

A start made to measure

On 28 June 2020, racing legends and contemporary witnesses of the legendary InterSeries flocked to the Motorworld Region Stuttgart. Solitude GmbH featured by COMCO and in cooperation with infact.digital had invited to the 50th anniversary of this “wild” racing series, which was created in 1970 as the European counterpart to the American CanAm Cup.

Guest of honour was Jürgen Neuhaus (79), who won the opening race at the Norisring exactly 50 years ago. With a Porsche 917 he relegated his brand colleagues Gijs van Lennep and David Piper, Ferrari driver Giampiero Moretti, the Lola T 70 drivers Joakim Bonnier and Ronni Peterson as well as McLaren driver Vic Elford and other sports car drivers took the positions - and won not only the opening race but also the first year of the championship. When asked by presenter Tobias Aichele why he was able to win against this top-class competition, the man from Wuppertal replied dryly: “I had the better tactic.” Aichele’s second interview partner was Valentin Schäffer, Porsche’s engine designer for many years (1955 to 1989). Turbo-Valentin, as he is affectionately called by his fan community, told in a very striking and entertaining way about the assignments with the up to 1,200 hp strong 917/30 and the numerous experiences Porsche had to gain with turbo technology in the early seventies. Finally, the design of racing cars was the topic with Stephen Murkett, who, like his design colleagues Tony Hatter and Grant Larson has been working for Porsche for over 30 years. “Racing cars become more and more beautiful through their victories,” the 60-year-old in front of the 99 invited guests of the opening event.

With Hans Herrmann (92), Aichele recalled the Le Mans victory 50 years ago and the consistently kept promise to his wife to give up racing after a victory in Le Mans; and also 50 years ago, the Le Mans team drove the racing cars on public roads in front of Stuttgart’s city hall for a reception that was unique for Stuttgart. “This is how motorsport was celebrated and appreciated 50 years ago,” enthused Aichele before he turned his to the next guest. It was Kurt Ahrens (80) who finally completed the first test drives with the 917. Also Eberhard Mahle had come, who was the first ever to win a championship with a 911, namely the For this, the 87-year-old was awarded the Golden Bay Leaf, the highest sporting distinction that could be received in Germany.

After this entertaining moderation, the contemporary witnesses and guests immersed themselves for a few hours in a time of motorsport characterised by pioneering spirit and courage and enjoyed the ten InterSeries racing cars positioned in a starting grid and the extensive exhibition of all InterSeries racing posters. The show of the “Big Bangers” was initiated by the PR and event agency Solitude GmbH as a pop-up event and supported by the Porsche Museum. From July 29 to October 11, the cars will be on display on 300 square meters in the Motorworld Region Stuttgart.

Further information can be found on the homepage www.big-bangers.com and on Facebook or on Instagram (#interserie50)

If you have any questions, Tobias Aichele will be happy to assist you at +49 7031/2057027 or info@solitude-gmbh.de.

Image data

The data may only be used in connection with a communication for the event „50 Years Interserie“. All data in zip file as png (RGB) - if you want to use the data for other purposes, please contact Tobias Aichele at +49 7031/2057027 or info@solitude-gmbh.de

Jürgen Neuhaus

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Valentin Schäffer

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Stephen Murkett

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The unveiling of the Porsche 917/30-001 from the Porsche Museum

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Valentin Schäffer with Daniel Müller, son of the successful Interserie pilot Herbert Müller

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Valentin Schäfer, Eberhard Mahle, Kurt Ahrens, Hans Herrmann, Jürgen Neuhaus (left to right)

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Tony Hatter, Grant Larson, Stephen Murkett (left to right)

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