

Winner portrait: Philipp Eng

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20/10/2014 When he takes off his helmet and climbs out of the cockpit of his car he always looks a little dishevelled. Philipp Eng is not pretentious – he's a race driver with rough edges and tousled hair.

After a season that ran more like the Spa rollercoaster than the flat track of the Lausitzring, Eng was finally crowned the new champion of the Porsche Carrera Cup Deutschland. The Austrian won this accolade thanks to consistently good performances and three race victories. This balance offset the points he thought he had lost from the Spielberg round.

At the fifth weekend of the season, a protest was lodged against Eng's Project 1 team when his vehicle was found not to be in compliance with the regulations. The points Eng earned in Austria (a victory and third place) were disallowed and he was not permitted to climb the podium at Spielberg: A bitter blow for the Austrian-born pilot. The team led by owner Hans-Bernd Kamps lodged an appeal and the proceedings before the sports authority in Frankfurt was decided in favour of Project 1.

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With this triumph under his belt, Eng travelled to the season finale at Hockenheim eleven points ahead of his closest rival Michael Ammermüller. Securing seventh place at race 17 and third from race 18 earned the native of Salzburg the all-important points towards claiming the title. The line of well-wishers was long when Eng came into the paddock after his last outing. There was no end to the handshakes and congratulations and Eng revelled in the attention.

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He had worked long and hard for such an accolade. And now he would enjoy the fruits of his efforts with his partner Vivien at his adopted home of Stuttgart. “And in the wonderful atmosphere of the Porsche night of champions in December at Stuttgart I will for sure raise my glass again to this title,” explained Eng with a grin from ear to ear. At 1.72 metres tall, Eng is the perfect height for a race driver. And when he proudly accepts the trophy on the podium at Hockenheim he will no doubt seem to have grown a great deal taller.

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