

Mayr-Melnhof defended the title in Kumrovec

Austrian crew Niki Mayr-Melnhof and Thomas Zeiser that drive Ford Fiesta R5 won the rally in Kumrovec that was organized by Auto club Delta Sport from Zagreb and it represents the start of Croatian Championship. Austrians ended with time 31:37,7.

“It was a difficult rally and very different from last year, but we manage to survive and carry on. It was snowy but we had fun and it was fantastic to drive here. I am very happy to win again“ said after everything Niki Mayr-Melnhof.

Second place won Croatian crew Krisztian Hideg and Istvan Kerek (Škoda Fabia R5) who were 1:20,2 late for Austrians.

“This is a good race, it is a good wether for me. The roads are difficult, but I like it. Niki is a very good driver, second place is great success and that is very important for me“ said current Croatian Champion Krisztian Hideg.

Third are our drivers Zoran Rašteggorac and Damir Bruner (Mitsubishi Lancer EVO IX) with time 34:05,8.

“I want to say thanks to everybody that were cleaning roads, they did a great job to make them so well. Well we had strategy to drive the same all the time. For two old man I think that 3rd place is very good“ rekao je Rašteggorac.

There was 40 crews from four countries that came to Kumrovec, 34 of them were Croatian crews but three of them did not managed to finish the rally while one crew did not even start.

Even though the snow covered Zagorje organisers have a lot of reasons to be satisfied because despite everything many fans have arrived and the race went well. Everything looked like a WRC race.

“We had some difficulties this year, but we did it. Everything looked like a little bit like Sweden and Monte Carlo. We were kinda hoping for that, but also we were scared of it“ said Clerk of the Course Željko Štefanić.

Good organization is not a surprise because Rally Kumrovec is three time winner for annual prize for the best organized rally. The prize is given by Croatian Auto and Carting Union.

Through years the audience recognizes Rally Kumrovec as an event that brings attractive rides and impressive vehicles too. Among them were three cars of R5 Classification.

So far the most wins has Hungarian driver Janos Szilagyi who celebrated three times and last years winner Mayr-Melnhof took the trophy again.

Kumrovec's rally scene has been in existence since the 1970's and the Auto Rally Kumrovec, one of the most massive sports events in the former Yugoslavia, and in 2011 the idea of reviving Kumrovec was born the idea was to put it on the Croatian car map again. Thus, the 1st Sprint rally Kumrovec was held on 1st and 2nd April 2011, and was also the first race of the Croatian Championship.

This 7th INA Rally Kumrovec 2018 was again supported by the President of the Republic of Croatia, Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. 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.