

# Motorsport News

International Edition – January 2020

## Germany

### **BLACK FALCON extends title collection in Dubai**

With another overall victory, BLACK FALCON continued its impressive success story at the 24-hour race in Dubai. After 2012, 2013, 2015, 2018 and its 2020 win, the team has celebrated its 5th overall victory and its 9th podium since 2011. // Page 2.



## France

### **FUCHS partner in the 2019 Rallye d'Automne**

With 185 racing cars on the starting line, thousands of spectators along the roads and renowned participants, the Rallye d'Automne has become one of the major events in French motor racing. // Page 3.

## Hungary

### **Flashback to the 2019 HTS season**

Despite injuries, the motocross riders of the HTS team led the 2019 sporting season with their great strategy and determination, succeeding in the most famous Hungarian and Czech championships. // Page 6.





## Germany

### **BLACK FALCON victorious at the season opener in Dubai**

BLACK FALCON won the 15th edition of the 24-hour race in Dubai with its drivers Khaled Al Qubaisi, Ben Barker, Jeroen Bleekemolen, Hubert Haupt and Manuel Metzger, in their Mercedes-AMG GT3 #4. The team had gained a little more than four-and-a-half minutes lead thanks to a strong performance and a perfect strategy in difficult and changeable weather conditions when the race had to be stopped by the red flag after seven hours and twenty minutes. Torrential rain had flooded parts of the circuit and the pit area. A restart of the race was ruled out in the early morning due to the persistently bad weather conditions, meaning that the positions at the time of the race interruption were classified as final results. With this renewed success, BLACK FALCON celebrated its 5th overall victory in the Dubai 24-hour race, making it the undisputed record winner of the desert classic since 2018.

The right strategy made the difference. Bleekemolen opened the race in bright sunshine and was in the leading group from the very first minute at an excellent

pace. Metzger then took over the car and put pressure on the leaders during his double stint with fast lap times.

After about five hours, the team decided on a bold strategy with Haupt, who was driving. When it started to rain, he did not come into the pits to change to rain tires. Haupt mastered the difficult laps with slick tires on a wet surface before the rain eased noticeably and the circuit dried quickly. As a result, the team saved itself a pit stop and was in the lead with a comfortable gap. Shortly afterward, as the weather conditions over the circuit worsened again, AMG debutant Barker delivered a strong performance on a partially flooded circuit until Al Qubaisi got in the car for his first stint. After about seven hours, the race was finally interrupted.

Team Principal of BLACK FALCON GT, Sean Paul Breslin, said: "We are very happy about the 5th overall victory in Dubai, which is special because of the difficult conditions. The team has done a fantastic job."



## France

### **FUCHS happy to be official partner of the 2019 Rallye d'Automne**

An undisputed reference in world car racing, the Rallye d'Automne took place from November 15th to 17th around La Rochelle in the Charente-Maritime. This national sports event welcomed drivers of the last stage of the French Rally Championship 2nd division, the teams of the French Rally Cup, as well as a number of professional and amateur competitors.

With the support of its customer Barbier Automobiles, FUCHS LUBRICANTS signed a partnership as an official sponsor with the organizers Sport Automobile Océan, with FUCHS logos being well represented on racing cars and on the circuit. This renowned rally welcomed 185 cars in various categories: modern, classic, hybrid and electric. Several titles, such as the French championship, were at stake, and protagonists like Stéphane Pustelnik (Ds3 WRC) and Eddy Lemaitre (Skoda Fabia R5) made a great show, as did their main rivals Jean-Marie Cuoq (Citroën Xsara WRC) and Xavier Lemonnier (Ds3 R5).

“Seven former winners of the Rallye d'Automne were on the starting line but they were not the only ones

dreaming of victory,” explained the President of the SAO Jérôme Piquenot. At the end of eleven stages, Eric Brunson and Cédric Mondon won the 2019 edition thanks to their speed and consistent performance. The team, which won in 2015, had some mechanical problems at the beginning of the rally but made up for them during the last stages.

As in all the other editions, thousands of spectators lined the winding roads of the rally to cheer the emeritus drivers.

The FUCHS sales representatives Rémi Fillaud and Jean-Louis Charles took the opportunity of this partnership to invite their customers and share their commentary. FUCHS customer Garage Poincare Automobiles AGT Renault of La Rochelle raced in the Classic category with an Alpine A 310.

Eric Brunson (Ford Fiesta WRC) said: “I was very happy when I crossed the finishing line because the race became more and more difficult, in particular during the last stages with the mud, fog, and winding roads. This victory is one of the best I've ever had. There were great drivers like Jean-Marie Cuoq who deserved to win. But a lot of things can happen, and a rally is never finished before you cross the finishing line.”



