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## Enduro European Championship: round 2 in Hungary



### Day 1

In Tamasi, Belgian Erik Willems won again ahead of Englishman Daniel Mundell and thus extended his lead in the European Championship.

But it was a long day, with particular problems for Willems: *"I hadn't eaten enough during the day. This gave me slight cramps at the end. We drove for more than eight hours, I'm not used to that. I still have to find the right balance"*.

His toughest rival was Daniel Mundel, but he could not keep up the Belgian's pace in the cross test. In the end, after 12 special test, his gap added up to 30 seconds, just half a minute.

In the E1 class, reigning champion Maurizio Micheluz switched from the Husqvarna two-stroke to the four-stroke. Once more the Italian won the class and rode to sixth place in the overall standings.



In the senior category, the Italian Alessandro Rizza ruled again with the small 125cc against the more powerful bike.

In the women's class, Nive Holmes from England was still able to make up for her crash in the cross test: *"I fell down and had to fight my way back up there, which cost a lot of time"*. But in the end of the day she was again 50 seconds ahead of the Norwegian Vilde Holt, who finished second for the first time in her life.

After the rain and mud of the previous days, it stayed dry for more than half of the competition, before the light rain made the track very slippery again. But the precautionary modifications of the track were successful and there were no problems because of that.

But because snow has even been forecast for Sunday, the organizers shortened the competition to three laps.

## Day 2

Overjoyed, day's winner Dietger Damiaens from Belgium received the victory trophy in Hungary.

Frenchman David Abgrall proved to be his fiercest adversary this time: without any mistakes, he repeatedly steered his Sherco almost to Damiaens' times, but in the end he was just 18 seconds off.

On the second day of the 2022 Borilli Enduro European Championship, the riders initially fought more against the weather than against the times: snow had fallen overnight in Hungary, making the track particularly slippery. In the end, almost a quarter of riders did not finish.

Previous day's winner Erik Willems had a dragging front brake, which sometimes blocked at the most inopportune moment. But there was not much time to change the brake system: he finished sixth overall, defending his lead in the championship.

Right behind Maurizio Micheluz, the reigning champion of the two-stroke class. This time he started with a four-stroke bike, but even if he was not so happy with the choice, he admitted that the conditions had also been particularly difficult: *"I also crashed in the*

*first enduro test, which cost me a lot of time. The distance was shortened today, so there weren't enough special tests to recover".*

In the seniors, the Italian Alessandro Rizzo proved to be uncatchable even with the 125cc: at the halfway point of the season he has won all days.

In the women's category former motocross rider Nieve Holmes rode so strongly in the enduro test that she could compensate over one-minute of delay.

Now there is a two-and-a-half month break before the third round in Finland on 23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> June.

### EMX250 European Championship: Elzinga unbeatable in Portugal



The second round of the EMX250 Championship has concluded in Agueda, Portugal. It was a fantastic day for Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing's Rick Elzinga who claimed maximum points and celebrated his first 1-1 of the 2022 season, as well as extending his championship lead over Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Cornelius Toendel.



In race one, it was Meico Vettik with a great start ahead of Elzinga and Yago Martinez, as a few riders hit the gate. Martinez then crashed, as Elzinga closed in on Vettik for the lead and by the end of the lap took control of the race.

Elzinga then led Vettik, Camden Mc Lellan of TBS Conversion Racing Team, Lucas Coenen of Jumbo Husqvarna BT Racing and Eddie Wade of 9MM Energy Drink BUD Racing, though Wade came under fire from Mc Lellan and Marcel Stauffer as both riders went by on the Brit. He then lost more positions and went down to 10<sup>th</sup>. He eventually finished 16<sup>th</sup>.

Mc Lellan then put on a charge for Vettik and on lap eight the South African got by for second and later so did Coenen as Vettik eventually placed 10<sup>th</sup>.

Elzinga took the win ahead of Mc Lellan and Lucas Coenen. Stauffer finished fourth ahead of Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Cornelius Toendel.

In race two, it was Hakon Osterhagen of Fantic Factory Team Maddii who grabbed the holeshot from Sacha Coenen of Jumbo Husqvarna BT Racing, Vettik, Elzinga and Toendel as Coenen crashed hard with a couple of other riders.

There was an intense battle inside the top five as Andrea Bonacorsi of Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing was caught out by Guillem Farres and Oriol Oliver of WZ Racing Team and lost two spots within a lap.

Sacha Coenen came into pitlane after that second turn crash, but went back out to finish the race 22<sup>nd</sup>, just outside of the points. Meanwhile his brother had a much stronger race. Elzinga then took the lead on lap three, as Osterhagen worked hard to keep Farres behind him. Meanwhile Toendel was charging forward and by lap six was second ahead of Vettik, while Lucas Coenen made his way into sixth.

Bonacorsi then slipped back to 11<sup>th</sup> as Farres crashed out of fifth but managed to get going quickly and lost only four positions.

In the final stages of the race Lucas Coenen was able to make some good passes and as the chequered flag fell, it was Elzinga who took the victory, 4.776 seconds ahead of Toendel and Coenen who fought back to third.



A clean 1-1 result gave Elzinga his second back-to-back victory as Coenen celebrated his first podium of the season in second ahead of Toendel who was third.

Elzinga extends his championship lead to 93 points, as Toendel remains second with 77 while Oliver is third with 62 points.

The next round of the EMX250 championship will take place in Maggiora, Italy on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of May.

**Women's European SS 300 Cup:  
the season is finally started!**



The Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli in Misano Adriatico, Italy, officially hosted the first round of the Women's European SS 300 Cup together with the CIV, the Italian Road Racing Championship.

A thrilling weekend, finally with the audience both in the paddock and on the grandstands after two years behind closed doors due to the Covid-19 restrictions.



2020 and 2021 European Champion Beatriz Neila Santos started the weekend in the best way conquering the pole position, but in wet conditions Race1 was ruled by debut rider Jessica Howden from South Africa, who won 4 seconds ahead of Neila Santos and Sabrina Della Manna.

Three different Nations on the podium marked the international success of this championship, with seven different countries and three different continents: FIM Europe, FIM Latin America and FIM Africa.

#### **Race classification**

1. Jessica Howden, RSA
2. Beatriz Neila Santos, ESP
3. Sabrina Della Manna: ITA