

FIA European Rally Championship 2013, Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse, round five of 12 (16-18 May)

# **EVENT PREVIEW:** Formula One racers in the mix for Tour de Corse ERC glory

There will be serious competition ahead on round five of the FIA European Rally Championship as two Formula One racers line up for an event steeped in tradition and challenging in the extreme.

Shown live on Eurosport and France 3 Corsica, Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse is one of the most legendary rallies in existence with a demanding route around the picturesque Mediterranean island from 16-18 May.

Of the impressive 58-car entry – the event's largest for five years – Robert Kubica and Stéphane Sarrazin are among the standout drivers in their turbocharged Regional Rally Cars.

Kubica, who has started 76 grands prix, is demonstrating his formidable talent and determination in this year's ERC as he recovers to full fitness following a rally crash in 2011. Despite his limited knowledge of the sport, the Polish ace has led both ERC rallies he's started to date in his Citroën DS3 RRC and has a tally of 15 stage wins to his name.

Sarrazin, who raced just once in Formula One in 1999 but has a strong record of success in the Le Mans 24 Hours, is making his ERC debut on Tour de Corse in a MINI John Cooper Works that he will drive for the first time during a test on May 13. While Sarrazin has previous experience of the asphalt rally – three times in competition and once as a zero car driver in 2012 – Kubica is a Corsica novice so will be building his experience from the first of 11 stages on Friday morning.

#### Twists and turns all the way

Affectionately known as the 'Rally of 10,000 Corners' due to the proliferation of twists and turns on challenging mountain roads, the event starts in the tranquil setting of Calvi, on Corsica's northwest coast, on the evening of Thursday 16 May. From there, crews tackle six stages on Friday's opening leg around the town of Corte before the overnight halt in Ajaccio to the south. Saturday's action starts and finishes in Ajaccio with five stages prior to the finish in the town that evening. With an overall distance of 929.55 kilometres, Tour de Corse is a tough test for both car and crew.

But it's not just the constant cornering that makes Tour de Corse such a challenge: the bulk of the route runs over narrow mountain passes lined with unforgiving rock faces on one side of the road and steep drops on the other. The stages climb and fall and while most roads in Corsica have been resurfaced over the years, there are some sections on bumpy and broken asphalt.

#### Serious competition ahead

With 23 cars eligible for the headlining Super 2000 category, the competition on the 56<sup>th</sup> running of Tour de Corse will be intense. In addition to Robert Kubica and Stéphane Sarrazin, a host of star drivers will be in the battle for victory on the fearsome island roads. Jan Kopecký is the ERC's man of the moment with three wins out of three starts this year for ŠKODA Motorsport. Renowned as an asphalt specialist, Kopecký produced one of the drives of his career in Corsica in 2012 as he closed on eventual winner Dani Sordo, who piloted the same MINI that Sarrazin will use this year.





Other firm favourites for Corsica glory include one-time Rallye Monte-Carlo victor Bryan Bouffier, rallying legend François Delecour and Peugeot Rally Academy's rising star Craig Breen. Daniel Oliveira will fly the colours of the Brazil World Rally Team on his Fiesta, while highly-rated Frenchman Jérémi Ancian is the reigning Peugeot 207 one-make champion in his homeland.

Jean-Mathieu Leandri is the highest-seeded Corsican driver while fellow islander Jean-Dominique Mattei will be back in action 12 months after fire destroyed his car on this event. Meanwhile, Antonín Tlusťák will front the GPD Mit Metal Racing Team's challenge for the prestigious European Rally Championship for Teams.

As well as the battle for overall glory, the ERC Production Car Cup and ERC 2WD Championship will be closely fought, while the ERC Ladies' Trophy will also be hotly contested. Among those chasing ERC Production Cup honours are Subaru Impreza drivers Andreas Aigner and Marco Tempestini, Mitsubishi Lancer runner Jaroslav Orskák and Team Renault Sport Technologies duo Germain Bonnefis and Robert Consani.

Kornel Lukacs, Vasily Gryazin, Slawomir Ogryzek, plus leading ladies Ekaterina Stratieva and Molly Taylor will be in contention for ERC 2WD laurels but will face strong opposition from top local drivers Pierre-Antoine Guglielmi and Petru-Antoine Boschetti.





### Q&A: STEPHANE SARRAZIN

Top circuit racer on his rallying return in the ERC

#### How did the agreement to drive the MINI come together?

"It was quite late. I was racing in Spa when I got a call from Willy Collignon from First Motorsport, who I know from when we won the French championship together in 2004. I had to get permission from Toyota, which I will drive for in the Le Mans 24 Hours. It has been a very quick experience but a very positive one because I like these very tricky roads with not a lot of straight lines, only corners. I have a very good car and a very good team so I hope I can do something good."

#### What experience do you have of the MINI?

"I have none but I will drive the car on Monday for the first time. It is only one day but it is good enough to learn the car."

# Last year you drove the Peugeot 208 R2 as the zero car on Tour de Corse. Will that help you next week?

"It will help a lot because I did the full rally distance and the recce last year. Even though I was in the zero car, I pushed like I was doing the rally. It was a very good help for me, it was perfect, although I obviously didn't know then that I would be doing the rally again in a car that can win."

#### What's your aim for the rally?

"I'm going for the win. The last rally I did was the French championship Rallye du Mont-Blanc last year in a Peugeot 207. I won the rally and I have been in Corsica with Subaru three times and finished eighth, sixth and fourth. The car I have won the rally last year so I have no excuse although it will be difficult against drivers like Robert Kubica and Jan Kopecký. He has very good experience here and is fast everywhere. It will be a very good fight."

#### How difficult is it to switch from racing to rallying?

"They are so different. An LMP1 car or an LMP2 car are very close but this is day and night. I have experience of both and I am doing a lot of tests with Michelin in rallying so I am quite regular although maybe it can be a bit difficult with the pacenotes at the beginning. But I plan to push myself and be on the pace."

#### As a driver what is the biggest challenge you face on the rally?

"It's to avoid touching any concrete on the side of the road. It's so narrow, with narrow bridges and it's easy to touch a wheel, make a small mistake and have a very big effect. There are also some old roads that are very bumpy, it's a very particular and difficult rally."





### LIVE TELEVISION COVERAGE

There will be extensive live coverage of round five of the FIA European Rally Championship, Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse, on the Eurosport platform, online through Eurosport Player and on France 3 Corsica as follows:

#### Friday 17 May 2013

SS2: Erbajolo-Pont d'Altiani 1 (24.57kms): 11:00hrs-12:00hrs (Eurosport, France 3 Corsica) SS6: Erbajolo-Pont d'Altiani 2 (24.57kms): 20:00hrs-21:00hrs (Eurosport2, France 3 Corsica) Replay day

#### Saturday 18 May 2013

SS8: Sarrola–Liamone 1 (26.70kms): 12:00hrs-13:00hrs (Eurosport, France 3 Corsica) SS11: Sarrola–Liamone 2 (26.70kms): 18:00hrs-19:00hrs (Eurosport, France 3 Corsica)

All timings are CET and subject to change. Go to the Watch it on TV section of the ERC website for more information.

#### Inside ERC

The Inside ERC magazine show will be shown on Eurosport as follows:

23:15hrs-23:45hrs CET, Tuesday 21 May 10:30hrs-11:00hrs CET, Wednesday 22 May (replayed)





## STAGE SUMMARIES: Tour de Corse by Jean-Pierre Nicolas

Jean-Pierre Nicolas is a former international rally-winning driver turned team boss and now the General Co-ordinator of the FIA European Rally Championship. Back in 1973, Nicolas won Tour de Corse driving an Alpine-Renault A110. This is his guide to this year's Tour de Corse stages.

#### **LEG ONE, FRIDAY 17 MAY**

#### SS1: Le Fangu/Notre Dame de la Serra (27.53 kilometres)

**JPN:** "This is a long stage and the first one of the rally so it's going to be very revealing for the rest of the event. The road is wide compared to many of the other stages and the asphalt is abrasive, so you have to pay attention to the correct lines and manage your tyres. The scenery is beautiful."

#### SS2/SS6: Erbajolo-Pont d'Altiani (24.57 kilometres) LIVE

**JPN:** "This has been a highlight of the route for many years and we are broadcasting it live on Eurosport this year. It really splits into three sections. The first section in the first eight to 10 kilometres is exposed and fast, with a good surface. The second section is narrower and more technical: you can often get patches of damp that catch you out. The final eight kilometres are really fast downhill, with hairpin bends that are hard on the brakes."

#### SS3/SS5: Barchetta-La Porta (23.24 kilometres)

**JPN:** "A well-known stage that runs through an area known as 'La Castagniccia' because of all the chestnut trees. This is a typical slippery and twisty Corsican stage, on a bumpy road with old asphalt. The trees deposit leaves on the road so the surface is often quite greasy and treacherous. The end of the stage is really nice: it arrives in a village square in front of a church."

