



Press Release

European Individual Grass Track Championship At the start

The FIM Europe Individual Grass Track championship will start next Sunday (26th April) with the first of two Semi Finals being staged at Swingfield in the south east of England.

This semi-final will be a hotly contested event, with eighteen riders representing six nations - all of whom will be competing for the nine qualifying places available at the European Final - which will be staged at Staphorst in the Netherlands on the 18th July.

Although the host federation for Sunday's event (the ACU), has a strong field of five riders, the home favourite must be former European Champion - Andrew Appleton. However the other four 'Brits' are not planning for Andrew to have an easy time and he will be put under pressure by Scunthorpe Speedway's leading rider David Howe. 18 year old James Shanes is one of the England's fast emerging racers, and this event will be the youngsters first opportunity of competing in a European championship.

The German challenge is led by another former European Champion - Stephan Katt, who previously has had an excellent record at the fast Swingfield circuit. With other high calibre riders as Theo Pijper (Netherlands), Josef Franc (Czech Republic) and Jerome Lespinasse (France), spectators are guaranteed some fast and furious racing!!



The action then moves to Germany on the 7th June, where the second Semi Final is being staged at Bielefeld - in the north of the country. Another 18 riders, this time representing seven different countries, battle for the remaining nine places at Staphorst, European Final.

Bielefeld is another fast sweeping track, with riders reaching speeds in excess of 120 kilometres per hour.

The strong contingent of Dutch fans will



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be supporting defending European Champion - Jannick De Jong - who will be focused on achieving his third European title, having achieved back to back victories in 2013 and 2014. Enrico Janoschka leads the German contingent together with Jörg Tebbe and Bernd Diener.

Four English riders will be making the long trip to Bielefeld, with qualifying places being targeted by experienced racers, Richard Hall and Mitch Godden. However 17 year old Zak Wajtknecht is another of the UK's 'hot prospects' with Zak already having won three Youth World (125cc and 250cc) championship titles.

The Czech Republic, Finland, Netherlands, France, and Italy field the remaining riders, for what will be another thrilling and exciting event.

Once the nine qualifiers have been confirmed from the 2nd Semi Final in Germany, all eyes will then be focused on Staphorst in July to see who will be crowned the FIM Europe European Individual Grass Track Champion for 2015.

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About FIM Europe (www.fim-europe.com) - The FIM Europe (in the past UEM, Union Européenne de Motocyclisme) includes 47 National Federations (FMNs) and 6 Regional Motorcycling Associations and is a European organization acting within its attributions in all matters in relation with motorcycling activities and, as such, in domains ranging from sport, tourism, leisure, environment, mobility, road safety, legislative affairs, protection and defence of the rights and interests of motorcycle users. As far as motorcycle sport is concerned, the FIM Europe is the supreme and sole European authority empowered by the FIM to control European motorcycling sport activities organized under its jurisdiction throughout Europe. The aims of FIM Europe are to develop and promote all forms of motorcycling in Europe as well as the co-operation and friendship between its members, and notably: to examine all questions related to the development of motorcycling in Europe; to organize European Championships and to establish all competitions that appear beneficial subject to the prior approval of the FIM; to co-operate with the FIM in all matters relating to the organization of international events and motorcycling in general; to organize camps and seminars for riders, officials, coaches and administrators of various European FMNs; to support the creation and development of motorcycling activities in all European countries; to promote the co-operation among all European FMNs; to promote motorcycling among young people, both as sport and motorcycling in general; to encourage the use of motorcycles in European countries and to develop motorcycle tourism; to represent the interests of motorcyclists before European authorities; to promote in the media the sport of motorcycling and the use of motorcycles in all of Europe.

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