

BMW Husqvarna Motorsport

Simo Kirssi shines in Spain

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BMW Husqvarna Motorsport factory rider Simo Kirssi opened his season strongly at past weekend's Bassella Race in Catalunya. The Finn powered his BMW 450 X to second place, finishing the gruelling two-hour moto 1:36 minutes behind eventual winner Aaron Bernardez.

The Bassella Race, formerly known as Toni Soler Memorial, has become a fixture in their pre-season programme for many riders. The traditional event is held over a 50-kilometer course at the foot of the Pyrenees. For this year's edition, 953 riders signed up.

As Dakar legend Marc Coma owned the holeshot, Kirssi started well into the race, rounding the first corner in third place. Kirssi was soon able to sneak past Coma and go after race leader Bernardez. The conditions proved to be tricky with frozen ground, roots, rocks and all sorts of obstacles.

Kirssi, no stranger to such difficulties, gained room as the race went on, but the super-fit Scandinavian failed to catch Bernardez before the chequered flag came out. The Spaniard clearly managed to take advantage of his superior terrain knowledge.

Said Simo Kirssi, a BMW factory rider since six seasons: "Congratulations to Aaron. It was a great race and a wonderful atmosphere. I found weather and track conditions to my liking and the bike worked flawlessly as usual. I had some extra speed left, but the season hasn't even started really and I simply wanted to end this stage of my pre-season without taking unnecessary risks. The Tough One in the UK is next on the agenda this coming Saturday, that's when the going gets tough for me indeed."

Results "Elite class" Bassella Race

1. Aaron Bernardez, KTM, 2:10:11
2. Simo Kirssi, BMW Husqvarna Motorsport, 2:11:47
3. Maurizio Micheluz, TM, 2:14:24
4. Rafa Garcia, Husqvarna, 2:20:18
5. Ot Ingles, Husqvarna, 2:24:02



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