#### SS4: Taverna-Pont de Castirla (15.28 kilometres)

**JPN:** "This is quite similar to the previous stage, with the difference that the surface is a lot better. But I would still describe it as a typical Corsican stage, as it is narrow, twisty and really demanding. This is actually quite a hard stage to drive: the nature of it means that it's difficult to find a natural rhythm so some drivers struggle with that."

#### **LEG TWO, SATURDAY 18 MAY**

#### SS7/SS10: Carbuccia-Tavera (16.89 kilometres)

**JPN:** "One of the quickest stages on the rally, with an average of around 95kph, which is fast for Corsica. The first section of the stage is a rapid climb and then you just have to hang on because the surface becomes quite bumpy. There is no one particular thing to look out for here, but it's a very good test of all-round commitment."

#### SS8/SS11: Sarrola-Liamone (26.70 kilometres) LIVE

**JPN:** "We broadcast this stage live, so as you can imagine it is very beautiful. It starts off with a twisty climb under the trees for about three kilometres, and then the next eight to 10 kilometres are fast and wide: a real pleasure to drive when you can find a good rhythm. The last five kilometres are a quick descent to the finish near the beach: again, this is very hard on brakes."

#### SS9: Marato-Acqua Doria (22.47 kilometres)

**JPN:** "This was part of our live broadcast two years ago. It's been a classic of the Tour de Corse for many years, run in different directions and configurations for as long as I can remember, and it's a really popular stage as it's close to Ajaccio so there are always lots of spectators. The surface is very good but there are many off camber corners, which can be deceptive."





#### THE MONTH IN THE ERC

Here's a summary of the comings and goings in the ERC since the last round in Açores last month:

- •13 May: Teams begin their preparations for Tour de Corse in earnest with a test on the island. It will mark Stéphane Sarrazin's first try of the MINI John Cooper Works S2000 he will use on round five of the ERC
- •10 May: The seeded entry list for Tour de Corse is published. ERC title leader Jan Kopecký will go first for ŠKODA Motorsport
- •10 May: Craig Breen goes back to school well to Kilmacthomas school in Waterford, Ireland, to be precise. The ERC star was helping to give a seminar on road safety to 800 children
- •9 May: Kornél Lukács's Citroën C2 R2 Max will get a new look from Tour de Corse onwards will a competition on Facebook to design a revised livery
- •8 May: Peugeot Sport confirms Kris Meeke will be in action on Tour de Corse driving a Peugeot 208 R2 zero car
- •7 May: The entry list for Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse is published with 58 crews lining up. Of these 23 will be in Super 2000 machinery, while 18 nations will be represented
- •7 May: Details of the live coverage of Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse are announced. Four stages will be shown live on Eurosport and France 3 Corsica
- •6 May: Renato Pita launches his ERC 2WD Championship bid in Porto. He will combine his campaign with promoting Etapa Segura, a road safety initiative for school children in Portugal
- •5 May: Craig Breen swaps his regular Peugeot 207 Super 2000 for a Ford Escort Mk2 for the Rally of the Lakes in his homeland. Unfortunately engine failure forced his retirement early on the second day of the event
- •4 May: Daniel Oliveira gears up for his ERC return in Corsica by finishing Rally Argentina, his 'home' round of the WRC
- •4 May: The WTCC and ERC join forces when WTCC star Norbert Michelisz and ERC 2WD Championship leader Zoltán Bessenyey meet during their home round of the WTCC at the Hungaroring near Budapest
- •30 April: The ERC will total 12 rounds in 2013 following confirmation that the San Marino Rally will no longer be part of the schedule
- •28 April: Despite rolling into retirement on SATA Rallye Açores, Ekaterina Stratieva confirms plans to be back on ERC Ladies' Trophy duty on Tour de Corse.





### **ERC KEY FACTS**

- One of the world's longest running rally championships celebrating 61 years in 2013
- Twelve rounds from January to November
- •Sanctioned and administered by the FIA, motorsport's world governing body
- •Promoted by Eurosport Events, the organisation behind the hugely successful Intercontinental Rally Challenge, under a 10-year agreement
- •Events take place on asphalt, gravel and snow, giving drivers the skills they need to compete in the World Rally Championship in the future
- •Rallies vary in format with short sprint-style events to endurance rallies of more than 300 kilometres in length
- •Several legendary rallies appear on the schedule in a number of key markets
- •Prestigious FIA titles for drivers, co-drivers and teams. Winners invited to attend the end-of-year FIA Gala Prize Giving Ceremony
- •Colin McRae ERC Flat Out Trophy to be presented on all rounds
- •New FIA ERC Ladies' Trophy from round three onwards
- •Best four scores from first seven rounds and best four scores from last six events count
- •No registration required, all drivers/co-drivers eligible for points providing they use cars authorised by the FIA's Regional Rally Championship regulations
- •All rounds filmed and produced for television coverage some live by Eurosport Events
- •Expanded coverage on Eurosport and Eurosport Player through the official ERC website
- New-look championship logo underpinned by 'Serious Competition Ahead' strapline
- •Dedicated website, www.fiaerc.com, updated daily featuring news, videos, results, points and other key details
- •Facebook page and Twitter feed providing regular information and opportunities for interaction
- •New range of ERC merchandising coming soon
- •Expert team from Eurosport Events onsite at every round and available away from rallies including a championship co-ordinator, commercial director and press officer





# **CALENDAR**

01	International Jännerrallye (Austria)	Asphalt/snow	3-5 January 2013
02	Rally Liepāja-Ventspils (Latvia)	Gravel/snow	1-3 February 2013
03	Rally Islas Canarias El Corte Inglés (Spain)	Asphalt	21-23 March 2013
04	SATA Rallye Açores (Portugal)	Gravel	25-27 April 2013
05	Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse (France)	Asphalt	16-18 May 2013
06	GEKO Ypres Rally (Belgium)	Asphalt	27-29 June 2013
07	Sibiu Rally (Romania)	Gravel	25-27 July 2013
80	Barum Czech Rally Zlín	Asphalt	30 August-1 September 2013
09	Lotos 70 <sup>th</sup> Rally Poland	Gravel	13-15 September 2013
10	Croatia Rally	Asphalt	26-28 September 2013
11	Rallye Sanremo (Italy)	Asphalt	10-12 October 2013
12	Rallye International du Valais (Switzerland)	Asphalt	7-9 November 2013



### THE RALLIES

01: International Jännerrallye

Date: 3-5 January
Surface: Asphalt/snow
Base: Freistadt, Austria

Website: www.jaennerrallye.at

**Description:** Based in Freistadt, near Linz, the Jännerrallye joined the ERC for the first time since its restructuring in 2004 last season and proved a big hit as drivers fought for glory on the snow-coated undulating stages of Lower Austria.

Event report: ŠKODA driver Jan Kopecký claimed his second consecutive victory on the Jännerrallye in Austria, round/ one of the new-look European Rally Championship by just half a second after a dramatic final day - with the winner only decided on the very last stage. Kopecký started Saturday's closing eight stages with a 20-second advantage over the Peugeot of Bryan Bouffier. But heavy rain and some ice made Saturday's route around Freistadt extremely tricky, and the Czech driver concentrated on just getting to the finish in front of 120,000 spectators. His fortunes were turned on their head when he picked up a front-left puncture around seven kilometres from the finish of stage 15, which dropped him to third with only three stages to go. Bouffier, competing on his first Jännerrallye, took the lead despite spinning on the same stage. However, Kopecký was determined not to give up, and pushed as hard as he could to start the final 25-kilometre stage 10.6 seconds adrift of Bouffier. He emerged from it with a winning margin of 11.1 seconds, ensuring that he scraped to victory by just half a second in heavy rain and fog in his Michelin-shod Fabia Super 2000. Austria's Beppo Harrach clinched the Colin McRae Flat Out Trophy for his battling performance to win the ERC Production Car Cup following extensive delays with a misting windscreen on Friday night's stages. He beat reigning Polish champion Kajetan Kajetanowicz in a Subaru by 1.1s. Hannes Danzinger recovered from a penultimate stage puncture to win the ERC 2WD Championship classification in a Renault Clio R3. Fellow Austrian Hermann Neubauer had been in contention until he retired with a damaged wheel.

