



Press Release

European Individual Grass Track Championship Final at Hertingen (Germany) - Preview



European top solo Grass Track riders head to the picturesque town of Hertingen in the South of Germany this weekend for Saturday's staging of the FIM Europe Individual Grass Track Final, where one of the eighteen racers will be crowned 2017 European Champion.

The Hertingen Club will host Europe's Blue Riband event at their super-fast banked circuit and on Saturday evening it will see the Brit James Shanes (in the photo above) defend the title he won in dramatic style at Swingfield in England 11 months ago (in photo 2, the rostrum of 2016).

Hopes for the German hosts rest largely on two former winners of the crown. Stephan Katt bids to become the first man ever to win the title four times, a feat which would elevate him above fellow-countryman Robert Barth and Dutch rider Jannick de Jong. Veteran Bernd Diener won his European crown in the last century (1999), but he remains a challenge to all other would-be winners, particularly in a night where he and Katt will benefit from home support.

Apart from home riders, French Mathieu Tresarrieu looks the obvious candidate. Runner up in 2016 he currently leads the World Long Track standings and could well prove to be the man to beat.





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Shanes is one of the incredible eight contenders representing the British governing body - the ACU - who boast two other former winners among their ranks.

Paul Hurry's triumph arrived in Germany, at Schwarme, back in 2005, while Andrew Appleton, who has made the podium five times, was top of the pile at La Reole (France) in 2010.

Besides these six riders, there will be the Czech No 1 Josef Franc, exciting Dutch youngster Dave Meijerink, plus two more Brits, Paul Cooper, who just missed the podium in this championship two years ago, and Ed Kennett, still a rookie in terms of European racing, but a very talented one.

So Hertingen near Bad Bellingen in the very South of Germany is the place to be this coming Saturday for supporters or followers of any type of motorcycle sport, or simply to fancy a great evening out with the family.

The actual issue of FIM Europe MAG is online and can be downloaded here

PRESS RELEASE

nr. 222/2017 - August 11th, 2017

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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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