

# SOFT EXTREME?

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**THE 16TH CFMOTO HUNT THE WOLF CONCLUDED ON 17 MAY IN ROMANIA. ONCE AGAIN THIS YEAR, TRANSYLVANIA PROVIDED ADRENALINE, COURAGE, SWEAT AND SATISFACTION! A RIOT OF EMOTIONS THAT RESULTED IN A THRILLING FINALE, WITH ONLY 10 SECONDS BETWEEN FIRST AND SECOND**

**T**hey had presented it to us as a 'soft extreme' edition of the famous CFmoto Hunt the Wolf race, so we were expecting a 'light' version, with less complicated passages than in past editions. Well, there are two things: either we were lied to, or we have two different opinions of the word 'soft'. Quite frankly, I think it's the latter, which we didn't mind at all. This edition reserved epic passages, breathtaking views and trails through enchanted forests in the heart of Transylvania, near Baisoara, an hour's drive from Cluj Napoca. Only one category at the start, the 'soft extreme', which gathered 52 participating riders, among the strongest in Europe in this type of race.

For those of you who are still unfamiliar with the world-famous Hunt the Wolf, it is a race that takes place over five days, with a straight start, where each driver is obliged to follow a different GPS track each day of the race, from which he or she may deviate by no more than 100 metres, on pain of losing the day of the race. Each driver can discard one of the five days (day off), obviously the worst. Everything is tracked via transponders mounted on each vehicle; the organisation and race management know the exact position of all participants at all times.

Also at the start was Team Italy, composed of veterans Fabio Sauli and Tony Paolucci, with Andrea Arrighi at his first participation. The histrionic Giuseppe De Michele, a true ambassador of Hunt the Wolf in the Bel Paese, was forced to stay in Italy due to a training injury that occurred only a few weeks before the race.

The morning of the first day was dedicated to regi-



stration, the compulsory medical check-up for all riders, and the transponder and GPS assembly stages. The race got underway in the afternoon with the first 70km to be covered in a maximum total time of five hours, where the riders sampled the Romanian terrain and the pitfalls it offers. In this type of race it is very difficult to predict a favourite, breakages and navigation problems are always just around the corner, but in the circle of the favourites there are definitely Romanians: Bistriean Cosmin, who is taking part this year riding the new CFmoto CForce 1000, the veteran Radu Lungu, three times winner of the HTW, Levente Horvath of the Authentic Spirit team and Create Madalin on Can-Am. Outsiders include Swede Frederick Back, Romanian Mihai Concioiu, experienced Polish rider Waldemar Bartkowiak and Frenchman Carmelo Gueli, winner of the Race to Hell in Tuscany in February. The tracks of this race have critical points with fascinating names, such



**// THIS EDITION RESERVED EPIC PASSAGES, BREATHTAKING VIEWS AND TRAILS THROUGH ENCHANTED FORESTS IN THE HEART OF TRANSYLVANIA, NEAR BAISOARA //**

Winner #5 Frederick Back as he tackles the Gerini Downhill, behind him Carmelo Gueli #7, Ionuț Stan #40 and Levente Horvath #6.

as 'Alaska', a tortuous rocky climb that the riders rode on Day 2, in a landscape reminiscent of the boundless beauty of the American state, or 'Inferno', a long gully carved by a stream full of slimy rocks where many made mistakes. The distinguishing feature of the Hunt, which makes it unique in Europe, are the climbs: long, difficult, with gradients of over 20° and winding, just like the 'Salita della Fontana', almost 700 metres long. And if you go up, you also have to go down: the 'Gerini downhill' is a technical descent in a gully barely as wide as a quad bike, which was named after Alessandro Gerini himself when the Italian in 2014 frontally flipped his quad bike at the bottom of this descent. For each day of the race, the organisation has included one or more of these critical points, a real hell for the mechanics of the quad and the physical endurance of the riders. And as if that were not enough, for those who do not have a mechanic in tow, the post-race period is often dedicated to the maintenance of the vehicle to prepare it for the next day.