#### Top 10 positions (after 18 stages, 248.34 kilometres)

- 1 Jan Kopecký (CZE)/Pavel Dresler (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 2h35m45.3s
- 2 Bryan Bouffier (FRA)/Olivier Fournier (FRA) Peugeot 207 S2000 +0.5s
- 3 Raimund Baumschlager (AUT)/Klaus Wicha (DEU) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 +1m18.1s
- 4 Václav Pech (CZE)/Peter Uhel (CZE) MINI John Cooper Works S2000 +2m47.0s
- 5 Beppo Harrach (AUT)/Leopold Welsersheimb (AUT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX R4 +3m31.8s
- 6 Kajetan Kajetanowicz (POL)/Jarosław Baran (POL) Subaru Impreza STI R4 +3m32.9s
- 7 François Delecour (FRA)/Dominique Savignoni (FRA) Peugeot 207 S2000 +5m21.2s
- 8 Jaroslav Orsák (CZE)/David Šmeidler (CZE) Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX +6m33.7s
- 9 Jaromír Tarabus (CZE)/Daniel Trunkát (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 +7m56.0s
- 10 Pavel Valoušek (CZE)/Lukáš Kostka (CZE) Peugeot 207 S2000 +8m11.8s

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Beppo Harrach (AUT)/Leopold Welsersheimb (AUT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX R4 **ERC 2WD Championship:** 

Hannes Danzinger (AUT)/Kathi Wüstenhagen (GER) Renault Clio R3

**Colin McRae ERC Flat Out Trophy:** 

Beppo Harrach





#### Rally leaders

SS1-4: Jan Kopecký

SS5: Raimund Baumschlager

**SS6-14:** Jan Kopecký **SS15-17:** Bryan Bouffier **SS18:** Jan Kopecký

#### Stage winners

#### Day one (Friday 4 January, 139.16 kilometres):

SS1: Pierbach 1 (18.99kms): Overall: Kopecký/PC: Harrach/2WD: Danzinger

SS2: Liebenau 1 (10.22kms): Baumschlager/Harrach/Sulzinger

**\$\$3:** St Oswald 1 (8.68kms): Orsák/Orsák/Neubauer **\$\$4:** Pierbach 2 (18.99kms): Bouffier/Harrach/Danzinger

SS5: Liebenau 2 (10.22kms): Baumschlager/Harrach/Sulzinger SS6: St Oswald 2 (8.68kms): Bouffier/Kajetanowicz/Sulzinger

SS7: Pregarten 1 (8.76kms): Kopecký/Harrach/Neubauer

SS8: Schönau-St Leonhard 1 (22.93kms): Bouffier/Kajetanowicz/Danzinger

SS9: Pregarten 2 (8.76kms): Pech/Kajetanowicz/Danzinger

SS10: Schönau-St Leonhard 2 (22.93kms): Kopecký/Harrach/Danzinger

#### Day two (Saturday 5 January, 109.18 kilometres):

SS11: Gutau 1 (8.27kms): Kopecký/Kajetanowicz/Danzinger

**SS12:** Unterweisenbach 1 (13:53kms): Bouffier/Kajetanowicz/Danzinger **SS13:** Arena Königswiesen 1 (7.79kms): Baumschlager/Harrach/Danzinger

SS14: Gutau 2 (8.27kms): Kopecký/Harrach/Danzinger

SS15: Unterweisenbach 2 (13:53kms): Harrach/Harrach/Chentre

**SS16:** Arena Königswiesen 2 (7.79kms): Kajetanowicz/Kajetanowicz/Chentre **SS17:** Bad Zell-Tragwein-Aisttal 1 (25.00kms): Kopecký/Harrach/Chentre **SS18:** Bad Zell-Tragwein-Aisttal 2 (25.00kms): Kopecký/Kajetanowicz/Chentre



02: Rally Liepāja-Ventspils

**Date:** 1-3 February **Surface:** Gravel/snow

Base: Liepāja and Ventspils, Lativa

Website: www.lvrally.com

**Description:** Starting in Liepāja in Latvia's Kurzeme region west of the capital Riga, the all-new event will gradually head north up the Baltic coast to Ventspils where it will finish two days and 243 kilometres of snow and ice-coated stages later. The roads are littered with jumps, high-speed turns and blind crests and will offer a stern test, not to mention some spectacular footage.

Event report: Jari Ketomaa made history today when he won the first FIA European Rally Championship event to take place in Latvia. The Finn's success followed three days of thrilling high-speed competition on ice and snow-coated roads. While Ketomaa excelled alongside Kimi Räikkönen's former co-driver Kaj Lindström in a Ford Fiesta RRC, there were standout performances too from Peugeot 207 Super 2000-driving Irishman Craig Breen, who finished second, and third-planced Francois Delecour. The Frenchman secured the final podium place in another Peugeot after a close battle with Russian Alexey Lukyanuk, Lukyanuk, who was leading the ERC Production Car Cup, was 1.7s behind Delecour with two stages left when a brush with a snowbank damaged his car's oil cooler and forced him to retire. However, Lukyanuk won't be leaving Latvia empty-handed after he was chosen as the recipient of the Colin McRae ERC Flat Out Trophy, while multiple Baltic and Lithuanian champion Vytautas Švedas inherited the showroom category laurels in a similar Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X. There was also success for Finland in the ERC 2WD Championship with Risto Immonen claiming victory in a Citroën C2 R2 Max after long-term leader Stéphane Lefebvre dropped down to second on the final morning when a gearbox issue slowed his Peugeot 208 R2. Nevertheless it was a hugely impressive showing by the young Frenchman, who had never competed on snow or ice. Ketomaa had trailed Breen over the opening five stages but moved in front on stage six when the additional top-end speed of his turbocharged engine told on the super-fast roads. Breen remained in contention until stage 12 when a minor electrical glitch cost him precious time and prompted him to settle for a strong second place.

#### Top 10 positions (after 15 stages, 243.00 kilometres)

- 1 Jari Ketomaa (FIN)/Kaj Lindström (FIN) Ford Fiesta RRC 2h08m15.7s
- 2 Craig Breen (IRL)/David Moynihan (IRL) Peugeot 207 S2000 +31.0s
- 3 François Delecour (FRA)/Dominique Savignoni (FRA) Peugeot 207 S2000 +2m47.5s
- 4 Jan Černý (CZE)/Pavel Kohout (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 +3m03.4s
- 5 Raimonds Kisiels (LAT)/Arnis Ronis (EST) MINI John Cooper Works RRC +5m46.3s
- 6 Vytautas Švedas (LIT)/Žilvinas Sakalauskas (LIT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X +5m55.7s
- 7 Aivis Egle (LAT)/Andis Dauga (LAT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X +7m39.5s
- 8 Raul Jeets (EST)/Andrus Toom (EST) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X +8m37.6s
- 9 Jaroslav Orsák (CZE)/David Šmeidler (CZE) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IX +8m48.9s
- 10 Vitaliy Pushkar (UKR)/Ivan Mishyn (UKR) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X +9m50.0s

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Vytautas Švedas (LIT)/Žilvinas Sakalauskas (LIT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X **ERC 2WD Championship:** 

Risto Immonen (FIN)/Mikko Lukka (FIN) Citroën C2 R2 Max

Colin McRae ERC Flat Out Trophy

Alexey Lukyanuk (RUS)





#### Rally leaders

**SS1-5:** Craig Breen **SS6-15:** Jari Ketomaa

#### Stage winners

#### Day one (Friday 1 February, 41.77 kilometres):

SS1: Rallyofchampions.com 1 (6.16kms): Overall: Breen/PC: Gryazin/2WD: Lefebvre

**SS2:** Volkswagen 1 (16.88kms): Breen/Lukyanuk/Lefebvre **SS3:** LDz Cargo 1 (18.73kms): Breen/Lukyanuk/Lefebvre

#### Day two (Saturday 2 February, 92.05 kilometres):

**\$\$4:** LDz Cargo 2 (18.73kms): Breen/Lukyanuk/Immonen **\$\$5:** Volkswagen 2 (16.88kms): Breen/Lukyanuk/Immonen **\$\$6:** Neste Oil 1 (21.31kms): Ketomaa/Lukyanuk/Lefebvre **\$\$7:** Ventbunkers 1 (10.42kms): Ketomaa/Lukyanuk/Danzinger **\$\$8:** Neste Oil 2 (21.31kms): Ketomaa/Lukyanuk/Immonen **\$\$9:** Ventspils kalns 1 (3.40kms): Ketomaa/Švedas/Lefebvre

#### Day three (Sunday 3 February, 109.18 kilometres):

SS10: Ventbunkers 2 (10.42kms): Ketomaa/Gryazin/Immonen SS11: Swecon 1 (21.34kms): Ketomaa/Lukyanuk/Immonen SS12: Kuldīga 1 (26.34kms): Ketomaa/Gryazin/Immonen SS13: Swecon 2 (21.34kms): Breen/Lukyanuk/Immonen SS14: Kuldīga 1 (26.34kms): Ketomaa/Gryazin/Immonen SS15: Ventspils kalns 1 (3.40kms): Černý/Štajf/Blūms



03: Rally Islas Canarias El Corte Inglés (Spain)

**Date:** 21-23 March **Surface:** Asphalt

**Base:** Las Palmas, Gran Canaria **Website:** www.rallyislascanarias.com

**Description:** With the stages frequently climbing and descending, drivers pay close attention to the speed and line they take for each corner to maintain optimal momentum. One of the notable features of the stages is the abrasive surface, which is partly constructed from volcanic lava. It means grip levels and tyre wear are high as a result.

