

# Motorsport News

International Edition – December 2019

## Hungary

### Brian Hsu crowned Prince of Paris

Invited as a wild card by the SX TOUR, Brian Hsu succeeded in Paris and in two other competitions in France and Switzerland. The 21-year-old rider of the HTS KTM team proved his talent against renowned expert supercross and freestyle racers. // Page 8.



## France

### A thrilling adventure

Fabienne and Franck Schulz have given themselves a new challenge by competing in the Gazelles and Men Rally for the first time. Novices in this type of rally-raid, the couple had to combine strategy, perseverance, courage, and method to overcome all the pitfalls in this intense and harsh Moroccan desert rally. // Page 2.

## Germany

### BLACK FALCON stands out in the 24H COTA USA

At the end of a fantastic duel, the four drivers of the BLACK FALCON Mercedes-AMG GT3 #4 won 2nd place overall at the Circuit of The Americas in Austin (Texas), while their sister car #464 took 2nd place in its class. // Page 6.





## France

### Adventure, competition, and adrenalin

The 3rd edition of the Gazelles and Men Rally took place in the south of Morocco from November 2nd to 9th. This mixed version of the Aïcha des Gazelles Rally benefits from the experience of the Maïenga agency, organizer of the Cap Fémina Aventure, the Bal el Raid and other events. In this off-road raid, competitors run with 4x4s, quads, or SSVs without GPS or mobile phone, using old-school navigation with maps and a compass. The aim is to cover the least number of kilometers by choosing the best routes according to the terrain, avoiding impassable zones, navigating through the desert, and checking in at control points every night. This rally-raid develops another vision of racing. "The teams have to be careful, chose the best route, drive a 4x4 perfectly in the desert, and not get lost in the sandy dunes," explained the organizer.

It was the first time Fabienne Schulz (53) and her husband Franck (56) had taken part in an international rally-raid against high-level crews, breaking out of their comfort zone to experience the intensity of this sport. "We rented a car equipped with the right technical gear and safety standards." To drive in the best conditions,

the couple participated in a training course on navigation and handling a 4x4 in the sandy desert.

"On the first day, we lost our bearings a bit on the last leg. It was not easy to orientate ourselves between two mountains and know where to go. But by the second day, we had mastered it. This was a wonderful adventure that required technique, strategy, perseverance, courage, and method. It was also about sharing with other teams and helping them if necessary. This rally allowed us to surpass ourselves, and also to chill out." There were no hotels for the competitors, only bivouacs, giving them back that sense of adventure. With a rate of 150 km per day, the crew crossed deserts of stones, drove through the sandy dunes of the Erg of Merzouga, and crossed the treacherous mountains. At the end of this rally, the couple secured 23rd place out of 36 teams. "We are ready to renew the adventure in 2021!"

Fabienne Schulz works for the Toyota Nice & Antibes dealer of the JPV Groupe, a FUCHS customer for more than 30 years.



France

## Braving adventure with audacity and courage

Two female company bosses, Véronique Barbier (45) and her friend Delphine Verriez (47), gave themselves a sporting and solidarity challenge by choosing to participate in the Cap Fémina Adventure in Morocco. Beginners in 4x4 rally-raid, the two competitors took training courses in crossing 70 degree-slopes, as well as mechanical lessons to prepare to face the Moroccan desert.

Created in 2011, this rally demands a mix of perseverance and solidarity. During the six orientation stages, this one hundred percent-female raid brought together sixty crews equipped with only a roadbook and a compass, without any other navigational instruments. "90 percent of the women have never raided before. But by the end, they had gained an invaluable awareness of themselves and their potential," explained the Founder and Chief Executive Officer Dominique Serra.

With a 4x4 Toyota KZJ 95 rented for the rally, the two women drove for 9 hours a day over sandy dunes, wadis, and rocky mountains. "We charted our course without sticking to the other women. It's surprising to find yourself in the middle of nowhere, not connected to the outside world and fending for yourself against obstacles. Sometimes, we got a little scared, even though we knew that the car was equipped with a tracer." The duo is delighted to have finished. "It was just beautiful, it allowed us to let go, to get out of our routines, to have none of the usual constraints, to sleep under the stars, and to help Moroccan families." The crew performed well, finishing 8th out of 51 cars entered.

During this trip, the women brought school supplies for children, childcare material, and helped dig out the sand from palm plantations.



## France

### 5th edition of the FUCHS Karting Challenge

In October, 54 FUCHS dealers and customers took part in an intrepid competition at the prestigious Paul Ricard circuit. This karting race was hosted by Cyril Raymond, a two-time RX2 rallycross world champion, and FUCHS driver in the Rallycircuit race.

