**Waldviertel-Win No. 8 For Raimund Baumschläger**

**The thirteen-times state champion won a highly dramatic Rallye Walviertel./Christian Schubert-Mrlik and Czech Jan Cerny demanded everything from the Upper-Austrian old hand./Simon Wagner is 2WD state champion./ Johannes Huber is champion of the HIstorics.**

The **36th Rallye Waldviertel**, which this weekend was carried out as **final heat of the European Rally Trophy** and the **Austrian Rallye State Championship**, and with the main focuses **St. Pölten, the Waldviertel and Grafenegg Castle**, developed again into a true rallye feast.

According to the **chief of organization, Helmut Schöpf**, the idea to make the Lower Austrian capital **St.Pölten** the starting point, with four special trials in the immediate vicinity at the beginning of the rallye, has proved itself an excellent choice:Compared to last year, with the Rallye Show, we have noticed a significant increase in the number of visitors , and, at the same time, the **Drift Demonstrations**, the **Rallye Legends**, the **Exhibition in the VAZ** and the **Racemaster Austria** have turned out to be valuable sports cornerstones. On top of this came the **live broadcast of the 2nd special trial by ORF Sport plus** which caused many rallye fans to look to St. Pölten. Friday was marketing supreme for rallye sports, and on Saturday, the absolute value of the **Rallye Waldviertel** was moved to the forefront. The participation of the actives in this season's final was also most gratifying. The status **European Rallye Trophy (ERT)** brought us to Lower Austria almost 50 starters from abroad and has led, together with the domestic drivers, to a starter field of the **Rallye Waldviertel** of **more than 80 cars from 16 nations**. I was very satisfied with this development."

With all this, the two organizers, **ÖAMTC ZV Baden** and the **MSRR Neulengbach, could** also conclude positively: " We would like to say 'thank you' to the 35000 spectators who visited the rallye despite the rather uninviting weather. We are indebted not onyl to the **actives and the teams** from here and abroad, but especially to the **Sportland Niederösterreich (Lower Austria)** and the **City of St. Pölten** and the Rallye **municipalities in the Waldviertel Region**. Special thanks go to the sponsors, and , representative for all, we want to mention the **district newspapers**, **TOTAL Austria, ATC General Conractor and ATC Metallwelt**. Naturally, our thanks to go also the the **representatives the fire brigade, the ambulance service, the police**, and our **medical safety team**, as well as and especially our **comlete team of officals** who again did a great job.

**About the sporty aspects:**

The thousands of fans experienced a highly suspenseful fight for the **Waldviertel win** 2016 during the special trials. From the very beginning, the trio of **Raimund Baumschlager, Christian Schuberth-Mrlik** and **Jan Cerny** presented themselves as the main protagonists. Until these three Skoda-Fabia-R5 pilots stood on the winner's podium in exactly this order they fought a fierce battle to succeed. The lead changed almost from trial to trial. While the Czech Cerny could still smile from ahead after the first day, on the second day the two Austrians were mainly duelling for dominance. Baumschlager and Mrlik heralded something of a pre-decision in ST 6 (Staar-Wolfshoferamt) when they found the best visibility in thick morning fog and distanced the the rest of the field by upwards of half a minute. Two trials before the finish, Schubert-Mrlik put himself in the lead again with a show of strength well worth seeing. But in the end , with fog rolling in again, the 13-times Austrian state champion unpacked all his experience and thundered in his Skoda to his eight win of the Rallye Waldviertel.

**Voices after the Rallye:**

**Raimund Baumschlager**: " It was a great fight and I had lot's of fun. I had to work hard to keep the two behind me at a distance and I'm very happy about my eight Waldviertel win. Christian's second place is also a wonderful success for our BRR-team.

**Christian Schuberth-Mrlik:** I'm very proud and happy with this second place and the double win for BRR. I hope my performance probably atttracted the attention of some sponsors. Towards the end of the rallye I attempted to reduce the risk in order to get the car to the finish in one piece.

**Jan Cerny**: " Of one thing I'm sure - I'll be here again next year to beat Raimund and Christian. I was a really great fight."

The new **state champion in the ORM-2WD** is named **Simon Wagner** (Citroen DS3 R3). The Upper Austrian emerged the winner in the duel with Styrian **Daniel Wollinger**(Renault Clio Maxi) who was in the lead before the finish. **Michael Kogler**,in an Opel Adam R2 with less power than many 2WD-bolides , gained the win in the Waldviertel ahead of the sensationally driving brother of champion **Julian Wagner**. Julian had led till the last trial but then suffered tire damage costing him the win. For **Simon Wagner**, 3rd place was enough to win the title. Wagner, though, profited also from **Wollinger's** tire damage throwing him back four minutes on this day.

**Simon Wagner**: " For me and my brother Julian, this was a really great day. We are simply delighted and of course want to thank all our supporters, especially our parents and all of our team. To be double state champion (N.B. 2WD and Juniors) now is an enormous incentive for the future."

**Daniel Wollinger**: "Of course I'm very disappointed that it didn't work out with the title. The tire damage took away all our chances. But Simon is a worthy champion."

**Michael Kogler** about his success: " It was a terrific finish after a successful season, which pleases me enormously and gives me a lot of self-confidence for future tasks."

In the the **ORM Junior**, **Julian Wagner** likewise secured the Waldviertel win ahead of **Simon Wagner**, who, as mentioned before, was confirmed as state champion already before the rallye.