Event report: Jan Kopecký made it a hat-trick of wins to move into the lead of the FIA European Rally Championship. His success, at wheel of his Michelin-shod ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000, followed Robert Kubica's dramatic retirement from top spot when he damaged his Citroën DS3 RRC striking a barrier on Saturday's second stage. In the ERC Production Car Cup there was success for Andreas Aigner, who powered his Yokohama-supported Subaru Impreza R4 STI to first place ahead of Renault Mégane N4 rookie Germain Bonnefis. Gorka Antxustegi took top honours for Suzuki in the ERC 2WD Championship with Ekaterina Stratieva becoming the first driver to win a round of the new ERC Ladies' Trophy. Kubica, who was making his ERC debut, had been leading by more than one minute after going fastest on all eight stages on Friday, when he hit trouble on a right-hand bend approximately five kilometres from the finish of stage 10. His heroic performance, however, earned him the prestigious Colin McRae ERC Flat Out Trophy. Behind Kopecký and co-driver Pavel Dresler, Craig Breen continued his strong start to his career as a member of the Peugeot Rally Academy in an impressive second place alongside navigator Paul Nagle. But there was disappointment for team-mate Jérémi Ancian, who was forced to stop when he ran out of spare tyres after suffering punctures on successive stages this morning. Local hero Luis Monzón filled the podium in his MINI after he fought back from a puncture on day one in style. Robert Consani ensured maximum points for Team Renault Sport Technologies in the FIA Production Car Cup for Teams in ninth overall despite two punctures slowing his progress.

#### Top 10 positions (after 14 stages, 246.34 kilometres)

- 1 Jan Kopecký (CZE)/Pavel Dresler (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 2h24m30.9s
- 2 Craig Breen (IRL)/Paul Nagle (IRL) Peugeot 207 S2000 +1m52.4s
- 3 Luis Monzón (ESP)/Jose Carlos Deniz (ESP) MINI John Cooper Works RRC +3m18.9s
- 4 Andreas Aigner (AUT)/Jürgen Heigl (AUT) Subaru Impreza R4 STI +6m50.8s
- 5 Germain Bonnefis (FRA)/Olivier Fournier (FRA) Renault Mégane N4 +8m31.0s
- 6 Gorka Antxustegi (ESP)/Alberto Iglesias (ESP) Suzuki Swift Sport S1600 +9m21.6s
- 7 János Puskádi (HUN)/Barna Gódor (HUN) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 +10m13.6s
- 8 Jean-Mathieu Leandri (FRA)/Renaud Jamoul (BEL) Peugeot 207 S2000 +11m05.8s
- 9 Robert Consani (FRA)/Tibo Gorczyca (FRA) Renault Mégane N4 +11m57.7s
- 10 Antonín Tlusťák (FRA)/Lukáš Vyoral (FRA) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 +14m05.2s

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Andreas Aigner (AUT)/Jürgen Heigl (AUT) Subaru Impreza R4 STI

**ERC 2WD Championship:** 

Gorka Antxustegi (ESP)/Alberto Iglesias (ESP) Suzuki Swift Sport S1600

**ERC Ladies' Trophy:** 

Ekaterina Stratieva (BGR)/Veronica Boni (ITA) Citroën C2 R2

**Colin McRae ERC Flat Out Trophy:** 

Robert Kubica (POL)





#### Rally leaders

SS1-9: Robert Kubica SS10-14: Jan Kopecký

#### Stage winners

#### Day one (Friday 22 March, 144.82 kilometres):

SS1: Moya 1 (13.57kms): Overall: Kubica/PC: Aigner/2WD: Vinyes

**SS2:** Artenara 1 (21.18kms): Kubica/Aigner/Vinyes **SS3:** Tejeda 1 (14.31kms): Kubica/Aigner/García Ojeda

SS4: Moya 2 (13.57kms): Kubica/Aigner/Vinyes SS5: Artenara 2 (21.18kms): Kubica/Aigner/Vinyes SS6: Tejeda 2 (14.31kms): Kubica/Aigner/García Ojeda SS7: Agüimes (25.82kms): Kubica/Bonnefis/García Ojeda SS8: Ingenio (20.88kms): Kubica/Aigner/García Ojeda/

#### Day two (Saturday 23 March, 101.52 kilometres):

SS9: Maspalomas 1 (13.28kms): Kopecký/Aigner/Antxustegi

SS10: San Bartolomé de Tirajana 1 (21.36kms): Kopecký/Consani/Antxustegi

**SS11:** Vallesco 1 (16.12kms): Monzón/Bonnefis/Antxustegi **SS12:** Maspalomas 2 (13.28kms): Kopecký/Aigner/Antxustegi

SS13: San Bartolomé de Tirajana 2 (21.36kms): Kopecký/Aigner/Antxustegi

SS14: Vallesco 2 (16.12kms): Kopecký/Aigner/Antxustegi



04: SATA Rallye Açores (Portugal)

**Date:** 25-27 April **Surface:** Gravel

**Base:** Ponta Delgada, São Miguel **Website:** www.satarallyeacores.com

**Description:** Based on the Atlantic archipelago's largest island of São Miguel, the event is famous for stunning countryside and narrow and undulating gravel stages. Changeable weather is a factor with rain and fog adding to the challenge. Following a non-competitive City Stage in Ponta Delgada on Wednesday 24 April, the Qualifying Stage on Thursday morning is used to determine the starting positions amongst the ERC and FIA priority drivers for the first of three legs on Thursday afternoon. Eurosport and RTP Açores will show the Sete Cidades and Tronqueira stages live.

**Event report:** Jan Kopecký continued his impressive start to the ERC season by making it three wins out of four with his first gravel victory. Driving a Michelin-shod ŠKODA Motorsport Fabia Super 2000 alongside navigator Pavel Dresler, Kopecký made sure of his latest success by completing the event-closing Tronqueira stage, one of six produced for live broadcast by Eurosport Events, with his seventh-fastest stage time. Craig Breen extended his run of podiums to three events with a fine second place in a Peugeot Rally Academy 207 S2000 as local hero Ricardo Moura bagged the final podium place on his debut in a Fabia S2000 after a close scrap with fellow Portuguese Bruno Magalhães and Bernardo Sousa. In the ERC Production Car Cup there was a debut triumph for Alessandro Bruschetta in a Napoca Rally Academy Subaru Impreza R4 STI. Hannes Danzinger was on course for victory in the ERC 2WD Championship but an off three stages from home left his Renault Clio R3 with damaged suspension. Diogo Gago inherited the class lead only to stop two kilometres from the finish of Tronqueira, which left Zoltán Bessenyey to take the spoils for Eurosol-Honda Civic Type R. Formula One race winner Robert Kubica had led after seven stages but dropped out of contention in thick fog on stage eight on Friday. His efforts to make up lost ground suffered a major setback when he rolled on stage 11.

#### Top 10 positions (after 19 stages, 240.79 kilometres)

- 1 Jan Kopecký (CZE)/Pavel Dresler (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 2h24m30.9s
- 2 Craig Breen (IRL)/Paul Nagle (IRL) Peugeot 207 S2000 +32.2s
- 3 Ricardo Moura (PRT)/Sancho Eiró (PRT) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 +58.8s
- 4 Bruno Magalhães (PRT)/Nuno Rodrigues da Silva (PRT) Peugeot 207 S2000 +2m37.6s
- 5 Jérémi Ancian (FRA)/Gilles de Turckheim (FRA) Peugeot 207 S2000 +3m27.4s
- 6 Robert Kubica (POL)/Maciek Baran (POL) Citroën DS3 RRC +9m19.1s
- 7 Alessandro Bruschetta (ITA)/Justin Bardini (ITA) Subaru Impreza R4 STI +14m57.4s
- 8 Luis Miguel Rego (PRT)/José Pedro Silva (PRT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IX +16m36.0s
- 9 Antonín Tlusťák (FRA)/Lukáš Vyoral (FRA) ŠKODA Fabia S2000 +17m42.1s
- 10 Marco Tempestini (ROU)/Dorin Pulpea (ROU) Subaru Impreza R4 STI +18m10.6s

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Alessandro Bruschetta (ITA)/Justin Bardini (ITA) Subaru Impreza R4 STI

**ERC 2WD Championship:** 

Zoltán Bessenyey (HUN)/Yulianna Nyirfas (HUN) Honda Civic Type R

**ERC Ladies' Trophy:** 

No eligible finishers

Colin McRae ERC Flat Out Trophy:

Ricardo Moura (PRT)





