

Current Croatian champions were celebrating after prologues in Tuhelj

With attractive prologue in Tuhelj and in front of many fans 7. INA Rally Kumrovec had started as well as Croatian season. The best crew after two prologues is from Croatia.

Krisztian Hideg and Istvan Kerek (Škoda Fabia R5) were celebrating with total time of 5:17,4. Second were Austrians Niki Meyer-Melnhoh and Thomas Zeiser (Ford Fiesta R5), who were slower by 0:11,9 and third place took also Austrian crew Stefan Fritz and Bernhard Ettl that were driving Škoda Fabia S2000 they set a time of 5:37,7.

The winter conditions in Zagorje have turned it into Monte Carlo, but it did not bother fans. Snow races are not a rarity in the WRC calendar, the World Rally Championship, there are only two of them; the one that is driven in Monte Carlo and the one in Sweden, and now we had impression of them in Kumrovec.

In second prologue three crews did not start, but all drivers will be able to drive tomorrow.

After today's two prologue rally in Kumrovec, that is organized by Auto club Delta from Zagreb, will be continued tomorrow with four new special stages. Crews will have ceremonial start at 9:01 AM, and special stages are on schedule after 10 AM. First two special stages will be driven on route: Gornji Škrnik - Donji Škrnik - Kladnik - Kumrovec and are 11,679 kilometers long, while the other two special stages will be driven on route: Škrnik - Gornji Škrnik - Zagorska Sela and are 8.98 kilometers long.

This year's addition has gathered 40 crews from four countries (Croatia, Slovenia, Austria, and Hungary) and 34 of them are Croatian crews. The specificity of Kumrovec special stages lies in a narrow path with many bends and related passes. Through years the audience recognizes Rally Kumrovec as an event that brings attractive drives and this year six cars of R5 classification were among the entrants (the same number as last year). This six cars, that worth million and half kunas, will drive through the streets of Kumrovec and you can not see that so often in Croatia. Moreover, the current Croatian champions Krisztian Hideg and Istvan Kerek, this year will drive for the first time at Rally Kumrovec in one of vehicles that are of R5 classification (Škoda Fabia R5).

In the previous six editions of the race the most wins has Hungarian driver Janos Szilagyi who celebrated three times. Last year's winner was Austrian crew, Niki Mayer-Melnhof and Poldi Welsersheimb.

The complete itinerary is a little less than 60 kilometers, of which almost 70% are special stages. The competition was entered in the FIA calendar and Croatian Car and Karting Federation, and is rated as the International FIA zone competition, Croatian Championship and Championship HAKS North league.

If you need more photos you can find them on following link (they are taken by Uros Modlic and are for free editorial use).