

Successful opening event of the International Automobile Week with sprints at the highest level

St. Moritz-Stuttgart.

From September 10 to 12, 2021, the region around St. Moritz was all about acceleration races at the picturesquely located Engadin Airport. With the "Kilomètre Lancé - Alpine 1000" 85 selected participants kissed a piece of motor-sport history - after 92 years. In combination with the Paddock, a cool location directly on Lake St. Moritz, one of the most famous winter sports sites became a meeting place for petrolheads from all over Europe for three days.

As a prelude, around 50 motorbikes and automobiles accelerated over the classic distance of 1000 metres. The spectrum was enormous. With start number 1, Hermann Layher with the famous "Blitzen Benz" from 1909 rumbled from zero to 100 in only 27.48 seconds. 24.5 litres of displacement ensured spectacular driving performance well over 100 years ago. A total of five historic record-breaking vehicles were at the start in St. Moritz.

In addition to the Benz, there was also the historic Wisconsin Special from 1922, which was raced on 7 April 1922 under Sig. Haugdahl at Daytona Beach with 292 kilometres per hour - and 99 years later from zero to 1000 metres in 30.56 seconds. The Jaguar X 120 "Jabbeke" went down in history in 1951 with 277.5 kilometres per hour, and for the two Abarths, the 500 record Pininfarina from 1958 and the 1000 record Pininfarina "La Principessa" from 1965, several speed records in the small displacement classes have been handed down. The spectrum of participants finally ranged from the Maserati 250 F to the whole spectrum of rumbling V8 bolides to the Bugatti Divo, which set the record at Engadin Airport with 17.2 seconds.

The oldest motorbike at the start was the Zenith JAP 680 from 1929, the founding year of the Int. Automobilwochen AG. The most spectacular performance, however, was demonstrated by Ewan Cameron with his Hagon JAP, who had travelled especially from England. The time of the sprint specialist on 1000 metres: 26.88 seconds.

Kilomètre Lancé organiser Tobias Aichele expressed his great satisfaction: "We are the first event where cars and motorbikes compete against each other on asphalt, with the aim of inspiring each other. The calculation worked out perfectly." After the lunch break, the sprint races over the established 1/8 mile distance followed; held as "one against one" according to the familiar knockout system. The "Power Class" organised by Glemseck 101 founder Jörg Litzenburger kicked things off. The motorbikes of the machines of the "Café Racer Lion Sprint" ran through Steven Flier, the Glemseck 101 sprint manager.

Solitude GmbH was the partner agency of the Int. St. Moritzer Automobilwochen AG, which was founded on a historical model, with the common goal of developing the opening weekend into a mobility festival. For the PR and event agency from Renningen near Stuttgart, Jörg Litzenburger and Tobias Aichele, two long-time scene experts, stepped up to the plate. Both organisers agree: The event at the "Top of the World" was a festival for all senses. For this, special thanks to Engadin Airport, the municipalities, the canton, the tourism offices, the police and the sponsors, above all BMW Switzerland.

From 1929 onwards, the historic automobile week consisted of the kilometre race on the first asphalted track in the canton of Graubünden between Punt Muragi and Samedan, a Concours d'Elegance at the Kurhaus (today's Kempinski Grand Hotel des Bains in St. Moritz Bad), a skills race, a rally and, as the highlight, the Bernina Race. At that time, Hans Stuck on Austro Daimler (1929) and Louis Chiron on Bugatti (1930) won the competitions.

Further information can be found at: www.kilometre-lance.com

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Image data

The data may only be used in connection with a communication about the event „Kilomètre Lancé - Alpine 1000“. All data in zip-file as jpg (RGB) – if you want to use the data for other purposes, please contact Tobias Aichele at +49 (0) 7159 9307490 or info@solitude-gmbh.de

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