#### Rally leaders

SS1-7: Robert Kubica SS8-19: Jan Kopecký

#### Stage winners

#### Day one (Thursday 25 April, 24.50 kilometres):

SS1: Coroa da Mata 1 (8.25kms): Cancelled due to road damage

SS2: São Brás/Vila Franca 1 (6.14kms): Overall: Kubica/PC: Orsák/2WD: Lefebvre

SS3: Lagoa 1 (7.91kms): Kubica/Pushkar/Lefebvre

SS4: Grupo Marques SSS 1 (2.20kms): Kubica/Orsák/Lefebvre

#### Day two (Friday 26 April, 94.90 kilometres):

SS5: Lagoa 2 (7.91kms): Kubica/Rego/Danzinger

**SS6:** Batalha Golfe 1 (7.86kms): Kubica/Orsák/Danzinger **SS7:** Feteiras 1 (7.54kms): Kopecký/Orsák/Danzinger

**SS8:** Sete Cidades 1 (23.97kms): Sousa/Pushkar/Danzinger **SS9:** Coroa da Mata 2 (8.25kms): Sousa/Bruschetta/Lefebvre **SS10:** Batalha Golfe 2 (7.86kms): Kubica/Bruschetta/Danzinger

SS11: Feteiras 2 (7.54kms): Breen/Bruschetta/Lefebvre

**SS12:** Sete Cidades 2 (23.97kms): Cancelled for safety reasons

#### Day three (Saturday 27 April, 100.91 kilometres):

SS13: Graminhais 1 (20.82kms): Kopecký/Pushkar/Danzinger

SS14: Tronqueira 1 (21.33kms): Moura/Bruschetta/Lefebvre

SS15: São Brás/Vila Franca 2 (6.14kms): Kopecký/Rego/Lefebvre

SS16: Grupo Marques SSS 2 (2.20kms): Kopecký and Kubica/Barbosa/Lefebvre

SS17: Lomba da Maia (8.27kms): Kopecký/Bruschetta/Stage cancelled for 2WD crews

SS18: Graminhais 2 (20.82kms): Kopecký/Pushkar/Lefebvre

SS19: Tronqueira 2 (21.33kms): Kopecký/Pushkar/Lefebvre



#### 05: Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse (France)

Starts: 20:30hrs, Thursday 16 May, Place de la Citadelle, Calvi

Finishes: 19:45hrs, Saturday 18 May, Place du Diamant, Ajaccio

Headquarters: Best Western Amirauté, Route de Sartène, St Joseph, 20090 Ajaccio

Service park: Calvi, Corte Airport and Ajaccio Airport

Facts and figures: Entries received: 58

**ERC** appearances: None

Stages: 11

**Stage distance:** 248.08 kilometres (138.43 kilometres leg one, 109.65 kilometres leg two)

Liaison: 681.47 kilometres

Total: 929.55 kilometres

**Surface:** Asphalt

2012 winners: Dani Sordo (ESP)/Carlos del Barrio (ESP) MINI John Cooper Works S2000

Media contact: Hélène Lariviere, +33 607379115, helene.lariviere@free.fr

Website: www.asacc.fr

**The rally in 100 words:** Known as the 'Rally of 10,000 Corners' due to its high frequency of twists and turns, the 56<sup>th</sup> running of the legendary event starts on the northwest coast in Calvi, heads inland to Corte before reaching Ajaccio in the south of the picturesque Mediterranean island for the final day of competition. The bulk of the route runs over narrow and undulating mountain passes lined with unforgiving rock faces on one side of the road and steep drops on the other, presenting a huge challenge for car and crew. Four stages will be shown live on Eurosport and France 3 Corsica.

#### Five facts:

- \* It will take approximately 70 expert personnel to enable Eurosport Events to broadcast four stages live from Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse
- \* Eighteen different nationalities will be represented on this year's rally with Molly Taylor travelling from Australia and Daniel Oliveira jetting in from Brazil to take part
- \* Corsica is big on mountains with 20 summits more than 2000 metres high. Monte Cinto is the highest at 2706 metres
- \* François Delecour triumphed on the rally in 1993 and will be among the favourites for victory this year. Twenty years earlier, ERC General Co-ordinator Jean-Pierre Nicolas took the win
- \* Wild boar and cheeses made from goat or sheep milk are popular among Corsicans, while Cap Corse is a favourite aperitif





**Media accreditation:** Media Centre, Hotel Mariana, Av Santa Maria, 20260 Calvi from 10:00hrs-19:00hrs, Wednesday 15 May

**Media centre:** There will be three media centres operational as follows: *Calvi:* Hotel Mariana, Av Santa Maria, 20260 Calvi, from 08:00hrs-23:00hrs, Thursday 16 May

Corte: Musée de la Corse, La Citadelle 20250 Corte, from 07:30hrs-22:00hrs, Friday 17 May

*Ajaccio:* Best Western Amirauté, Route de Sartène, St Joseph, 20090 Ajaccio, from 14:00hrs-22:00hrs, Friday 17 May and 07:45hrs until the last journalist leaves, Saturday 18 May

Shakedown: There is no official shakedown for this rally

Official crew photograph: 17:15hrs, Thursday 16 May, Place de la Citadelle, Calvi

**Pre-event press conference:** 18:00hrs, Thursday 16 May, Media Centre, Calvi. Drivers in attendance: Robert Consani, Jan Kopecký, Robert Kubica, Jean-Mathieu Leandri, Kris Meeke, Stéphane Sarrazin

Ceremonial start: 20:30hrs, Thursday 16 May, Place de la Citadelle, Calvi

Podium/prize-giving ceremony: 19:45hrs, Saturday 18 May, Place du Diamant, Ajaccio

**Post-event press conference:** 20:15hrs, Saturday 18 May, Salle du conseil Municipal, Espace Diamant, Place du Diamant, Ajaccio. Top three drivers and co-drivers in attendance.

**Television coverage:** Go to the Watch it on TV section at www.fiaerc.com for more information

ERC Rally Radio: From 08:00hrs CET on Friday 17 May and 10:30hrs on Saturday 18 May

Results and live timing: www.fiaerc.com



06: GEKO Ypres Rally (Belgium)

Date: 27-29 June Surface: Asphalt Base: Ypres

Website: www.ypresrally.com

**Description:** Using farmland asphalt roads around the historic market town, the narrow stages are lined by drainage ditches, errant telegraph poles and popularised by tight junctions that lie in wait

to catch out the unwary. Taking cuts is a risk due to hidden obstacles.

07: Sibiu Rally (Romania)

Date: 25-27 July Surface: Gravel Base: Sibiu, Romania

Website: www.raliulsibiului.ro

**Description:** Based around the city of Sibiu, a former European Capital of Culture 280 kilometres northwest of the Romanian capital Bucharest, the punishing gravel stages are mixed with sections of asphalt with some runs taking place under the cover of darkness.

08: Barum Czech Rally Zlín (Czech Republic)

Date: 30 August-1 September Surface: Asphalt Base: Zlín, Czech Republic

Website: www.barum.rally.cz

**Description:** One of Europe's most difficult events due to the proliferation of high-speed blasts through forests and woodland, sections of broken Tarmac, a high likelihood of intermittent showers and the bumpy nature of some of the roads, the rally attracts huge numbers of fans each year.

09: Lotos 70th Rally Poland

Date: 13-15 September Surface: Gravel Base: Mikołajki, Poland

Website: www.rajdpolski.pl

**Description:** Celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, the spectacular gravel rally is one of the oldest in the world. Running through Poland's stunning lake district, base town Mikołajki hosts a

popular superspecial.

10: Croatia Rally

Date: 26-28 September Surface: Asphalt Base: TBA

**Description:** A mainstay of the ERC for several years, the Croatia Rally had been due to run in June but moves to late September to coincide with the country hosting a meeting of the FIA's World Motor Sport Council. The event is famous for its slippery asphalt and big spectator following.

11: Rallye Sanremo (Italy)

Date: 10-12 October Surface: Asphalt Base: Sanremo, Italy

Website: www.acisanremo.it/rallysanremo/

**Description:** With the action contained within a 25-hour window, a huge strain is placed on car and crew. The stages use narrow, mountainous roads and feature fast, flowing sections, frequent changes of rhythm and blind and open corners with rapid climbs and descents.

#### 12: Rallye International du Valais (Switzerland)

Date: 7-9 November Surface: Asphalt Base: Martigny, Switzerland

Website: www.riv.ch

**Description:** Taking place in the mountains of southwest Switzerland close to Lake Geneva, the rally is the country's most important motorsport event and is a regular on the ERC schedule. The event features challenging, narrow asphalt roads. Ice and snow can be a factor.





