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European Team Speedway Championship: team Poland wins the Grand Final on home soil



A large partisan crowd of around 5000 spectators were treated to an excellent afternoons Speedway at the European Team Speedway Championship Grand Final at Grudziądz, in north Poland.

With the Polish home side being seeded through to the Grand Final, they were joined by teams from Denmark, Sweden and the Czech Republic, who qualified through from two Finals the previous weekend at Pardubice in the Czech Republic and Gdańsk in Poland.

In line with the Track Racing rules for this event, each national team was allowed to include a Speedway Grand Prix rider within their line-up, so this was always going to be a close fought event. However, within the first four heats, the Poles had started to build a lead over the second placed favourites Denmark with Sweden in third and the Czech Republic forth.

As the meeting progressed during a warm sunny afternoon, the Poles continued to dominate cheered on by the buoyant crowd, with the team providing 13 out of a possible 20 heat wins. However, the Danes stuck to their guns in the vain hope that they might pick up points with either an engine failure or some other misfortune by the Polish team, but the five Poles remained focused on the job in hand, with the outcome that there were only two races where they didn't take either a first or second place.

The meeting wasn't without incident with young Czech rider Adam Bubba Bednar falling off in heat 9. Fortunately, he was uninjured and was quickly back on his feet, but he was excluded from the re-run by the Referee, as being the cause of the stoppage.

The meeting continued to gather pace until heat 18, when the Czech Daniel Kilma was caught out when he touched the starting tapes in anticipation of making a good start, though under the rules this is not allowed, and he too was excluded by the Referee. So, another heat where the Czech team didn't collect any points.

In the very next heat young Swedish rider Casper Henrikson fell whilst entering the first bend, where he laid on the ground for a few moments. However, the medical team were soon on the scene and after a few minutes he was back on his feet.

By this late stage the Polish team had dominated the score line, much to the pleasure of the home crowd, and was soon to be crowned European Team Speedway Champion for 2024.

FIM Europe President Michal Sikora presented the gold winners medals to the home side, with the silver medals going to Denmark and bronze to Sweden.

Top three

1. Poland, 51 points
(Bartosz Zmarzlik, Patryk Dudek, Przemyslaw Pawlicki, Piotr Pawlicki, Wiktor Prrzyjemski)
2. Denmark, 35 points
(Mikkel Michelsen, Anders Thomsen, Rasmus Hansen, Bastian Pedersen)
3. Sweden, 20 points
(Jacob Thorsell, Antonio Lindback, Fredrik Lindgren, Casper Henrikson)

EMX125 European Championship: perfect start in Sardinia for Noel Zanocz



The opening round of the EMX125 Present by FMF Racing was an excellent show with many riders quickly taking their mark and performing right from the start on a demanding track and hot temperatures.

It was the Hungarian Noel Zanocz from Fantic Factory Racing EMX125 who managed to get a perfect second race win to climb on the top step of the podium and get the first Red Plate of the season.

With a firing start Gyan Doensen from Racestore KTM Factory Rookies took the best of the pack showing off his new colours with Racestore KTM Factory Rookies. In the opening stages, Doensen stormed off with the lead with determination, but his aggressive approach may have backfired as he lost control of his bike and crashed out of his early lead.

Meanwhile, seasoned rider Noel Zanocz seized this opportunity without hesitation to move into the front position. Behind him, the pair from Yamaha Europe EMX125 MJC, Mano Faure and Jarne Bervoets trailed closely along with Voss KTM Racing Team's Dean

Gregoire in pursuit. Bervoets briefly went up to second after passing his teammate Faure but then made a mistake and went down the ranking to finish in the end 6th.

Gregoire lost many positions along the way to finish 11th while Doensen who picked up his bike in 10th after going down went back at it without hesitation as he quickly moved up to 3rd behind Faure and Zanocz showing his motivation to start the season the best way possible.

Doensen was clearly the fastest rider on track and was on a mission as he passed Faure to go 2nd on lap 6 and kept pushing towards leader Zanocz. At the same time the young Latvian Markuss Ozolins made a great run as he found himself 4th on lap 7 but tipped over on a turn and finished 7th in the end.

Doensen reduced the gap quickly with Zanocz and with his incredible momentum swept past the Hungarian to take the lead on lap 10 and never looked back to get a convincing win on this opening race of the season. Zanocz 2nd while Faure finished 3rd despite a small crash without consequences with two laps to go. On the Fantic Factory Racing EMX125 bike, Dowe Van Mechelen made a solid race to finish 4th.

In Race 2, Faure made a fast start to get out of the first corner at the lead with Alvisi Heitink and Áron Katona following closely. On the other side, Doensen's crash put him 25th, making him having to work hard to move up the rank.

Heitink made a quick move to go 2nd and passed Alvisi. Meanwhile F4E GASGAS Junior Racing's Maximilian Ernecker and Katona engaged in a tough battle and a give and take to Ernecker's advantage.

On lap 3 it was still eventful with Zanocz inviting himself to party to fight for the 3rd place along with Alvisi, Katona and Ernecker. However, mistakes from Alvisi and Ernecker made them go down the ranks. Zanocz was the one to finally get the edge and go to a clear 3rd and pushing towards Heitink in 2nd position.

In Lap 5 Faure had still a 3-second gap with Heitink but the tenacious Dutch proved to be hard to get rid of. Zanocz was the rider with momentum only a second behind Heitink and managed to pass for 2nd on lap 6. And the Hungarian kept pushing behind leader Faure.

