conditions and have spare parts ready in case of trouble, so we can fix the problem immediately.”

Tripoint & Factory Hiro with FUCHS Silkolene Team has been sponsored by FUCHS for two years. “This season, it’s a new experience because we’ll race with a wide range of the FUCHS Silkolene lubricants. We only knew FUCHS Silkolene PRO RG2, which we’ve been using for many years. This lubricant shows excellent performance during the race and we’ve had no cases of seizure or worn parts.”

FUCHS Automotive Product Manager, Takashi Fujitsu, said: “We knew the team because one of our colleagues, Keiichi Sakaguchi – Assistant Manager at Iga Plant in FUCHS Japan – has participated in the team’s motorcycle activities and has been developing a strong relationship with them.”

Bike: Suzuki GSX-R1000R (2017 model). The bike is a race-specific bike based on the commercial bike, respecting the rules of the JSB (Japan Superbike) category.

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene PRO 4 10W-50 XP, Silkolene PRO 4 10W-40 XP, Silkolene RSF 5, Silkolene PRO RACE 2000 DOT 5.1, Silkolene PRO RG2, Silkolene PRO CHAIN, Silkolene PRO CCA Ultra**



Left to right: racing cars of Calvin Rademeyer (n°51) and Darren Pragji (n°85)



## Zimbabwe

### Superstar in the making

Driver Darren Pragji has been sponsored by FUCHS for a long time and his greatest fan is his son Dylan, who follows him everywhere in the pits. “As far back as I can remember, Dylan has been passionate about cars, racing, and FUCHS. Since he was one, Dylan has always been excited to see his father racing and his passion for four wheels has grown season by season. Later on, he began helping his father and FUCHS driver Calvin Rademeyer, who raced with a FUCHS Volkswagen Polo in the Zimbabwe championships. He made videos of their racing cars as well as his father’s FUCHS brand company vehicles. Darren has always been a loyal FUCHS ambassador and flies the FUCHS banner on the tow trucks as well as on his company cars of his own free will,” said Paul Marais from FUCHS Zimbabwe.

Following in his father’s footsteps, Dylan started kart racing in the Mini Rok class when he was six. Whilst waiting for the opportunity to race, Dylan honed his skills working on cars in his father’s shop and during the races. At the age of 13, Dylan was responsible for loading and off-loading Darren’s race cars. “If you don’t see Dylan there, it feels like the puzzle is missing a piece,” joked driver Calvin Rademeyer. “For as long as I’ve raced, Dylan has been there in the pits, washing the cars, changing the wheels, loading, off-loading, taking pictures, and asking questions.”

Darren Pragji manages Stylin Auto, a successful panel-beating shop in Bulawayo (Zimbabwe). He taught Dylan to be a mechanic. This knowledge and understanding have driven the young teenager to work with vehicles once he has finished at school, so it’s safe to say this legacy will live long into the future.

Thanks to Dylan’s passion and investment, Darren has finally succumbed to the pressure and got his son his first race car, a Toyota Starlet EP82 that had a blown 1300cc turbocharged engine. Dylan started working on the car straight away to get it race ready. Due to COVID-19, the car is still without a running motor but Dylan continues to paint, polish, and get ready for racing. “At the age of 14, Dylan is still too young to obtain a driving license so the plan is to get a special dispensation from our local motorsport governing body so that Dylan can join us on the circuit in 2021 before the legal age of 16,” said Darren.

“I’ve personally seen the time and effort that Dylan has put into his racing car,” added Rademeyer. “It’s so impressive that someone of such a young age has the skills, patience, and talent to carry out these tasks. I can’t wait to see the finished product and for Dylan to join us on the circuit to wave the FUCHS banner even higher!”



Left to right: Jesko Raffin (n°2) and Bo Bendsneyder (n°64)

## Benelux

### NTS RW Racing GP back in action in July

Dorna Sports and the FIM (International Motorcycling Federation) announced a fully packed calendar for the remainder of the FIM Moto2™ World Championship season, with 13 races taking place from July to mid-November in Europe, with maybe four more competitions overseas.

In 2011, Roelof Waninge took over the Arie Molenaar racing team and founded the RW Racing GP Team. In 2018, he entered into a partnership with the Japanese company NTS. This season, the team sponsored by FUCHS is composed of 17 members. For the first time in months, its two riders Bo Bendsneyder (Dutch) and Jesko Raffin (Swiss) will race for points in the Gran Premio Red Bull de España (Red Bull Grand Prix of Spain), the second round of the FIM Moto2™ World Championship.

NTS RW Racing GP Team Manager, Jarno Janssen, is delighted that there is finally some clarity. “The past three months have been difficult due to the uncertainty. Racing is our passion so I’m very happy that it will start again in July at Jerez. We hope that we can pick up and maintain Qatar’s positive line.” During the opening season of the Moto2™ in March at the QNB Grand Prix of Qatar, Bo Bendsneyder took 11th place and five points, his best result in Moto2™. Jesko Raffin had to settle for 23rd place after a problematic first lap.

Janssen still sees a number of challenges, especially with the calendar. “We will have to see how it goes. We all depend on how the corona pandemic develops. Local

conditions and the consent of authorities in terms of travel options, especially for people from outside Europe, will be crucial.”

The teams were sent a protocol of no less than 55 pages. The guidelines state, among other things, that the races must be held behind closed doors with a limited number of people, which means that no one is admitted who is not directly needed for the races – including sponsors, guests, or press with permanent passes.

#### NTS RW Racing GP drivers

Bo Bendsneyder (21): two podiums in FIM Moto3™ World Championship in 2016 and Red Bull MotoGP Rookies World champion in 2015

Jesko Raffin (24): FIM CEV Moto2 European champion in 2018 and 2014

**Motorbike:** Frame: NTS; Engine: Triumph 765cc inline 3-cylinder 4-stroke; Power: +/- 138 hp; Minimum weight: 217 kg (including rider)

**2020 calendar:** July: Gran Premio Red Bull de España (Spain), Gran Premio Red Bull de Andalucía (Spain); August: Monster Energy Grand Prix České Republiky (Czech Republic), myWorld Motorrad Grand Prix von Österreich (Austria), Grand Prix von Styria (Austria); September: Gran Premio di San Marino e della Riviera di Rimini (Italy), Gran Premio dell’Emilia Romagna e della Riviera di Rimini (Italy), Gran Premio Monster Energy de Catalunya (Spain); October: SHARK Helmets Grand Prix de France (France), Gran Premio Michelin® de Aragón (Spain), Gran Premio de Teruel (Spain); November: Gran Premio de Europa (Spain), Gran Premio Motul de la Comunitat Valenciana (Spain). To be confirmed: Red Bull Grand Prix of the Americas (USA), Gran Premio Motul de la República Argentina (Argentina), OR Thailand Grand Prix (Thailand), Shell Malaysia Motorcycle Grand Prix (Malaysia)