

Polo Cup India



PRESS RELEASE

Sailesh Bolisetti creates history by becoming India's first Polo Cup Champion

Munjal Savla wins final race in the series finale of the Polo Cup India 2010 / Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Motorsports, Volkswagen India: "We will be back next year and make sure that the Polo Cup is even better."

Chennai, December 19, 2010 – Sailesh Bolisetti created history by winning the first ever Polo Cup in India when he finished in 6th position. Heading into the final race Sailesh trailed Parth Ghorpade by just two points. Parth had a great start and was in 4th position with Sailesh in 6th position when he made a mistake that dropped him back to 11th position. After that, all Sailesh had to do was finish ahead of Parth, which he duly did to become India's first ever Polo Cup Champion. Munjal Savla won race 2 ahead of Kartik Shankar and Vishnu Prasad.

It has been an eventful race weekend for both Championship contenders starting with Parth being given a 30 sec penalty and demoted to 9th position in the first race. Parth, who had a 26 point lead coming into the final weekend, just had to finish ahead of Sailesh in the final race and looked to be on target to become Champion. Finally, it was Sailesh who finished ahead of Parth to become India's first ever Polo Cup Champion. Vishnu Prasad's impressive run in the last few races gave him third spot in the Championship.

Munjal Savla, winner of Race 2, expressed, "I would like to thank Volkswagen for this incredible opportunity. It is a truly great feeling for me as a rookie to be first on the podium, especially in the last race of the season. The Polo Cup has giving me the chance to learn the art of racing and I hope to do better in the next season."

Polo Cup champion, Sailesh Bolisetti, commented, "Although I had a few ups and downs in the season, I am extremely happy and relieved with the outcome of the championship. The season was very competitive as all the drivers performed their best. I am extremely grateful to Volkswagen for giving me this opportunity."

Prithviraj Siddappa, Head of Motorsports, Volkswagen India, said, "It has been an excellent year for Volkswagen Motorsport and we are very happy with the outcome of the first year of the Volkswagen JK Tyre Polo Cup in India. It is a privilege for us to be a part of the JK Tyre National Racing Championship. The drivers have acclimatized well and we will continue to nurture the young talent in the country. We will be back next year and make sure that it is even better."

The young drivers went all out, as they battled for a place on the podium. The screaming fans were given nothing short of a spectacular race weekend.

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The final championship standings after all 6 rounds of the Polo Cup are as follows:

Position	Driver	City	Points
1.	Sailesh Bolisetti	Vishakapatnam	411
2.	Parth Ghorpade	Kolhapur	403
3.	Vishnu Prasad	Chennai	377
4.	Sahil Shelar	Pune	330
5.	Karthik Shankar	Hyderabad	276
6.	Gurniaz Mann	Mumbai	265
7.	Mohd Fahad Kutty	Mumbai	261
8.	Munjal Savla	Mumbai	225
9.	Oshan Kothadiya	Pune	215
10.	Alisha Abdullah	Chennai	208
11.	Imran Majid	Mumbai	205
12.	Anthony George	Kochi	191
13.	Vikash Anand	Chennai	187
14.	Prateek Dalal	Bahadurgarh	138
15.	Saurav Bandopadhyay	Mumbai	117
16.	Suraj Bhagat	Ahmednagar	110
17.	Shrivatsa Sinha	Pune	82
18.	Sneha Sharma	Mumbai	70

This was the final round of the debut season of the Polo Cup India. The season had 6 racing weekends in total. The inaugural race was held in Pune in a unique street format, followed by races in Coimbatore and Chennai.

Motor sports enthusiasts interested in getting further information can log on to the website, www.polocup.in. This website will display information about the format of The Polo Cup India, race updates and driver profiles.

About Volkswagen Motorsport

Volkswagen is committed to broad-scale motor sport as in internationally staged cross-country rally racing programmes in countries including Germany, Europe and the United States apart from other countries in Asia and has a long tradition of promoting young talent. Following the legendary Formula V as of 1966 the brand, in 1976, sponsored a one-make touring car cup for the first time. Among others, the Scirocco Cup produced drivers like the subsequent Formula 1 racer Manfred Winkelhock. In 1977 the first-generation Golf GTI replaced the Scirocco as the cup vehicle and remained the popular competition car for a generation of young racers up to 1982. In 1983, the second-generation Polo followed as the cup vehicle – initially using the 88-hp normally aspirated engine version and, from 1986, the 112-hp compressor engine. At the relaunch in 1998, Volkswagen presented the Lupo, which offered top-class sport at fair prices, as well as the Volkswagen New Beetle Cup.

The year of 1998 stands for an all-new concept in the world of racing. To this day, this new concept featuring centrally fielded vehicles and car swapping among the drivers guarantees maximum equality

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of opportunity. In 2004 the 150-hp Polo replaced the small Lupo as the cup vehicle and the concept was subjected to further refinement. The Polo Cup's success story is closely linked to the DTM-Deutsche Tourenwagen Meisterschaft. The premier league of touring car racing has evolved into a real crowd-puller and is envisaged as a concrete career goal by many junior racers.

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