# THE DRIVERS (selected)

- **1 JAN KOPECKY: Nationality:** Czech **Date of Birth:** 28 January 1982 **Co-driver:** Pavel Dresler (Czech Republic) **Car:** ŠKODA Fabia S2000 **Team:** ŠKODA Motorsport **Website:** www.motorsport-kopecky.cz **Career summary:** Intercontinental Rally Challenge runner-up in 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012, the reigning Czech champion began 2013 in style by winning the ERC season-opening International Jännerrallye by 0.5s in a dramatic finish. After missing the subsequent round in Latvia, Kopecký returned to ERC duty in Gran Canaria where he made it three wins out of four on the island to move back into the European championship lead. He arrives in Corsica on a high following his maiden success on gravel on SATA Rallye Açores last month.
- **2 CRAIG BREEN**: **Nationality**: Irish **Date of Birth**: 2 February 1990 **Co-driver**: Paul Nagle (Ireland) **Car**: Peugeot 207 S2000 **Team**: Peugeot Rally Academy **Website**: www.craigbreen.com **Career summary**: Former kart racer who took up rallying and achieved success in various one-make Fiesta championships. Became inaugural WRC Academy champion in 2011. His 2012 season was tinged with sadness following the death of his best friend and former co-driver Gareth Roberts in an accident on Targa Florio-Rally Internazionale Di Sicilia. But he bravely fought back to win the Super 2000 world crown. He has since signed as a factory Peugeot driver and will contest nine ERC events in 2013 alongside testing Peugeot's 208 T16. He returns to Corsica where he shone alongside Roberts in 2012 on the back of three consecutive top-two finishes.
- **3 FRANCOIS DELECOUR:** Nationality: French Date of Birth: 30 August 1962 Co-driver: Dominique Savignoni (France) Car: Peugeot 207 S2000 Team: Kronos Racing Career summary: One of the sport's legends, Delecour remains a formidable competitor despite turning 50 in 2012, winning the Romanian title and scoring points on a one-off WRC return on Rallye Monte-Carlo. He is set to tackle upwards of 10 ERC rounds this season with backing from Visit Romania and is a favourite for victory on Tour de Corse, an event he won back in 1993.
- **4 DANIEL OLIVEIRA:** Nationality: Brazilian Date of Birth: 12 July 1985 Co-driver: Carlos Magalhães (Portugal) Car: Ford Fiesta RRC Team: Stohl Racing Career summary: Having sampled life in the cut and thrust of the WRC, Oliveira is switching to the ERC for 2013 to continue building his pace and experience in a turbocharged Fiesta Regional Rally Car. Gearbox put him out of his first event in Gran Canaria, while this year's Tour de Corse will mark his first appearance on the island event.
- **5 BRYAN BOUFFIER: Nationality:** French **Date of Birth:** 1 December 1978 **Co-driver:** Xavier Panseri (France) **Car:** Peugeot 207 S2000 **Team:** Delta Rally **Website:** www.bryanbouffier.com **Career summary:** A champion in his homeland and Poland, Bouffier won Rallye Monte-Carlo in 2011 to great acclaim during a successful stint in the Intercontinental Rally Challenge. Having lost out on winning the International Jännerrallye by 0.5s to Jan Kopecký, Bouffier had been due to contest SATA Rallye Açores last month only for engine failure in testing to rule him out. He's experienced differing fortunes in Corsica crashing in 2011 but finishing fourth 12 months later.
- **6 JEREMI ANCIAN:** Nationality: French Date of Birth: 4 April 1984 Co-driver: Gilles de Turckheim (France) Car: Peugeot 207 S2000 Team: Peugeot Rally Academy Career summary: After demonstrating plenty of pace in his homeland over the years, Ancian landed the prestigious Volant 207 title in 2012 and gets a six-round ERC attack this season as his reward. He impressed on his debut in Gran Canaria only for a double puncture to force his premature exit.





- **7 ROBERT KUBICA:** Nationality: Polish Date of Birth: 7 December 1984 Co-driver: Maciek Baran (Poland) Car: Citroën DS3 RRC Team: PH Sport Website: www.kubica.pl Career summary: With serious injury halting his Formula One career, Kubica winner of the 2008 Canadian Grand Prix is switching to a full season of rallying in 2013, combining a programme of events in the ERC with a campaign in the WRC in a Citroën DS3 Regional Rally Car. He had options to race in DTM but chose rallying for the "huge challenge" on offer. Co-driver Maciek Baran, who like Kubica hails from Krakow, is a new recruit for 2013. Kubica began his ERC stint by winning eight stages out of eight in Gran Canaria and was leading by more than one minute when he crashed into retirement. He also crashed on his second ERC event, SATA Rallye Açores, but not before leading and landing a host of stage bests.
- **8 STEPHANE SARRAZIN:** Nationality: French **Date of Birth:** 2 November 1975 **Co-driver:** Jacques-Julien Renucci (France) **Car:** MINI John Cooper Works S2000 **Team:** First Motorsport **Website:** www.stephane-sarrazin.com **Career summary:** Drivers don't get much more versatile than Stéphane Sarrazin. He's shone in junior single-seaters, raced in Formula One, competed in the Le Mans 24 Hours and driven for a factory team in the WRC. His appearance on this year's Tour de Corse is his first in the ERC and his first in a MINI (the same car Dani Sordo used to win this event in 2012), which he was due to drive on the Monday before the rally.
- **9 JEAN-MATHIEU LEANDRI**: Nationality: French Date of Birth: 21 March 1989 Co-driver: Renaud Jamoul (Belgium) Car: Peugeot 207 S2000 Team: Saintéloc Racing Career summary: Following a career in karting, Leandri tried his hand at rallying, making his debut in 2008. Success soon followed in various one-make disciplines before the Corsican tried Super 2000 and World Rally Car machinery for size. He spent 2012 competing in the French championship with Saintéloc and enjoyed the experience so much that he's entrusted the team to oversee his eight-round ERC bid in 2013 when he will use a 207 S2000 on asphalt and a 208 R2 on gravel.
- **10 LORENZO BERTELLI: Nationality:** Italian **Co-driver:** Mitia Dotta (Italy) **Car:** Ford Fiesta RRC **Career summary:** Bertelli, the son of famed fashion design Miuccia Prada, is a relative novice when it comes to driving rally cars having started out in 2010. Bertelli has spent much of his career in Group N machinery but is now trying out Super 2000 technology for size with Tour de Corse marking only his second start in his M-Sport-prepared Fiesta and his first event alongside new codriver Mitia Dotta, who partnered Giandomenico Basso to the ERC crown in 2006 and 2009.
- 14 JEAN-MICHEL RAOUX: Nationality: French Date of Birth: 7 April 1971 Co-driver: Francis Mazotti (France) Car: Peugeot 207 S2000 Career summary: Raoux's finest hour came in 2011 when the IRC 2WD Cup in a Renault Clio R3. The renowned grave expert made his long-awaited ERC debut on round four, SATA Rallye Açores, after withdrawing from the opening two rounds due to car damage and co-driver availability issues respectively. Unfortunately an accident put him out on the final morning.
- **15 JAROSLAV ORSAK: Nationality:** Czech **Date of Birth:** 18 July 1984 **Co-driver:** David Šmeidler (Czech Republic) **Car:** Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution IX R4 **Team:** GPD Mit Metal Racing Team **Website:** www.jarekorsak.cz **Career summary:** Orsák, who has been competing for almost a decade, has emerged as one of Czech Republic's most formidable performers in production-based machinery. Despite not yet having turned 30, Orsák is hugely experienced, contesting a significant number of events each season.





- **16 GERMAIN BONNEFIS: Nationality:** French **Date of Birth:** 4 October 1986 **Co-driver:** Olivier Fournier (France) **Car:** Renault Mégane N4 **Team:** Team Renault Sport Technologies **Career summary:** Bonnefis is better known for his exploits on the loose having won the French Gravel title in 2012. However, it will be asphalt events only for the young French star when he embarks on a seven-event ERC Production Car Cup bid in a Team Renault Sport Technologies Mégane N4. Bonnefis, who will be co-driven by Olivier Fournier, is no stranger to international competition having excelled on a one-off IRC appearance on Rally San Marino last July.
- 17 ANDREAS AIGNER: Nationality: Austrian Date of Birth: 24 September 1984 Co-driver: Jürgen Heigl (Austria) Car: Subaru Impreza R4 STI Team: Stohl Racing Website: www.stohl-racing.com Career summary: A former Red Bull junior driver, Aigner's career was in the ascendancy when he won the Production Car world title in 2008, the same year that Sébastien Ogier became Junior world champion. While Ogier's career took off, a lack of funding and opportunity hindered Aigner's progression and he competed infrequently thereafter until Manfred Stohl offered him the lifeline of an IRC Production Cup bid in 2012. The title might have eluded him on the final event but Aigner's pace impressed and earned him six ERC events for 2013.
- **18 ROBERT CONSANI:** Nationality: French Date of Birth: 27 August 1982 Co-driver: Thibaut Gorczyca (France) Car: Renault Mégane N4 Team: Team Renault Sport Technologies Career summary: French talent Robert Consani emerged on the international stage in 2012 when he won the IRC Production Cup crown after narrowly missing out on the IRC 2WD Cup accolade. And the 30-year-old will be hoping to continue that momentum when he embarks on a seven-event ERC Production Car Cup campaign in a Team Renault Sport Technologies-run Mégane N4 with new co-driver Thibaut Gorczyca by his side.
- **19 OLEKSII TAMRAZOV: Nationality:** Ukrainian **Date of Birth:** 23 January 1974 **Co-driver:** Pavlo Cherepin (Ukraine) **Car:** Ford Fiesta RRC **Career summary:** With extensive experience, particularly on international-standard rallies in Eastern Europe, Tamrazov has been gradually widening his experience of world and European events and types of car with M-Sport's Fiesta Regional Rally Car his current machine of choice.
- **22 ANTONIN TLUSTAK:** Nationality: Czech **Date of Birth:** 7 March 1982 **Co-driver:** Lukáš Vyoral (Czech Republic) **Car:** ŠKODA Fabia S2000 **Team:** GPD Mit Metal Racing Team **Website:** www.antonintlusak.cz **Career summary:** A mainstay of the ERC in recent seasons, Tlusťák claimed his maiden win in the championship on Rallye International du Valais in 2011 and finished fourth in the table last term. He will complete the balance of 2013 with new co-driver Vyoral after long-term navigator Jan Škaloud stood down due to business commitments.
- **30 MARCO TEMPESTINI:** Nationality: Italian/Romanian **Date of Birth:** 13 March 1963 **Codriver:** Dorin Pulpea (Romania) **Car:** Subaru Impreza R4 STI **Website:** www.tempesta.ro **Career summary:** The Romania-domiciled Italian began competing in 1991 and has amassed experience in a variety of machinery since then. Having rallied a Peugeot 207 S2000 in the past, Tempestini spent much of last season chasing IRC Production Cup points in a Subaru Impreza R4 STI. He is set to make eight ERC appearances in 2013 as team-mate to teenaged son Simone, who is skipping Corsica due to clashing school exams.
- **32 LASZLO VIZIN:** Nationality: Hungarian Date of Birth: 1 January 1954 Co-driver: Gabor Zsiros (Hungary) Car: Subaru Impreza R4 STI Career summary: Vizin, whose career spans more than three decades, was a regular in the IRC from 2009 until the end of 2012, initially campaigning





