

A German enforcement for a Hungarian team

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For quite a time a German team called *Los Osos* is to see on European race tracks. It was back in 2003 when Björn Hrabal came with an idea to create his own team. He was surrounded by motor sport since his childhood so it was a logical step in his career.

Who is *Los Osos*?

Björn Hrabal created a sporting crew with his father Walter Hrabal and they race together to this day. They used to compete in German off-road trial championship for three years until they discovered the cross country rally. So they rebuilt their Mercedes GE and adapt it for baja races and in 2007 they set out for new adventures. The first experiences and cups they gained on Baja de France, followed by another successful appearance on Hungarian Baja.

In 2008 Björn and Walter made two starts in Italy and France, the next year they moved eastward. On Prohun 500 and on Baja Slovakia as well they finished second in their class. And finally in 2010 they won their first race and it happened on Prohun 500 in Hungary.

Los Osos that's not just Björn and Walter. To manage both men and to communicate with media is a job for Elisabeth Hrabal. Motor sport is a part of her life for more than 40 years, she was there when *Los Osos* was created. The latest member of four is a mechanic Daniela Bracki and she is the one responsible for taking care of a race car.

Mercedes Benz 300 GE was partially rebuilt in compliance with FIA regulations. Homologation for this car in T2 class expired so *Los Osos* team races in TH class. With a blessing from German federation in 2011 season the German four becomes a part of *Sólyom Team*. With a Hungarian license they will try to win Hungarian national title on their class. Their racing calendar is not definitive yet, for sure they will start on Rábaköz Cup in May and most probably also on Prohun 500 and Hungarian Baja. Participation on FIA Central European Zone Trophy is an open question.

Rivals and partners

The reigning Hungarian TH champion is Dávid Czirkelbach (Mitsubishi Pajero), he was the only one to enter all seven events last year. The second József Palágyi (Nissan Pickup Proto) started four times and for Bála Horváth (Dodge Dakota) it was enough to start just once to finished fourth. All these and some others too should be the rivals for German contenders.

Los Osos members will join Olivér Sólyom and Mátyás Galbács. The Hungarian pair bought Kia Sportage last summer and they managed to enter three races which they used to test the car. Olivér Sólyom celebrated a considerable win last year though not as a driver. PROHUN 500 organized by *Sólyom Team* was awarded best cross-country rally of the year for the second consecutive year. For recent season they launched a new project named Green Team. The goal of it is to reduce negative impact on environment on the race track as well as in the service area.



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