

Legendary Norwegian returns back to the scene!

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Three-time winner of the Rally Bohemia (former Rallye Škoda) in 1977, 1979 and 1980, John Haugland, returns back to Mladá Boleslav. This time not behind the steering wheel of a racing car, but acting as advisor to two young talents from Denmark. **“Long time ago Denmark has given the world several great drivers, for instance the circle specialist Tom Kristensen and the European Rally Champion Henrik Lugaard. Unfortunately such outstanding names are missing now. Sweden, Finland and Norway have such names, unfortunately Denmark doesn’t, which means we are behind them. This is the reason why I was addressed as a talent finder by the Automobile Federation in Denmark, whether I could help. My choice regarding the tarmac stages was absolutely clear,”** says the man, who is considered for decades by many motorsport fans to be half Czech, and adds: **“Both the Rally Bohemia and Monte Carlo are the most favourite tarmac competitions I’ve ever participated in. The event is traditionally very well organized. Special stages are technical having a character and are without the obstacles. It brings remarkable experience and pleasure for talented drivers capable of driving fast. Who makes to the finish in the Bohemia, has real chances to be successful everywhere else too. On the other hand these stages show no mercy to anyone and it is a very – very tough school for beginners,”** said the man, who has lived behind the steering wheel of Škoda cars for twenty years for sure.

Simon Larsen and Simon Vallentin certainly have no doubts about those words either. Both are going to participate in this year’s Rally Bohemia. **“They both are very talented and very successful back home in Denmark. The tracks there however aren’t that demanding compared to those in the Rally Bohemia. Anyway there is great potential in those guys, which is worth developing further.”** Simon Vallentin is more humble in his forecasting just before the start: **“Should I finish fifth among front-wheelers, it would be a success for me and our Peugeot 206 S1600,”** says the young man, who in competitions is usually navigated by his younger brother. In the Rally Bohemia however he introduces himself shoulder to shoulder with the experienced Ole Frederiksen. **“Ole has participated in several competitions in the world and I think he can help me a lot in this particular competition too. Regarding the track, car set-up and tyres it’s not going to be easy. I have never participated in such demanding competition.”** Also the other young man, Simon Larsen, who has begun his experience in automobile competitions in 2008, is preceded by high quality reputation of R1 and R2 class winner in the terms of several European competitions. Particularly results from the Rallye du Condros and the JUAL Rally give the idea that the competition within the R2 class also thanks to the Danish Citroen C2 R2 will be top quality.

The traditional general partner of the Rally Bohemia is the Škoda Auto car factory, which provides a representative background and makes it possible for the Motorsport Team to start in their Škoda Fabia S2000 cars.

More information about the 39th Rally Bohemia can be found at www.rallybohemia.cz.

Organizing Team RB 2012

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