a Honda Civic before switching to a Subaru Impreza. The veteran used a ŠKODA Fabia R2 on the 2012 season opener but completed the campaign in Cyprus in a Super 2000 version of the machine having claimed his maiden podium on the Prime Yalta Rally in Ukraine last September.

- **39 MOLLY TAYLOR: Nationality:** Australian **Date of Birth:** 6 May 1988 **Co-driver:** Sebastian Marshall (United Kingdom) **Car:** Citroën DS3 R3T **Team:** United Business Rally Team **Website:** www.mollytaylor.com.au **Career summary:** The leading female will tackle eight ERC rounds in 2013 when she will chased points in the ERC 2WD Championship and ERC Ladies' Trophy. Taylor, who was inspired to take up rallying by her mother Coral, a successful navigator in her native Australia, achieved early success back home before stepping up to the British Rally Championship in 2009. Her performances in the UK earned the Sydney-born Taylor a Pirelli Star Driver scholarship for the inaugural WRC Academy in 2011. However, a lack of funds prevented her from continuing her career until management company, United Business, stepped in.
- **42 RENATO PITA: Nationality:** Portuguese **Date of Birth:** 27 August 1976 **Co-driver:** Marco Macedo (Portugal) **Car:** Peugeot 208 R2 **Website:** www.renatopita.pt **Career summary:** Pita begins his ERC campaign on Tour de Corse where he will also be promoting Etapa Segura, a road safety initiative aimed at school children in his native Portugal. A regular in the Portuguese championship since 2007, Pita has never competed outside of his homeland before and will also be using his Peugeot 208 R2 in competition for the first time this year.
- **46 SLAWOMIR OGRYZEK: Nationality:** Poland **Date of Birth:** 18 April 1977 **Co-driver:** Grzegorz Dachowski (Poland) **Car:** Citroën C2 R2 **Team:** OgryzekRallySport **Website:** ogryzekrallysport.pl **Career summary:** After crashing on his first ERC 2WD Championship appearance of the season in Latvia, Ogryzek will return to the fray in Corsica when he will be looking to register his first points of 2013.
- **47 KORNEL LUKACS:** Nationality: Hungarian Date of Birth: 5 September 1991 Co-driver: Márk Mesterházi (Hungary) Car: Citroën C2 R2 Team: Tatai Arena SE/LHG Rallye Team Career summary: After impressing on his first two ERC appearances in 2013 in Austria and Latvia, 'Csucsu' is back in action on Tour de Corse where he will run a new livery designed by a fan through a competition on Facebook for the first time. 'Csucsu' will combine his ERC programme with a campaign in Hungary, where he first began competing in 2011.
- **48 EKATERINA STRATIEVA:** Nationality: Bulgarian Date of Birth: 5 October 1982 Co-driver: Veronica Boni (Italy) Car: Citroën C2 R2 Career summary: The top-scoring female in last year's ERC, Stratieva began her bid for FIA ERC Ladies' Trophy glory with victory on Rally Islas Canarias last month. With regular co-driver Carmen Poenaru unavailable, Stratieva linked up with the Italian navigator Boni, which necessitated a change to common-language English pacenotes. Away from rallying, Stratieva is a graduate in art and design in her native Bulgaria.
- **57 LUKASZ KABACINSKI: Nationality:** Polish **Co-driver:** Szymon Gospodarczyk (Poland) **Car:** Renault Clio R3 **Career summary:** Better known for his considerable success as a rallycross driver, Kabaciński is starting a seven-round ERC attack from Tour de Corse.





### **RULES IN SHORT**

•The following titles will be awarded in 2013:

FIA European Rally Championship for Drivers, Co-Drivers and Teams
FIA ERC 2WD Championship for Drivers, Co-Drivers and Teams (reserved for classes 5-10)
FIA Production Car Cup for Drivers, Co-Drivers and Teams (reserved for class 3 and R4)

- •Best four scores from first six rounds and best four scores from last six events count. Points will be awarded to the top 10 finishers in each category as follows: 25-18-15-12-10-8-6-4-2-1
- •All drivers/co-drivers are eligible for points providing they use cars authorised by the FIA's Regional Rally Championship regulations
- •Qualifying Stages will be used to determine the starting order on loose-surface events
- •Drivers restarting under Rally 2 rules will not be able to score ERC points but will be eligible for day bonus points
- •Bonus points will be awarded according to the classification of each leg, providing the leg consists of a minimum of 25 per cent of the total special stage length. The top seven classified runners at the completion of each leg will score bonus points as follows: 7-6-5-4-3-2-1. On Rally Liepāja-Ventspils bonus points will be awarded on legs two and three only.





# **RESULTS AND STATISTICS: 2012 standings**

#### **FIA ERC DRIVERS**

1	Juho Hänninen (Finland)	203 points
2	Michał Sołowow (Poland)	103
3	Luca Betti (Italy)	32
4	Antonín Tlusťák (Czech Republic)	25
5	Francisco Parli (Switzerland)	23
6	Ekaterina Stratieva (Bulgaria)	4
7	Jan Černý (Czech Republic)	1

# FIA ERC CO-DRIVERS

1	Mikko Markkula (Finland)	203 points
2	Maciej Baran (Poland)	103
3	Maurizio Barone (Italy)	32
4	Jan Škaloud (Czech Republic)	20
5	Carmen Poenaru (Romania)	4
6	Pavel Kohout (Czech Republic)	1

#### **FIA ERC 2WD DRIVERS**

1	Jan Černý (Czech Republic)	152 points
2	Francisco Parli (Switzerland)	89
3	Ekaterina Stratieva (Bulgaria)	31

#### FIA ERC 2WD CO-DRIVERS

1	Pavel Kohout (Czech Republic)	152 points
2	Carmen Poenaru (Romania)	31





# **RESULTS AND STATISTICS: 2013 standings**

#### FIA ERC DRIVERS (after round four of 12)

1	Jan Kopecký (Czech Republic)	115 points
2	Craig Breen (Ireland)	88
3	Jari Ketomaa (Finland)	39
4	François Delecour (France)	32
5	Bryan Bouffier (France)	31
6	Luis Monzón (Spain)	24
7	Ricardo Moura (Portugal)	24
8	Raimund Baumschlager (Austria)	23
9	Václav Pech (Czech Republic)	20
10	Jan Černý (Czech Republic)	20

Go to www.fiaerc.com/standings for full points tables

#### FIA ERC CO-DRIVERS (after round four of 12)

1	Pavel Dresler (Czech Republic)	115 points
2	Paul Nagle (Ireland)	58
3	Olivier Fournier (France)	44
4	Kaj Lindström (Finland)	39
5	Dominique Savignoni (France)	32
6	David Moynihan (Ireland)	30
7	José Carlos Déniz (Spain)	24
8	Sancho Eiró (Portugal)	24
9	Klaus Wicha (Germany)	23
10	Petr Uhel (Czech Republic)	20

