**Media Release**

14 May 2018

Montagu sets the scene for eventful 2018 BMW Motorrad SA GS Trophy

* **More than 700 attendees at the 2018 GS Trophy.**
* **Free State riders get automatic entry into 2019 International GS Trophy qualifiers.**
* **Team SA gets warm send off for 2018 BMW International GS Trophy.**

**Midrand.** Picturesque Montague in the Western Cape this year played host to the 2018 GS Trophy, which saw more than 700 attendees take over the quiet town from 9 to 13 May. There was an array of routes to cater to all adventure riding enthusiasts, with some hailing from as far as Turkey, Germany and the Netherlands.

While this year’s event aimed to introduce riders from BMW clubs across the country to some of the regions exquisite landscapes and scenery, through a mix of tar, gravel and true off-road routes, riders were also encouraged to enter the skills challenge. A series of obstacle courses were set up in the soft sand in an area adjacent to the event’s temporary home at the Montagu Caravan Park. These obstacles were altered daily, and the difficulty levels adjusted, as the competition progressed.

**Brothers and sisters in arms**

The regional teams previously selected and those who were up for a spot in the wildcard team selected on Thursday, 10 May, were presented with a series of challenges to complete in a race against the clock (and the other teams). The overall winners were announced after a thrilling Saturday session that saw the men’s team from the Inland region, Carl-Reinhardt Cronje, Dalton de Bruin and Roelof Schutte, top the points table, while the ladies’ winning team comprised Antoinette Janse van Rensburg, Charine van Niekerk and Lezanne Truter.

“There are two things that stand out in the 2018 GS Trophy,” says Edgar Kleinbergen, General Manager of BMW Motorrad South Africa. “We have seen a marked increase in the number of female participants – both on the rides and in the skills challenges – which is encouraging to us and is backed up by more interest from ladies in our learner rider courses.”

The annual GS Trophy has been run since 2004, when it attracted an entry field of 98 participants.

“It’s also notable that the overall winners of the men’s Skills Challenge are aged between 19 and 34, which points to a lower average age of participants in the national GS Trophy qualifiers,” Kleinbergen continued. “It is encouraging to us to know that the sport of adventure riding in South Africa will continue for a long time to come.”

**Mongolia awaits Team SA**

The winners of the 2018 GS Challenge Skills Challenge have gained automatic entry into the 2019 event to determine who will represent Team South Africa at the 2020 international

GS Trophy event. The 2018 Men’s Team SA, together with the two South African ladies that form part of the EurAfrica team (including one French entrant), was also in Montagu to complete a number of training rides, assist the Skills Challenge participants, and receive their official send off from BMW Motorrad South Africa and all BMW riders.

The team will shortly be departing to Mongolia to participate in the BMW Motorrad International GS Trophy Central Asia 2018 from 3 to 10 June. The gruelling event will require riders and their teams to cover close to 4,000km of the Asian country’s most challenging terrain in just eight days. Their journey will be documented on Facebook using the GS Trophy – Team South Africa page. For more information visit[www.gstrophy.com](http://www.gstrophy.com)

In all the GS Trophy activity, one notable event on the sidelines was when Jacques Diener, from Bloemfontein, popped the question to Celeste van Aardt after a scenic ride to Cape Agulhas on Thursday, 10 May.

-Ends-

**For media queries, contact BMW Group South Africa’s Group Communications Division as follows:**

Hailey Philander

Specialist: Product Communications (MINI, BMW i and BMW Motorrad)

Group Communications Division

BMW Group South Africa (Pty) Ltd

Email: hailey.philander@bmw.co.za

Tel: 012-522-2070

Mobile: 071-666-2070

**The BMW Group**With its four brands BMW, MINI, Rolls-Royce and BMW Motorrad, the BMW Group is the world’s leading premium manufacturer of automobiles and motorcycles and also provides premium financial and mobility services. The BMW Group production network comprises 30 production and assembly facilities in 14 countries; the company has a global sales network in more than 140 countries.

In 2017, the BMW Group sold over 2,463,500 passenger vehicles and more than 164,000 motorcycles worldwide. The profit before tax in the financial year 2017 was € 10.655 billion on revenues amounting to € 98.678 billion. As of 31 December 2017, the BMW Group had a workforce of 129,932 employees.

The success of the BMW Group has always been based 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.

[www.bmwgroup.com](http://www.bmwgroup.com)[www.bmwmotorrad.co.za](http://www.bmwmotorrad.co.za)

Facebook: [http://www.facebook.com/BMWGroup (BMW Motorrad South Africa)](http://www.facebook.com/BMWGroup%20%28BMW%20Motorrad%20South%20Africa%29)Twitter: [http://twitter.com/BMWGroup (@BMWMotorradSA)](http://twitter.com/BMWGroup%20%28%40BMWMotorradSA%29)YouTube: [http://www.youtube.com/BMWGroupview (@BMWMotorradSA)](http://www.youtube.com/BMWGroupview%20%28%40BMWMotorradSA%29)Google+: [http://googleplus.bmwgroup.com](http://googleplus.bmwgroup.com/)