

Co-Driver Profile

Kai Lindstrom



Date of Birth:	31 July 1969
Place of Birth:	Mikkeli, Finland
Lives:	Mikkeli, Finland
Marital status:	Single
First rally:	1989
Driver:	Tommi Makinen
Hobbies:	Golf, roller skating, cross country skiing
Career Highlights:	2000 1 st o/a Scottish Rally (with Tapio Laukkanen) 1999 British Rally Champion (with Tapio Laukkanen) 1998 Finnish F2 Rally Champion (with Esa Saarenpaa)

Kaj Lindstrom has been rallying for over a decade but it was partnering the somewhat erratic Tapio Laukkanen to a dominant British Championship title in 1999 that showed he had the maturity and experience to make it to the top. When Tommi Makinen needed a substitute co-driver for the injured Risto Mannisenmaki on last season's Network Q Rally of Great Britain he was happy to turn to Kaj. With Risto still temporarily sidelined, Kaj will start the 2002 season alongside Tommi in the 555 Subaru World Rally Team.

Short lived debut

Kaj's first event was the 1989 Savitaipale Rally near his home town of Mikkeli. He was co-driving Ari Himanen in a Ford Escort Mk1 but their event lasted just 500 metres into the first stage before the clutch failed. It didn't put either of the pair off and three years later Kaj guided Ari to fifth in the Finnish Junior Championship in a VW Golf. The partnership continued and in 1996 they finished second in the Finnish F2 series, taking second in F2 on that year's Rally of Finland.

In demand by other drivers

In 1988 Kaj proved to be very popular. Esa Saarenpaa chose him to co-drive a VW Golf to Finnish F2 series victory while Renault driver Tapio Laukkanen began his own partnership with Kaj and took an F2 win on Rally GB. The following season this duo went on to take the outright British Championship.

The World stage and 'super sub'

Kaj's partnership with Laukkanen continued through 2000 and 2001 with the duo taking fifth overall on the 2000 Rally Australia in a semi-works Ford Focus WRC. However Kaj's biggest break to date came when he was asked by Tommi Makinen to deputise on last year's Rally GB for Risto Mannisenmaki who is still recovering from injuries sustained in Corsica. Risto is expected to return to co-driving duties in Corsica this season but, until he does, Kaj will continue to co-drive in the Subaru Impreza WRC.