

BMW dominates Austrian Cross Country Championship opener

Simo Kirssi of Team BMW Husqvarna Motorsport kicked off the Austrian Cross Country Championship (ACC) with a dominating win in Launsdorf. Held on a difficult and fast track, almost 400 riders provided a record number of entries.



Kirssi didn't have the best starting position for the race, as the Finn had decided rather late to take part as a training exercise for the German Cross Country series and therefore had to begin from right at the back of the pack. But the reigning European champion quickly moved into fifth place and would eventually take the lead and stay out in front for the majority of the two-hour distance.

Kirssi was never overtaken once he had moved into the lead, and eventually took the victory, ahead of Austrian riders Seppi Fally and Mario Hirschmugl.

Simo Kirssi: "I had a decent start and was able to watch the leaders while sitting in fifth place. It was good to study their lines and wait for their mistakes. I started to attack after a quarter of the race and quickly got in front. At one point I had to slow down while lapping and Seppi Fally got closer, but I was able to get on the gas again and bring home the win.

"Surprisingly, the level is pretty high in the ACC. I don't get to race a lot in Austria and it's really impressive how much they have stepped it up. The layout of the track with its flowing nature favoured my style, I guess, as there was plenty of room to make passes. It was a highly enjoyable race and what Cross Country racing is all about, so I'd love to return soon."

Results ACC Launsdorf, XC-Pro Class

1. Simo Kirssi (FIN), BMW Husqvarna Motorsport
2. Seppi Fally (AUT), Kawasaki

3. Mario Hirschmugl (AUT), KTM
4. Werner Müller (AUT), GasGas
5. Daniel Stocker (AUT), KTM