After an individual challenge, the FUCHS racers competed by team with 4-stroke karts, racing at 70 km/h for an hour and a half. "A kart is easy to drive, yet gives a good taste of racing, and does not require any particular training to have fun and to perform," explained Cyril Raymond. "In this session, all the drivers had a good level and the challenge was tight." Some great exchanges allowed the world champion and FUCHS customers to share their experience. After the race, Cyril Raymond talked about his 2019 season and his passion.

The first six drivers to cross the finish line benefited from additional laps with a 2-stroke competition kart running at 130 km/h. The competitors scrupulously followed Cyril's advice to enjoy themselves without exceeding their limits.

"This lovely day of sporting challenges was once again a success. FUCHS customers liked to test themselves and tried to perform some feats safely on a racing circuit using championship rules. The presence of our driver Cyril Raymond brought the indispensable touch that makes this challenge a unique event," said FUCHS Regional Sales Manager Stéphane Mollet.



## France

### Cyril Raymond in the starting blocks for the 2020 World Cup

For the second time, the legendary Paul Ricard circuit hosted the Rallycircuit race, a new discipline mixing the challenges of a rally with the advantages of a circuit. Merging the F1, GT, and go-kart circuits of the Paul Ricard, 60 amateur and professional drivers took part in this international Cup. This last French rally of the season gave the public the chance to follow the teams' performances without moving around too much, meet the mechanics and drivers in the stands, and participate in the many activities organized.

FUCHS rider Cyril Raymond, with a 250 hp Renault Clio R3T, had bet on a top-ten position overall and a win in the 2WD class. For this event, the FUCHS driver rented a car from the professional team Chazel Technologie Course, which prepares cars for the French Rally Championship. After a few stages, the young driver skidded off the road in a turn so the race stopped there for him.

"We choose to sponsor Cyril Raymond, double world champion and a future contender in rallycross, because of his sporting and human qualities. He is our dealers' and customers' favorite driver. Every year, Cyril supports and advises them during the FUCHS Karting Challenge and the Rallycross at Lohéac," said FUCHS Regional Sales Manager Stéphane Mollet.

2017 and 2018 rallycross world champion in the Junior class, Cyril tackled a new challenge in 2019 by racing in the Supercar category of the championship. Although extremely motivated, this season was dedicated to learning the world circuits, driving the Clio 4 600, and integrating with the GCK private team. By the end of the ten races, Cyril had finished his season in 13th place out of 30 drivers, gaining one final and five semi-final selections.

In 2020, he is aiming for the podium with a more efficient car. "In previous seasons, I evolved at the front of the race and bettered my opponents by keeping the pressure on. This year, in the middle of the pack, I had to learn how to manage the splashes of dirt and smoke, and to keep pace with my opponents. It's much more difficult."

The first round of the Rallycross World Championship will take place in April at the Barcelona circuit.

**FUCHS lubricants: TITAN PRO RACE SAE 10W-60, TITAN SINTOPOID LS SAE 75W-90**



## Germany

### **BLACK FALCON clinches second overall victory at COTA USA**

BLACK FALCON repeated last year's success in the 24-hour race at the Circuit of The Americas in Austin (Texas) and thus secured its second overall victory in the 3rd edition of this competition. Jeroen Bleekemolen (NL), Ben Keating (US), Felipe Fraga (BR), and Cooper MacNeil (US) dominated the race weekend from the start with their Mercedes-AMG GT3 #4. They secured pole position and an important lead by the end of the first leg on their way to overall victory. Furthermore, their BLACK FALCON teammate from Meuspath came 2nd in the SPX class with the Mercedes-AMG GT4 #464 of Axel König, Norbert Schneider, Axel Sartingen, Daniel Schwerfeld, and Alexander Böhm (all German). They also finished with an excellent 8th place overall after a flawless performance by the entire team.

The manager of the BLACK FALCON GT3 #4 said: "The crew set the fastest time in qualifying, secured

pole position on the first day, and got the second-best time the following night. On Saturday, the drivers had gained an important lead of one lap by the scheduled interruption of the race after eleven hours, which was preserved at the re-start. Despite this comfortable cushion, the team kept up its pace in the second half of the race and was rewarded with overall victory after a strong performance."

The manager of the BLACK FALCON GT4 #464 said: "In the first half of the race, the crew moved up from 14th on the grid to 11th in the overall standings and finished 3rd in the SPX class after eleven hours. Over the second leg, the drivers continued their strong performance and secured 2nd place in their class. The team also crossed the finish line after 24 hours in an outstanding 8th place overall, thus completing a great team result."