Go to www.fiaerc.com/standings for full points tables

#### FIA ERC TEAMS (after round four of 12)

1 GPD Mit Metal Racing Team 118 points Go to www.fiaerc.com/standings for full points tables

#### FIA ERC PRODUCTION CAR CUP DRIVERS (after round four of 12)

1	Jaroslav Orsák (Czech Republic)	42 points
2	Andreas Aigner (Austria)	39
3	Beppo Harrach (Austria)	38
4	Vytautas Švedas (Lithuania)	37
5	Alessandro Bruschetta (Italy)	36
6	Kajetan Kajetanowicz (Poland)	31
7	Germain Bonnefis (France)	30
8	Luis Rego (Portugal)	29
9	Robert Consani (France)	24
10	Marco Tempestini (Romania)	23
Go to	www.fiaerc.com/standings for full po	ints tables





#### FIA ERC PRODUCTION CAR CUP CO-DRIVERS (after round four of 12)

1	David Šmeidler (Czech Republic)	42 points
2	Jürgen Heigl (Austria)	39
3	Leopold Welsersheimb (Austria)	38
4	Žilvinas Sakalauskas (Lithuania)	37
5	Justin Baraini (Italy)	36
6	Jarosław Baran (Poland)	31
7	Olivier Fournier (France)	30
8	José Pedro Silva (Portugal)	29
9	Gábor Zsiros (Hungary)	25
10	Tibo Gorczyca (France)	24

Go to www.fiaerc.com/standings for full points tables

#### FIA ERC PRODUCTION CAR CUP TEAMS (after round four of 12)

Go t	o www.fiaerc.com/standings for full po	ints tables
2	Team Renault Sport Technologies	43
1	Napoca Rally Academy	86 point

# FIA ERC 2WD DRIVERS (after round four of 12)

1	Zoltán Bessenyey (Hungary)	88 points
2	Stéphane Lefebvre (France)	55
3	Hannes Danzinger (Austria)	50
4	Gorka Antxustegi (Spain)	39
5	Riso Immonen (Finland)	39
6	Elwis Chentre (Italy)	38
7	Hermann Neubauer (Austria)	31
8	Kornél Lukács (Hungary)	30
9	Ralfs Sirmacis (Latvia)	23
10	José Antonio Suárez (Spain)	21
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Go to www.fiaerc.com/standings for full points tables

#### FIA ERC 2WD CO-DRIVERS (after round four of 12)

1	Yulianna Nirfás (Hungary)	88 points
2	Thomas Dubois (France)	55
3	Kathi Wüstenhagen (Germany)	50
4	Alberto Iglesias (Spain)	39
5	Mikko Lukka (Finland)	39
6	Bernhard Ettel (Austria)	31
7	Márk Mesterházi (Hungary)	30
8	Isabella Gualtieri (Italy)	27
9	Maris Kulšs (Latvia)	23
10	Candido Carrera (Spain)	21

Go to www.fiaerc.com/standings for full points tables

#### FIA ERC 2WD TEAMS (after round four of 12)

1 Eurosol Racing Team Hungary 75 points Go to www.fiaerc.com/standings for full points tables





# **RESULTS AND STATISTICS: 2013 stage wins\***

Jan Kopecký (Czech Republic)	19
Robert Kubica (Poland)	15
Jari Ketomaa (Finland)	8
Craig Breen (Ireland)	7
Bryan Bouffier (France)	4
Raimund Baumschlager (Austria)	3
Bernardo Sousa (Portugal)	2
Jan Černý (Czech Republic)	1
Beppo Harrach (Austria)	1
Kajetan Kajetanowicz (Poland)	1
Luis Monzón (Spain)	1
Ricardo Moura (Portugal)	1
Jaroslav Orsák (Czech Republic)	1
Václav Pech (Czech Republic)	1

<sup>\*</sup> After round four of 13, SATA Rallye Açores



# **RESULTS AND STATISTICS: 2013 rally wins**

#### 01: International Jännerrallye (Austria)

Jan Kopecký (CZE)/Pavel Dresler (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Beppo Harrach (AUT)/Leopold Welsersheimb (AUT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evo IX R4 ERC 2WD Championship:

Hannes Danzinger (AUT)/Kathi Wüstenhagen (GER) Renault Clio R3

#### 02: Rally Liepāja-Ventspils (Latvia)

Jari Ketomaa (FIN)/Kaj Lindström (FIN) Ford Fiesta RRC

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Vytautas Švedas (LIT)/Žilvinas Sakalauskas (LIT) Mitsubishi Lancer Evolution X

#### ERC 2WD Championship:

Risto Immonen (FIN)/Mikko Lukka (FIN) Citroën C2 R2 Max

#### 03: Rally Islas Canarias El Corte Inglés (Spain)

Jan Kopecký (CZE)/Pavel Dresler (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Andreas Aigner (AUT)/Jürgen Heigl (AUT) Subaru Impreza R4 STI

#### ERC 2WD Championship:

Gorka Antxustegi (ESP)/Alberto Iglesias (ESP) Suzuki Swift Sport S1600

#### ERC Ladies' Trophy:

Ekaterina Stratieva (BGR)/Veronica Boni (ITA) Citroën C2 R2

#### 04: SATA Rallye Açores (Portugal)

Jan Kopecký (CZE)/Pavel Dresler (CZE) ŠKODA Fabia Super 2000

#### **ERC Production Car Cup:**

Alessandro Bruschetta (ITA)/Justin Bardini (ITA) Subaru Impreza R4 STI

#### ERC 2WD Championship:

Zoltán Bessenyey (HUN)/Yulianna Nyirfas (HUN) Honda Civic Type R

05	Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse (France)	16-18 May 2013
06	GEKO Ypres Rally (Belgium)	27-29 June 2013
07	Sibiu Rally (Romania)	25-27 July 2013
80	Barum Czech Rally Zlín	30 August-1 September 2013
09	Lotos 70 <sup>th</sup> Rally Poland	13-15 September 2013
10	Croatia Rally	24-26 September 2013
11	Rallye Sanremo (Italy)	10-12 October 2013
12	Rallye International du Valais (Switzerland)	7-9 November 2013





# **HALL OF FAME: Recent ERC champions**

- 2012 Juho Hänninen (Finland)
- 2011 Luca Rossetti (Italy)
- 2010 Luca Rossetti (Italy)
- 2009 Giandomenico Basso (Italy)
- 2008 Luca Rossetti (Italy)
- 2007 Simon Jean-Joseph (France)
- 2006 Giandomenico Basso (Italy)
- 2005 Renato Travaglia (Italy)
- 2004 Simon Jean-Joseph (France)
- 2003 Renato Travaglia (Italy)
- 2002 Bruno Thiry (Belgium)
- 2001 Armin Kremer (Germany)
- 2000 Henrik Lundgaard (Denmark)
- 1999 Enrico Bertone (Italy)
- 1998 Andrea Navarra (Italy)
- 1997 Krzysztof Hołowczyc (Poland)
- 1996 Armin Schwarz (Germany)
- 1995 Enrico Bertone (Italy)
- 1994 Patrick Snijers (Belgium)
- 1993 César Baroni (France)
- 1992 Erwin Weber (Germany)



### GETTING IN TOUCH

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#### Events:

**01:** International Jännerrallye 3-5 January 2013 Armin Holenia, sportpressedienst@holenia.at, +43 6642012700

**02:** Rally Liepāja-Ventspils 1-3 February 2013 Jānis Unbedahts, janis@ramotosport.lv, +371 26557801

**03:** Rally Islas Canarias El Corte Inglés 21-23 March 2013 Róberto Martí, prensa@rallyislascanarias.com, +34 607755541

**04: SATA Rallye Açores** 25-27 April 2013 Rui Anjos, media@satarallyeacores.com, +351 963874078

**05: Giru di Corsica-Tour de Corse** 16-18 May 2013 Hélène Lariviere, +33 607379115, helene.lariviere@free.fr

**06: GEKO Ypres Rally** 27-29 June 2013 Tom Espeel, press@ypresrally.com, +32 475969799

**07: Sibiu Rally Romania** 25-27 July 2013 Berti Panaiot, berti.panaiot@raliulsibiului.ro, +40 748776237

**08: Barum Czech Rally Zlín** 30 August-1 September 2013 Roman Ordelt, zlinpressmedia@seznam.cz, +420 722 623848

**09: Lotos 70<sup>th</sup> Rally Poland** 13-15 September 2013 Andrzej Borowczyk, a.borowczyk@rallypoland.com, +48 721527453

**10: Croatia Rally** 26-28 September 2013 haks@zg.t-com.hr

**11: Rallye Sanremo** 10-12 October 2013 Micol Maiga, ufficiostampa@acisanremo.it

**12: Rallye International du Valais** 7-9 November 2013 André Marzoli, media@riv.ch, +41 277207141





#### Teams:

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#### **GPD Mit Metal Racing Team**

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#### **Peugeot Rally Academy**

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#### **Stohl Racing/Andreas Aigner**

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#### Stohl Racing/Brazil World Rally Team

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