One man's sorrow is another man's joy - thus one can describe the decision in the **Historics state championship**, which in the end went to **Johannes Huber**. The Viennese, just like his competitor **Willi Rabl**, experienced a roller coaster of emotions. Relatively clear in the lead on the first day, then exposed to an increasingly faster adversary before a mishap in ST 8 converted a first place into a practically uncatchable lag, until finallly fate played its hand. Two trials before the finish, a plug of the distributor cable came loose in **Willi Rabl'**s Porsche, crippled the bolide and finished the pilot's title dream.

**Johannes Huber**: " Today was a terrible day. Two tire damages - I really struggled to get to the finish in order not to endanger the title in which really didn't bellieve in any more. I'm really sorry for Willi."

**Willi Rabl**: " It's unbelievable. You regain more than a minute, are actually clearly in the lead and then you stand still because of such a petty defect. It took me three quarters of an hour to find the plug in the darkness and the Porsche was again operational. This is really bitter but nevertheless, congratulations to Johannes."

The Hungarian **Attila Rongits** (Mitsubish Evo IX) won in **Division C1** in the **Rallyecup of the OSK**. In **Division C2**, the day's win went to **Martin Kalteis** (Mitsubishi Lander Evo VII). **Division C3** saw also an Austrian win by **Horst Stürmer** (Audi Coupe quattro), and **Division C4** saw a win by **Friedrich Riedl** (Suzuki Ignis). **FIA Final ERT:**
**1. Rashid Alketbi** (ARE/Ford Fiesta R5)
**2. Krisztian Hideg** (HRV/Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX)
**3. Björn Satorius** (DEU/Subaru Impreza WRX)

**FIA Final ERT2 TROPHY:**
**1. Krisztian Hideg** (HRV/Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX)
**2. Björn Satorius** (DEU/Subaru Impreza WRX)
**3. Sergej Remennik** (RUS/Miotsubishi Lancer Evo X)

**FIA Final ERT3 TROPHY:**
**1. Filip Mares** (CZE/Peugeot 208 R2)
**2. Marty Gallagher** (IRL/Peugeot 208 R2)
**3. Grega Premrl** (SVN/Citroen DS3)

**FIA Final ERT JUNIOR TROPHY:**
**1. Filip Mares** (CZE/Peugeot 208 R2)
**2. Marty Gallagher** (IRL/Peugeot 208 R2)

The overall win in the **Niederösterreich Trophy 2016** was achieved by **Michael Kogler** (Citroen DS3).

In the course of the **TOTAL Rallyeshow**, the winners in the various spectacular show acts were determined already on **Friday in the VAZ St.Pölten**. On the course of the Super Stage which was also completed by the starters of the **Waldviertel Rallye** as ST 2 and ST 4, Styrian **Günter Knobloch** (Mitsubishi) crowned himself the first winner of the **Racemasters Austria**. **Alexander Wiesinger** (VW Beetle) took home the **Category Rallyeshow**. In the races for the **Rallyelegend, Christian Baier** (Lancia Fulvia), in the end, was one step ahead.

**Rallye Waldviertel 2016, final results after 12 special trials:**

 1. Raimund Baumschlager/Thomas Zeltner AUT/AUT Skoda Fabia R5 1:34:05,0 Std
 2. Christian Schuberth-Mrlik/Jasmin Noll AUT/GER Skoda Fabia R5 +23,4 Sec
 3. Jan Cerny/Petr Cernohorsky CZ/CZ Skoda Fabia R5 +26,2 Sec

 4. David Botka/Peter Szeles HU/HU Citroen DS3 R5 +2:29,6 Min
 5. Attila Rongits/Laszlo Hannus HU/HU Mitsubishi Evo IX +4:26,3 Min
 6. Karl Wagner/Gerda Zauner AUT/AUT Ford Fiesta R5 +5:36,3 Min 7. Rashid Alketbi/Giovanni Bernacchini UAE/POL Ford Fiesta R5 +5:47,8 Min
 8. Joszef Trencseny/Gabor Verba UNG/UNG Ford Fiesta R5 +6:17,7 Min
 9. Krisztian Hideg/Istvan Kerek HU/HU Mitsubishi Evo IX +7:10,1 Min
10. Seppi Stigler/Walter Pfaffenhuemer AUT/AUT Mitsubishi Evo IX +8:40,7 Min

**Special trials, best times\*):** Jan Cerny 5, Raimund Baumschlager 3, Christian Schuberth-Mrlik 2, Nikolay Gryazin 1. \*) No best time for ST 3 due to its cancellation.

**Most important dropouts:** Niki Mayr-Melnhof (Ford Fiesta R5/techn. defect/ST 8), Walter Mayer (Peugeot 208 R5/techn. defect/ST 8), Michael Böhm (Mitsubishi Evo IX/techn. defect/ST 8), Willi Rabl (Porsche 911/techn. defect/ST 10).

**Final Results - Austrian Rallye State Championship 2015**

**ORM:** 1. Hermann Neubauer 158 points, 2. Raimund Baumschlager 147, 3. Gerwald Grössing 89.

**ORM-2WD:** 1. Simon Wagner 137 points, 2. Daniel Wollinger 130, 3.Andreas Kainer 74.

**ORM JUNIOR:** 1. Simon Wagner 143 points, 2. Christoph Zellhofer 69, 3.Christoph Lieb 62.

**ORM HISTORIC:** 1. Johannes Huber 123 points, 2. Willi Rabl 111.

**Additional** **Infos about Rallye Waldviertel** at [www.waldviertel-rallye.at](http://www.waldviertel-rallye.at/)

**Infos about Waldviertel Rallyeshow in St. Pölten** at [www.waldviertel-rallye.at/rallyeshow](http://www.waldviertel-rallye.at/rallyeshow)

**Sportpressedienst / Sports Press Service**

**Armin Holenia +43 664 201 27 00**

**Wolfgang Nowak +43 650 553 30 56**