

DOUBLE SUCCESS AT THE 'RING

He had three reasons to celebrate after the first distance race of the season on the Nürburgring. The new Porsche 911 GT3R Hybrid debuted with a successful back after 17 years of racing.

Joerg Bergmeister, Richard Lietz and Martin Ragginger finished sixth after a trouble free race. The car's engine is supplemented by two electric motors delivering 60 kW each to the front axle. "I'm positively surprised how well this car performed," said Bergmeister. "We tried many things out during the race and will be busy

further developing the hybrid drive for the 24-hour race in May. Our aim is to use less fuel than our competitors without compromising performance," said Lietz.

Röhrl raced with Horst von Saurma-Jeltsch and Chris Harris in a standard 450bhp 911 GT3R. "The car exceeded my expectations," said Röhrl. "We were able to match the pace of race cars. And the best thing is, tonight I could just put number plates on the car and drive back to Bavaria."

Röhrl made a return after 17 years away from racing



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STEVE DAVIES

The classic rally man has had his 911SC restored to original 1980 specification and livery for use in Group B demonstration events this season.

"I bought the 911SC about 10 years ago and have used it quite heavily since then, and for many years it ran in Rothmans colours. But it became a little tired by the end of last year so we researched the history a little bit more carefully and decided to put it back to its original 1980 livery.

"Walter Röhrl was very helpful, because we thought it might be his 1981 Manx Rally car. I rang Walter and he suggested it might be the Roscheisen sister car. Porsche gave us all the details of the car and Sweep Motorsport has done the work to restore it to period livery.

"I plan to use it on events run by 'Rallying with Group B'. It's a recognised motorsport club with the MSA. These

cars are very fragile and it is difficult to get parts, so the general idea is to bring the cars out maybe three times a year. It doesn't make financial sense to take the cars out too often.

"We're doing Rally Isle of Man and maybe we'll take them to Belgium. On the Isle of Man in July we'll run immediately in front of the international field and we're looking to complete as much as 75% of the stages."

Davies will use his 911SC on the Isle of Man



RING SUCCESS FOR CUSTOMER SPYDER

Former team run Porsche RS Spyder had a first LMP2 victory in the American Le Mans Series when the Cytosport took victory in a 12-hour race.

The 58th running of the oldest sports car race in America was another tough test on the airfield in Florida, and the Porsche result boosted by victory in the environmental challenge, the Michelin Green X Challenge, Porsche 911 GT3 RSR.

Dieter Roscheisen and Greg Pickett won the RS Spyder to victory. "What a fantastic achievement. We didn't have any problems in the 12 hours," said Maassen.



Spyder won LMP2 at Sebring

SUMPTER TURNS THE CLOCK BACK

Porsche specialist Mark Sumpter is going back to his roots this year to race in the Porsche Club Championship with the 3.2-litre 911 Carrera he last raced more than 15 years ago.

With his Paragon Motorsport team running cars in the GT3 Cup Challenge, Sumpter decided to give the faithful 911 a few races on the same race weekends.

"I've bought back the first Porsche I ever raced," said Mark. "I sold my VW Beetle race car to buy this car and first raced it in 1994; it was last used by Andy Purdie in the Porsche Club Championship in 2005. I think it's the only car without ABS, but it should be the lightest."



Sumpter is going back 15 years

ROSCHEISEN RE-UNITED WITH HIS 911SC

German rally driver of the 1980s and Porsche employee Dieter Roscheisen was reunited with the 911SC he rallied in the 1980 German championship during the Race Retro show at Stoneleigh.

Roscheisen was thrilled to learn from current owner Steve Davies that the car was being restored to 1980 livery after running in Rothmans colours for many years.

"I contacted Dieter and he was over the moon, because he knew it had been crashed and thought it was lost forever," said Davies. "Then this strange Englishman rang him to say 'I've got your car'."

"It was rebuilt in 1986 and put into Rothmans colours, using a lot of Rothmans parts from Prodrive."



The car ran at Race Retro, back in original livery