## Germany

### **BLACK FALCON celebrated 2nd place in its class in South Africa**

BLACK FALCON scored 2nd place in the Silver Cup class at the 9-hour race at Kyalami and finished an extremely successful 2019 racing season with another highlight. Sergei Afanasiev (RU), Patrick Assenheimer (DE), and Hubert Haupt (DE) experienced a memorable race with the Mercedes-AMG GT3 #6, which was struck by a thunderstorm with torrential rainfall in the last few hours of the race after a great opening under the best weather conditions.

The drivers fought a tough battle for the lead in the Silver Cup class from the first official training session. After the practice and pre-qualifying, BLACK FALCON kept the upper hand in the following qualifying session and secured pole position in its class.

On Saturday, the 28 GT3 cars launched into the endurance classic in perfect weather conditions. The team got off to

a good start and clearly stood out from their chasers in the class during the first hours. Afanasiev, Assenheimer, and Haupt were within reach of the top-ten in the overall classification before the race was turned upside down by a thunderstorm two hours before the end.

Torrential rainfall and massive aquaplaning caused numerous spins, accidents, and slips in the field. Unfortunately, the crew was not spared a slip, which was unavoidable due to the prevailing circuit conditions. They lost the lead in the Silver Cup class and were unable to regain it due to a safety car period lasting from the storm until 20 minutes before the end of the race. In their first participation in the South Africa Cup, the team therefore crossed the finish line with 2nd place in their class and in 15th place overall.



## Hungary

### Brian Hsu dominates the SX2 Supercross Tour

The latest rider of the HTS KTM team, Brian Hsu, was selected to compete as a wild card in the 37th edition of the French series, and round 5 of the SX Tour.

The most legendary race of the SX European Tour and biggest Supercross in Europe took place at La Défense Arena, Paris, over two days. In front of 35,000 fans, the world's best riders of supercross and freestyle pushed the boundaries and provided crowds with intense competitions and unforgettable shows. The goal: to win the Prince of Paris trophy.

After his victory at Zuidebroek, FUCHS rider Brian Hsu succeeded during the six exciting Paris rounds of the SX Tour in the SX2 class and dominated the races with his KTM. Facing 18 renowned riders such as the American Jace Owen or French Thomas Do, Brian imposed his method on his adversaries: starting in pole position, optimal management of the race, pressure on his opponents... With a very impressive four victories, a 2nd and a 3rd place, he left the other competitors way behind him. At only 21, this young German rider has been crowned Prince of Paris, a title won by the legendary Jace Owen in 2018.

During this sporting event, Brian has reminded everyone of his talent, his great technique, and once again showed his true potential at world level in supercross.

A few days later, Brian participated in the Lyon SX Tour. He won 2nd place thanks to an exceptional race on Saturday. He took the lead in the final race extremely quickly and held on to it until the checkered flag. With a 2nd and 1st place at the end of the two races, Brian was neck-and-neck with his main adversary Yannis Irsuti, who equaled him on points by taking 1st and 2nd place.

The very selective and challenging circuit of the SX Tour in Geneva played a major role during the two evening races, requiring technique and experience from the riders to ensure success. For his third participation in the SX Tour, Brian has brilliantly concluded these rounds with 2nd place overall and 1st place in the SX2 class.

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



## Zimbabwe

### Ross Branch, the Kalahari Ferrari!

Ross Branch is the specialist for motocross and off-road racing, and his objectives are to help young riders to develop their talent and realize their dreams in off-road motorcycling. In 2013, thanks to his experience and skill, he co-founded the Khawa Training Academy with the Botswana Tourism Organization. "I want to encourage more Botswanan riders to compete in events such as the Toyota 1000 Desert Race and the Dakar Rally."

Ross raced his first event aged 5, developing his style and talent over the years through South African and Botswanan motocross and off-road championships. He likes long-distance endurance events, especially in the desert, and is the fastest cross-country rider that South Africa has to offer. Ross won seven Botswana 1000 Desert races, mastering the desert-like nobody else. He is affectionally known as the "Botswana Kalahari Ferrari".

In 2019, at 32, he raced his first Dakar rally and won the Rookies category. "It is the toughest motorcycle race on the planet, but I am hungry for more." He will race the 2020 edition for FUCHS.

"We have known Ross for many years since he raced motocross in Zimbabwe, especially in the Annual Summer Series. Ross will be a great ambassador for FUCHS Silkolene. His bike, race suit, and clothing will all have FUCHS Silkolene logos. He is also on 40 billboards in Botswana promoting his team and partners," said FUCHS Zimbabwe Director Paul Marais.

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene PRO 4 SAE 10W-50, Silkolene PRO CHAIN, Silkolene WASH-OFF, Silkolene PRO RG2**