All these difficulties took out one of the favouri-



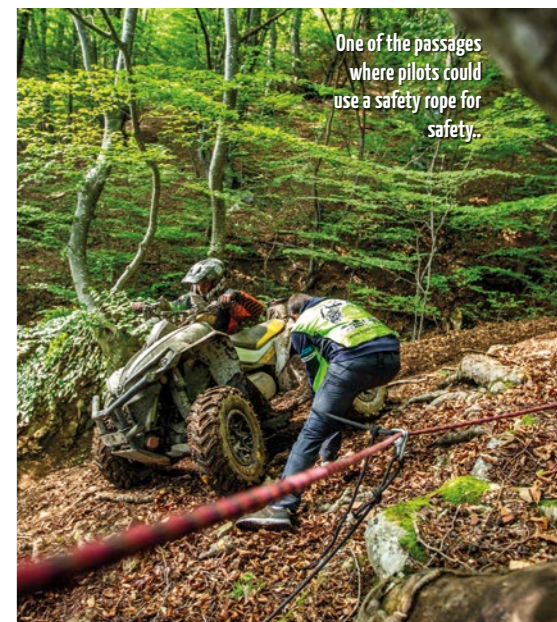
Fabio Sauli



The Polish trio of the Independent Squad team



Radu Lungu #3, on CFmoto CForce 1000



One of the passages where pilots could use a safety rope for safety.



Mihai Concioiu #4

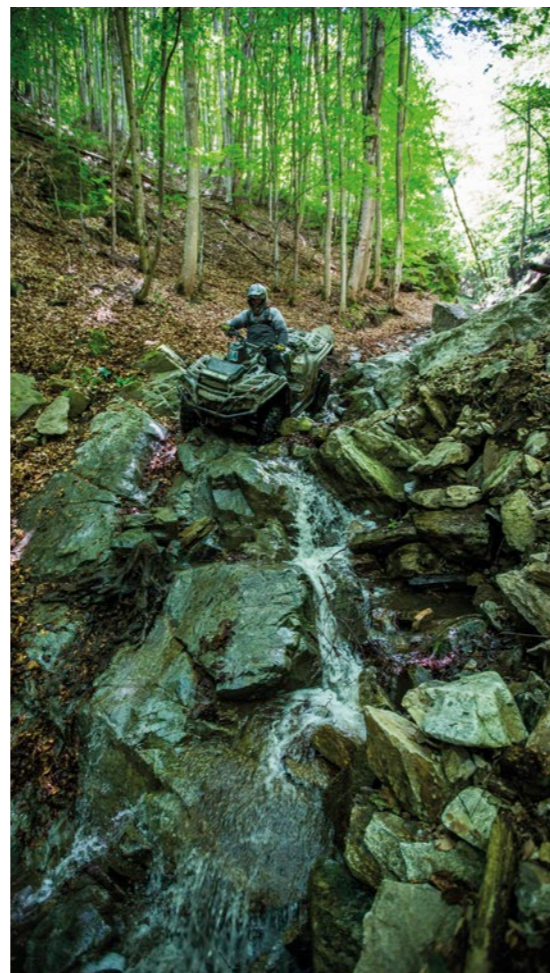
tes, Bistriana Cosmin, who suffered a fall during Day 2 that caused him severe pain. On Day 3 he accidentally hit the handlebar of his CFmoto with a tree; the blow destroyed the brake and accelerator, which once released no longer returned to idle, forcing the strong Romanian to brake with the other hand and to put on and take off the gas with two fingers of his right hand. Nevertheless, Bistriana is a warrior: he continued the race and set the best time on Day 5, finishing his Hunt the Wolf in eighth place. Troubles such as these are the order of the day and put another big name like Craete Madalin out of the running: the strong and very likeable Romanian made a navigational error by cutting off a piece of track (beyond the 100 metres allowed) and, having already had to use the day off, race management had to exclude him from the classification. This edition was full of excitement and open until Day 5. At the end of Day 4, there were three drivers who could have won the final victory. Like in an old-fashioned thriller film, victory went to the Swedish driver Frederick Back in a photo finish, just 10 seconds behind Romanian Levente Horvath. Ten seconds between first and second on a five-day race is an epilogue never seen in any edition of this race; to make you understand: it is as if in a MotoGP race there was less than a hundredth between first and second. Bravo Frederick! However, honours and glory go to Levente, the run-



Carmelo Gueli #7



The runner-up, Levente Horvath #6, approaching one of the last climbs of Day 5.



