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Meeting of the generations at the Historic Ice Trophy.

Johnny Cecotto Snr and Johnny Cecotto Jnr make a successful appearance in the Altenmarkt six-hour race behind the wheel of a BMW 2002 TI works rally car.

**Munich.** BMW Group Classic took part in the ninth Historic Ice Trophy with a well-known driver line-up and an illustrious BMW works rally car, earning a place on the podium by finishing 2nd in the “up to 1972” class.

Impressive consistency enabled the BMW team to secure a place in the top 10 overall as well, with the driving skill and class of the Cecotto father-and-son line-up proving decisive. Johnny Cecotto Snr – a multiple motorcycle world champion and BMW touring car champion – and his son, successful GP2 driver Johnny Cecotto Jnr, soon got to grips with the conditions and guided the 1969 works rally car around the ice-covered course with great élan. “It was a new and extremely exciting experience for me to drive in this ice race,” explained 23-year-old Cecotto Jnr during the podium ceremony. The third member of the driver team was Florian Moser, a history expert at BMW Group Classic.

The BMW 2002 TI can look back on an eventful history. The 190 hp rally car competed most notably in the European Rally Championship in 1970 and 1971, with Finn Rauno Aaltonen and Poland’s Sobieslaw Zasada in the driver’s seat. “Sobi” piloted the BMW 2002 TI to victory in the 1971 Rally Poland and BMW also won the 1971 European Rally Championship with Zasada at the wheel. That title win crowned the company’s rally racing campaign – one that had started in the late 1960s under the watch of then BMW racing department boss Helmut Bein – in impressive, victorious style.

The Historic Ice Trophy has been held annually in Altenmarkt, Austria since 2005. It is open to classic cars and recent classics up to and including model year 1993. The six-hour race, which was held for the second time as part of the Historic Ice Trophy event, sees a maximum of 23 vehicles/teams competing with up to four drivers per car. There’s nothing else like it in Europe in this form and it presents an exacting challenge for professionals and aspiring amateurs alike.

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**BMW Group Classic**

BMW Group Classic is responsible for all activities within the BMW Group associated with the history of the company and its three brands BMW, MINI and Rolls-Royce. This ranges from the Group Archives, which are available to anyone as a centre of expertise for all the facts and figures surrounding the history of the company, the brands and the products, through the BMW Museum, which receives more than 400,000 visitors each year, to the BMW Classic Centre where all the facilities are provided that drivers require to satisfy their passion for classic BMW vehicles from spare parts to full restoration. Another aspect is planning and implementation of participation in all the classic events attended, and administration and expansion of the vehicle collection with more than 1,000 exhibits.

**The BMW Group**

The BMW Group is one of the most successful manufacturers of automobiles and motorcycles in the world with its BMW, MINI, Husqvarna Motorcycles and Rolls-Royce brands. As a global company, the BMW Group operates 29 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries and has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2012, the BMW Group sold about 1.85 million cars and more than 117,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax for the financial year 2011 was euro 7.38 billion on revenues amounting to euro 68.82 billion. At 31 December 2011, the BMW Group had a workforce of approximately 100,000 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been built on long-term thinking and responsible action. The company has therefore established ecological and social sustainability throughout the value chain, comprehensive product responsibility and a clear commitment to conserving resources as an integral part of its strategy. As a result of its efforts, the BMW Group has been ranked industry leader in the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes for the last eight years.

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