## France

### Quad Bike Evasion on all fronts

Faithful FUCHS customer Vincent Locmane (59) even refers to his relationship with the company and its products as a marriage. His parents used FUCHS oils in their Fiat garage back in 1974. In 1988, Vincent took over their company in Cognac and added the Toyota brand. In 1999, following a fall, he became paraplegic and sold his business. Passionate about mechanical sports and competition, Vincent bought a quad and started to have fun on off-road circuits. In 2009, he created Quad Bike Evasion (QBE) and represented the Bombardier brand. He contacted FUCHS and had the pleasure of reconnecting with Rémi Fillaud, his former sales representative. "It was out of the question to work with another lubricant company," explained Vincent. In 2018, QBE was selected as the first Can-AM European dealer. It now sells quads, SSVs and Spyders.

In 2015, Vincent celebrated his French SSV cross-country rally champion title. "Racing is my anchor." His son Romain (32) has also triumphed as French cross-country champion in the Quad 4x4 category, from 2013 to 2016. In their family dealership, their mechanics take base model Can-AM Maverick Xrs

and set them up for competition with roll bar, bucket seat, safety harness, extinguisher, circuit breaker... Today, the company employs 12 people. "We select high-level racers or competitors to work with us."

In 2019, Maxime Fourmaux joined the team and won the French Rally TT Championship title with his SSV Can-AM Maverick. 2018 French SSV champion in his first season, Romain came in 3rd place in 2019.

The team has big plans for 2020: setting up machines for the team and customers, competitions, mechanical assistance at races, and days out on quads and Spyders with customers who want to profit from the expertise of QBE. "Our aim: ensure after-sales service of quality."

At the beginning of the year, the team raced the Africa Eco Race with five vehicles. The program ahead: M'Hamid Rally in Morocco, French Rally TT Championship, French Endurance TT Championship, and a few races such as Baja Aragon in Spain.

**FUCHS lubricants: Silkolene Quad ATV SAE 5W-40, Silkolene PRO RACE 2000, TITAN SINTOPOID LS SAE 75W-140, MAINTAIN FRICOFIN, Silkolene PRO BOOST**

## Great Britain

### **McGuinness joins FUCHS Silkolene-sponsored Quattro Plant Bournemouth Kawasaki for the 2020 road race campaign**

Road-racing legend John McGuinness will contest the International North West 200 in May and the Isle of Man TT in June. The Morecambe rider having signed a deal to ride for Pete Extance's British Superbike Championship-winning team.

McGuinness, who celebrates his 30th year of racing in 2020, will ride a Ninja ZX-10RR in the Superbike and Superstock classes and will head into both among the clear favorites for race honors.

The addition of multiple road-race winner McGuinness completes the team's plans for the season ahead and it makes for a formidable line-up with Alastair Seeley joining him at the North West 200.

International road races are what John has become synonymous within recent times and he can now boast a superb total of 23 wins at the Isle of Man TT. John's record at the North West 200 is also to be admired with six wins and 21 podiums, and both he and the team head into 2020 with the sole focus of getting back onto the podium at the TT and NW200.

47-year-old rider McGuinness said: "I'm delighted to announce my plans for the 2020 international road-racing season and equally delighted to be riding for Quattro Plant Bournemouth Kawasaki. Their record on the roads with James Hillier, in terms of both results and reliability, along with their reputation within the bike industry, speak for themselves and with it being such a family-orientated team, it's the perfect fit for me. It's a highly reputable, professional team that has achieved great things on both roads and circuits, and for me, they tick all the boxes."



Picture: John McGuinness and Bournemouth Kawasaki Team Owner and Principal Pete Extance



## Hungary

### 2019: a record year for the HTS team

At the end of a sporting season rich with strong emotions, story twists and successes, the HTS team is making the most of the winter break to prepare its strategy for the new season and is taking time to reflect on last year.

In 2019, the Board of the Hungarian Motorsport Association selected Benedict "Bence" Szvoboda as the male motocross athlete of the year. The 27-year-old Somogyi motorcycle rider became the 2019 Czech champion in the MX1 category, having won his 10th individual title in Hungary as well as the team championship title. For the first time, he has earned the most prestigious motorsport award in Hungary.

Congratulations to Varga "Imre" Mimo for his courage and tenacity. After his injury in 2018, the 21-year-old rider had to learn to walk again. He nevertheless returned to the sporting scene in 2019 and won his 5th national title in the MX2 category. "The most important win of my life after 100 days of re-education."

Bravo to Jakob "Johnny" Kristóf for his commitment and performance, which allowed him to win 2nd place in the MX2 of the National Championship.

Let us also not forget Brian Hsu, the newcomer to the team, who raced again after two years of absence due to injuries. The young motocross sportsman was pleased to take some podiums in the SX European Tour.

For a strong finish to the 2019 season, Szvoboda, Mimo, and Hugyecz combined their experience and know-how to triumph for the seventh time with the victory in the Motocross Club Championship. With this win, the team succeeded in matching the result of the very successful former Budapest Honvéd team.

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