Meanwhile, after his mistake at the start Doensen showed a lot of character as he was up to 9th on lap 7 and keep charging in front of him by riding the fastest laps of the pack. On lap 9 Katona crashed out of 4th place with RFME GASGAS MXJunior Team's Salvador Perez moving up to 4th in front of Kasimir Hindersson from Motovation Moorsport and the impressive Doensen.

It was then a blow to Faure as he went down on lap 10 and picked himself up in 10th place. Zanocz was the new leader and looked very comfortable at the front. The Hungarian managed to keep it that way until the end to win his first overall in his career.

Behind it was a heartbreak for Heitink who did an amazing job to get to 2nd behind Zanocz and clinch his first podium as a rookie but his teammate Faure came back from his crash with tremendous pace to finish 6th and passed Heitink for the overall 3rd place on the podium. Doensen on his side with an incredible 4th place after his crash at the start climbed on the 2nd step of the podium to start the season with a confident performance. Clinching the red plate, Zanocz will go to Trentino full of confidence after a solid and heroic weekend under the very hot temperatures of Sardegna.

EMX125 Overall - Top 10 Classification: 1. Noel Zanocz (HUN, FAN), 47 points; 2. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 43 p.; 3. Mano Faure (FRA, YAM), 35 p.; 4. Dani Heitink (NED, YAM), 34 p.; 5. Douwe Van Mechgelen (BEL, FAN), 32 p.; 6. Salvador Perez (ESP, GAS), 28 p.; 7. Jarne Bervoets (BEL, YAM), 28 p.; 8. Áron Katona (HUN, KTM), 24 p.; 9. Markuss Ozolins (LAT, GAS), 22 p.; 10. Dean Gregoire (NED, KTM), 18 p.

EMX125 World Championship - Top 10 Classification: 1. Noel Zanocz (HUN, FAN), 47 points; 2. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 43 p.; 3. Mano Faure (FRA, YAM), 35 p.; 4. Dani Heitink (NED, YAM), 34 p.; 5. Douwe Van Mechgelen (BEL, FAN), 32 p.; 6. Salvador Perez (ESP, GAS), 28 p.; 7. Jarne Bervoets (BEL, YAM), 28 p.; 8. Áron Katona (HUN, KTM), 24 p.; 9. Markuss Ozolins (LAT, GAS), 22 p.; 10. Dean Gregoire (NED, KTM), 18 p.

SSP 300 Women's European Championship: Natalia Rivera wins the opening round at Misano World Circuit



With the first round out of eight, the SSP 300 Women's European Championship kicked off at the Misano World Circuit Marco Simoncelli, Italy.

In terms of women's racing series, the Championship is setting the benchmark at the European level thanks to the hard work of FIM Europe and organisers EMG Eventi and MotoXracing, which have always believed in this project. A concept that dates back to 2020 with the creation of the Women's European Cup, the series quickly grew in significance and last year became the Women's European Championship.

Natalia Resel Rivera (Team Trasimeno) is the winner of the first race.

The young Spanish rider, who took the pole on Sunday morning, fought against Josephine Bruno (Team Gradara) and Patrycja Sowa (Sowa Racing Team), who had been able to get ahead of Rivera when the lights went out. On lap two Rivera took the lead and held the first place to the chequered flag. Second placed rider Josephine Bruno put in a strong

performance, but was unable to set the pace despite an aggressive start. Rider Patrycja Sowa rounds out a very positive weekend on the third step of the podium.

The chasing group closed much as it did in qualifying with Beatrice Barbera (GP3 AD11) fourth, followed by Arianna Barale (MRT Corse), Nicole Ciccilini (Prata Motorsport) and Silvia Comincioli (Team MotoXracing) and Denise Dal Zotto (Team MotoXracing). Saidatul Zakirah Zairin (GP3 AD11) and Maria Saluste (Motoclub Sinlind) completed the top ten.

Top three

1. Natalia Resel Rivera, SPA, Yamaha
2. Josephine Bruno, ITA, Kawasaki
3. Patrycja Sowa, POL, Kawasaki

EMX65 / EMX85 European Championship South West zone: Slovenia hosted the first round



The EMX65 / EMX85 European Championship heats up of the season with the first round of the South West zone in Brezice, Slovenia.

EMX85

Double win for Italian rider Andrea Uccellini (Husqvarna).

In the race 1 he grabbed the hole shot but in the second lap he gave the leadership to Leo Diss-Fenard (KTM) after a small mistake. On lap 3 the Italian found the right pace and speed to take again the lead, maintain the position until the end. Behind him four riders fought for the other two step of the podium: at the end Ricardo Bauer (KTM) finished second and Sleny Goyer (GasGas) third.

In race 2 Uccellini gave no chances to anybody and claimed the victory. One more Bauer took the second step of the podium, while Diss-Fenard took the third.

EMX65

In race 1 French rider Timotei Cez (GasGas) took the lead at the beginning and hold it to end, winning the first heat. Second position for the Croatian Roko Ivandic (KTM). Big fight for the third step of the podium, conquered by Štefan Lence (Yamaha).

At the start of race 2 once more Cez took the lead, but Roko started to gain positions from the 7th place. In lap 5 the decisive attack, when he also set the best time, taking the lead of the race and winning the second heat. Cez had to settle with the second position. Behind him great fight for the third place between French rider Mathys Agullo (KTM), third, and local rider Tim Repnik (Husqvarna), fourth.

EMX85 - Overall top three

1. Andrea Uccellini, ITA, Husqvarna
2. Ricardo Bauer, AUS, KTM
3. Sleny Goyer, FRA, GasGas

EMX 65 - Overall top three

1. Roko Ivandic, CRO, KTM
2. Timotei Cez, FRA, GasGas
3. Mathys Agullo, FRA, KTM