



## Rally Bohemia Start List is dominated by Škoda brand

Press Release No. 8

Mladá Boleslav, 24. 6. 2018

**Starting Lists of Rally Bohemia 2018 have obtained their shapes. Within that one on the front burner, for Czech Rally Championship, we will find right 15 crews in Škoda cars in the top twenty. The factory team ŠKODA Motorsport itself contributes to that while sending right three crews to this year competition. It has been their strongest cast in the competition on the Czech territory for a couple of past years.**

There are total 132 crews registered for Rally Bohemia 2018. From that 74 with contemporary cars within Czech Rally Championship, 28 within Czech Historic Sporting Rally Championship, 16 participants are listed in Rally Legend start list and 14 crews will try this year premiere ECO Energy Rally Bohemia. Total 56 Škoda cars are registered for all parts of the competition, which is full 42% of the starting field.

ŠKODA Motorsport team, which this year completely dominates the World Championship in WRC 2 category when its drivers keep the first three places, will set into the Rally Bohemia exceptionally right three crews. However, this does not make any difference to the fact that the front-runner will be Jan Kopecký again. He has already managed to win Rally Bohemia seven times, of which five times in a row in years 2013-2017. However, this year, not only may his way for another victory in the series be spoilt by the representatives of the complete Czech top drivers headed by Václav Pech and Jan Černý in Fords Fiesta R5 and Filip Mareš in Škoda Fabia R5 but also by his team colleagues. These will be Norwegian Ole Christian Veiby and Finnish Juuso Nordgren in other factory Fabia R5 cars. But they are going to have really tough work, as Jan Kopecký has already proved his form this year, when he together with his co-driver Pavel Dresler won all three competitions of the World Championship WRC 2 he took part in.

After long 23 years, the double-winner of Rally Bohemia from the turn of the 1980s and 90s and the current multiple champion of Austria Raimund Baumschlager will appear here again. It will be in Mladá Boleslav where he will start for the first time after his serious accident at the Austrian Rebenland Rallye in March when he sustained an injury. From among other drivers registered whom we do not see regularly at Czech competitions, let us mention Hungarian Ferenc Kiss, Štěpán Vojtěch from Liberec or Věroslav Cvrček, jun. from Železný

Brod. All those mentioned above are also going to sit down into racing specials Škoda Fabia R5, except Cvrček who relies on an even older fabia S2000. Another interesting experience will be also the start of Kenneth Madsen, Danish, who will introduce himself with a quite unique Suzuki Swift MAXI 2000 Evo. The complete Czech top of car category 2WD with one axle driven, where big fights among young talented drivers are put up, will not be missing either.

You will be able to meet most of the top drivers mentioned above personally at the autograph session in Mladá Boleslav Shopping Centre Bondy on Friday 29. 6. from 7:30 p.m.

Within Rally Bohemia Historic, a big battle between the double winner of the past years, a legendary Břetislav Enge who is coming back behind the steering wheel of Škoda 130 LR, and by 39 years younger Jan Frei in the same car can be expected. Recently, the latter has successfully defended his victory at Český Krumlov. However, if machinery endures, the hot favourite of this year will be Vlastimil Neumann with a more fashionable and effective Ford Escort RS Cosworth. And definitely, another "clear" leader of category 2, Stanislav Budil in BMW 2002 Ti, who missed a victory among historic cars by mere two tenths of a second last year, must be counted on as well. Within the non-measured exhibition Rally Bohemia Legend, we can look forward to various generations of racing Škoda cars from the beginning of 1970s up to 90s, which wrote the history of Czech motorsport in almost unique writing. One real rarity in the form of a Škoda 200 RS, which is going to be introduced in a separate article, is also registered among them.

All favourites to win this year Champion title, including the last year World Champion Walter Fuzzy Kofler, are registered to ECO Energy Rally Bohemia, the fifth event of this year World Cup FIA Electric and New Energy Championship for cars with alternative drive. **"Electric and hybrid cars can be seen at most special stages of Rally Bohemia. We invite all admirers of electro mobility, but much more its dogged opponents, to Mladá Boleslav to Prolog on Friday at 8 p.m. Here these cars will introduce themselves in the acceleration test with firm start, including time measuring. They will drive parallel with the participants of the Czech Historic Sporting Rally Championship, which enables direct visual speed comparison,"** attracts Petr Pavlát, Rally Bohemia Clerk of the Course, to a untraditional show.

The starting lists of all parts of Rally Bohemia can be found at [www.rallybohemia.cz](http://www.rallybohemia.cz) in section Documents. The traditional general partner of the competition is the car company ŠKODA AUTO. The event is held under the financial support of Central Bohemia region.

— 29. 6.–1. 7. 2018 —



— MLADÁ BOLESLAV —

At social networks you can find Rally Bohemia at the following accounts:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/rallybohemia](http://www.facebook.com/rallybohemia)

Youtube: [www.youtube.com/user/RallyBohemia](http://www.youtube.com/user/RallyBohemia)

Instagram: [instagram.com/rallybohemia](http://instagram.com/rallybohemia)

Bc. Aleš Holakovský, Media Officer

45. RALLY BOHEMIA

e-mail: [press@rallybohemia.cz](mailto:press@rallybohemia.cz)

web: [www.rallybohemia.cz](http://www.rallybohemia.cz)