ner-up, who interpreted his home track to the best of his ability. With a bit more luck, he would have taken home the victory, but races, we all know, can be like that, unpredictable right up to the last minute and that is their charm. Just five minutes behind, on the third step of the podium we find the Romanian veteran Radu Lungu who, like Levente, was racing a CFmoto CForce 1000. Rich prizes for the podium, the first went €1,000 in

cash, a set of TFX shock absorbers worth €4,000, free lifetime participation in the next editions of the CFmoto Hunt the Wolf and, finally, a €5,000 voucher offered by importer Can-Am Romania, while the second and third, CFmoto riders, also received the same €5,000 voucher but granted by CFmoto importer Authentic Spirit. The top ten was completed with the excellent performances of Bordea Marian fourth, Mihai Concioiu fifth, the

French (half-Italian) Carmelo Gueli sixth, Anatoli Stanciu seventh, Sebastian Bodea ninth and Sorin Raiciu tenth. We caught up with Frederick Back for a short interview: **Hi Frederick, first of all congratulations for the win** Thanks a lot **You are a veteran of Hunt the Wolf, how many**



'Inferno' reaps its victims...



Sigh of relief at the end of a gruelling day of competition.



Fabjo Sauli #18, immortalised the instant after losing the keys to his Can-Am in the creek.



we arrived a few days before the race and did some driving to get accustomed to the navigation, set the shocks, and get used to the long steep hills because we don't have such terrain in southern Sweden.

**Which races do you participate in during the year in Sweden?**

We don't have any quad races left in Sweden anymore, but I drive some enduro races for extra training, around two races per year.

At the next edition of Hunt the Wolf, we hope to see new talent and just as much excitement, confident that this race will continue to give us unforgettable moments and extraordinary feats.



**editions have you participated in?**

I have been to Hunt the Wolf six times.

**What does it really take to be able to win a race like the Hunt?**

You need to know your bike 100% and know your own limits and have 100% focus. Small mistakes can cause the machine to crash and hurt yourself. You must also be good at navigation and understand how it works. This is my problem, as I am really good at driving the ATV but make many mistakes in navigation. However, everyone makes some mistakes in navigation when pressured by other competitors.

**What modifications have you made to your Can-Am to make it perform better?**

I have tires from my sponsor Gripen Wheels and BKT Tires, the tire is BKT Wing 207, 25 inches. I drive with HD alloy rims that are much stronger and make the machine wider than the original. I have built a plastic skid plate, longer rear arms for this year, and high clearance front lower arms from Super ATV. I reinforced the frame and have other shocks from Fox with different parts inside. I also put a GPS in front of the steering to see it better without looking down too much.

**How do you prepare for a race like this on a physical and practical level (how do you train on the quad)?**

I do some training in the gym but not as much as I would like because there is always so much to prepare on the machine before a race. In my head, I am a competitive person and don't give up, I always fight. I do some driving in the hills and push myself into difficult positions to make it harder. But I train too little with navigation using the GPS. This year,



Bistriean Cosmin #1, the strong Romanian driver was plagued by bad luck.



Create Madalin #2



The podium of the 16th edition of Hunt the Wolf.

Pos	No.	Pilota	Team	Quad	time
1	#5	Fredrik Bäck	Team Bkt Sweden Atv	Can-Am Renegade 1000R	00:17:27.714
2	#6	Levente Horvath	Ath Racing Team	Cfmoto Cforce 1000	+00:00:10.928
3	#3	Radu Lungu	Ath Racing Team	Cfmoto Cforce 1000	+00:05:25.162
4	#38	Bordea Marian	Ath Autentic Cluj	Can-Am Outlander 1000R	+00:23:11.935
5	#4	Mihai Conciou	Ath Racing Team	Cfmoto Cforce 1000	+00:35:58.386
6	#7	Gueli Carmelo	Xtremquadcreuse	Polaris Scrambler 1000	+00:36:21.239
7	#15	Anatoli Stanciu	Acs Odobesti-Atvmotoshop	Can-Am Renegade 1000	+00:40:29.411
8	#1	Bistriean Cosmin	Extrem Caras Severin	Cfmoto Cforce 1000	+00:42:55.557
9	#8	Sebastian Bodea	Quad Club Timisoara	Polaris Scrambler Xp1000	+00:50:08.163
10	#13	Sorin Raiciu	Acs Odobesti-Atvmotoshop	Can-Am Outlander 1000r	+01:23:34.589
11	#44	Jurca Razvan	Ath	Can-Am Renegade	+01:31:22.326
12	#10	Waldemar Bartkowiak	Htw Rt	Can-Am Renegade	+01:41:14.341
13	#39	Buna Paul	Ath Autentic Spirit Cluj	Can-Am Outlander 1000R	+01:50:31.131
14	#40	Ionuț Stan	Ath Autentic Spirit	Can-Am 1000r	+01:51:22.795
15	#12	Doru Pascu	Acs Odobesti-Atvmotoshop	Cfmoto 1000	+02:01:56.601
16	#47	Lőrincz Csaba	Ath Racing Team	Cfmoto Cforce	+02:14:36.835
17	#18	Fabio Sauli	Motorpama/Atv Adventure	Can-Am Renegade	+02:21:17.311
18	#22	Darko Milinkovic	Atv Gornji Milanovac	Can-Am Renegade	+03:20:34.068
19	#49	Tircomicu Bogdan	Extreme Arges	Can-Am Outlander 1000r	+03:31:42.637
20	#16	Lubomir Kocifaj	Dravaaction	Can-Am Renegade	+04:52:20.400
21	#34	Dusko Skakic	Xtreme Banja Luka	Can-Am Renegej	+05:33:52.815
22	#43	Thomas Gabriel Giurgica	Someșeni Plus	Can-Am Renegade	+05:50:12.176
23	#42	Balaci Mario	Oct	Can-Am Renegade 1000r	+06:31:40.608
24	#36	Dumitrache Silviu	Motorsport Hibrid	Can-Am Outlander	+06:47:38.674
25	#28	Nikola Vujnovic	Atv Gm	Can-Am Renegade	+06:59:18.412
26	#33	Marcin Kilar	Independent Squad	Can-Am Renegade	+06:59:30.248
27	#31	Marek Grzesik	Independent Squad	Can-Am Renegade	+07:02:19.874
28	#9	Dominik Apel	Team 686	Yamaha Grizzly 700	+07:16:50.453
29	#32	Grzegorz Kedzierski	Independent Squad	Can-Am Renegade	+07:29:01.785
30	#51	Baduca Iulian	Extreme Arges	Can-Am Outlander 1000	+07:50:45.817
31	#50	Andrea Arrighi	Gruppo Quad Brescia	Can-Am Outlander Xxc 1000r	+09:26:16.449
32	#35	Branko Pilipovic	Xtreme Banja Luka	Can-Am Renegade	-134 Points
33	#21	Dusko Kovacević	Atv Gornji Milanovac	Can-Am Renegade 800	-189 Points
34	#45	Turcu Maricel	Madras Motoparts	Can-Am Renegade	-277 Points
35	#26	Ratko Petrusic	Xtreme Team Montenegro	Can-Am Renegade 1000r	-297 Points
36	#25	Branko Radic	Atv Club Gornji Milanovac	Can-Am Renegade	-432 Points
37	#24	Aleksandar Mikic	Atv Gornji Milanovac	Can-Am 1000	-432 Points
38	#17	Petr Klabouch	Atv Libnič	Polaris Scrambler	-538 Points
39	#46	Marko Jovanovic	Cfmoto Srbija	Cfmoto Cforce 1000	-630 Points
40	#29	Petar Vukojevic	Atv Gornji Milanovac	Can-Am Renegade 1000 R	-848 Points
41	#11	Kristian Engelmann		Can-Am Renegade	-1000 Points
42	#2	Craete Madalin	Extreme M. / Euronautica Int.	Can-Am Renegade 1000r	-1443 Points
43	#48	Tony Paolucci	Atv Adventure	Can-Am Renegade	-1662 Points
44	#52	Cozma Vlad	Premium David Constructii	Can-Am Renegade	-1682 Points
45	#41	Georgian Alionte	Acs Odobesti-Atvmotoshop	Can-Am Outlander 1000r	-1715 Points
46	#27	Vladislav Trbovic	Atv Gornji Milanovac	Brp Renegade 1000r	-1764 Points
47	#30	Mladen Miskovic	Atv Gornji Milanovac	Ca-Nam Outlander 650	-1976 Points
48	#14	Narcis Rusu	Acs Odobesti-Atvmotoshop	Can-Am Outlander 1000r	-2328 Points
49	#23	Nemanja Perovic	Atv Gornji Milanovac	Can-Am Renegade	-2864 Points
50	#19	Danko Bakrac	Xtreme Team Montenegro	Can-Am Renegade	-3294 Points