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### Individual Speedway Championship: QR3 and QR4



The 2024 season of the SEC, the Individual Speedway Championship, gets into the heart with another double challenge. After last week QR1 in Hungary and QR2 in Austria, this time was the turn of QR3 and QR4, the final two qualifying rounds for the SEC Challenge.

The third qualifying round was held in Stralsund, Germany. Polish riders Maciej Janowski and Przemyslaw Pawlicki, and Danish rider and Rasmus Jensen set the pace from the beginning, securing their promotion to the SEC Challenge. Each scored 14 points in five starts, necessitating an extra race to determine the final order. In this race, “Magic” Janowski emerged victorious, with Pawlicki finishing second and Jensen third. But it was the French Dimitri Berge who secured the last qualifying spot for the Final in Latvia.

### QR3 top four

1. Maciej Janowski, POL, 14+3 points
2. Przemyslaw Pawlicki, POL, 14+2
3. Rasmus Jensen, DEN, 14+1
4. Dimitri Berge, FRA, 11

The last qualifying round of the SEC took place at Stadion Matije Gubca in Krško, Slovenia. Due to the heavy rain in the days before the competition, the jury decided to run the race without practice, which allowed the track to dry better in the hours before the race and be ready for tense battles in front of a large audience of 1.500 spectators. As expected, the Slovenian track was dominated by Polish riders. Mateusz Cierniak, a two-time U21 Individual World Champion, left no doubt by finishing first and scoring a perfect full 15 points. Piotr Pawlicki secured second place, only losing to Cierniak, while Czech rider Vaclav Milik completed the podium. An additional race determined the final qualifier for the SEC Challenge, with Andreas Lyager prevailing over Anze Grmek to secure the last spot.

### QR4 top four

1. Mateusz Cierniak, POL, 15 points
2. Piotr Pawlicki, POL, 14
3. Vaclav Milik, CZE, 12
4. Andreas Lyager, DEN, 11+3

### EMX125 European Championship and EMX 250 European Championship: first win of the season for Valk and Doensen in rainy Portugal



The EMX125 European Championship and EMX 250 European Championship races at Agueda, Portugal, happened in very tough conditions for the young riders who had to focus hard and showed great skills to stay on the bike with ruts deepening as the races went on.

This Portuguese test gave the opportunity to riders to show their resilience and skills to stay unscathed throughout the weekend. At this game it was the perfect weekend of Gabriel SS24 KTM's Cas Valk who showed great speed and control to go 1-1 while in EMX125, it was a celebrated first career win for Gyan Doensen from Racestore KTM Factory Rookies Team.

#### EMX250

Despite the muddy conditions, VRT Yamaha Racing's Ivano Van Erp got to front early on while Gabriel SS24 KTM's Cas Valk quickly got to 2nd on the rundown of turn 3. WZ Racing Team's Maxime Grau got to a good start to see himself 4th after few turns. Still in the opening lap Van Erp went completely off track seeing Valk take the lead. This off-

piste unnerved the Dutch as he lost his rhythm and got under attack from Grau and Beddini GASGAS Factory Juniors's Valerio Lata who both went by as well as Bud Racing Kawasaki's Mathis Valin on lap 2.

Van Erp's misfortune continued unfortunately with a hesitation in clearing a rut which Saad Soulimani from Ghidinelli Racing capitalised on to pass him on lap 4 and went on to finish 5th while Van Erp finished 6th. The top two in the Championship, Valin and Lata got into a battle and reversed role as Valin passed the red plate for 2nd on lap 10, scaring himself in nearly losing control of his bike but hanged on in 2nd place.

Following a good start that saw him passed the opening lap in 3rd, Valerio Lata's racing wasn't smoothed and got picked up by JM Honda Racing's Maximilian Werner on lap 8 to move down to 4th and made some mistakes that placed him in 7th on lap 9 of 12. However, Lata showed championship's leader qualities to fight back to 3rd place on the very last lap. Werner settled for 7th in the end.

Valk who led and managed the race lost a bit of focus when he ran into traffic and back markers but kept his cool to fly to victory with around 25 seconds gap and took a good option on the overall win.

In race 2, Van Erp made a blistering start with Valk trailing in 2nd place with red plate Lata behind. The race promised to be very competitive. While in the top 10, Valin crashed and flew off his bike while he was 3rd and found himself in 7th position but got back to 5th quickly. A little moment later, his back wheel touched Werner's front wheel with Werner going down while Valin managed to go up to 6th place. Nothing was easy for Valin as the Frenchman got under pressure by Karlis Reislulis's VRT Yamaha Racing soon after on lap 7 but Reislulis got bike issues and finished 11th in the end.

Meanwhile, Valk went on the chase of Van Erp and was right behind him on lap 5 while Lata was 4 seconds behind and saw them fighting. Soulimani's great start and good speed saw him climb up to 4th on lap 7 but went down leaving Valin going through and finished 5th for an excellent 5th overall. Meanwhile, Valk attacked and took the lead off Van Erp with Lata coming in hot too behind. The Italian managed to pass the Dutchman for 2nd.



Fighting for the 3rd place overall, Valin raced very well until the end to get 4th for a 2-4 and 3rd overall keeping his 2nd place in the Championship, with Van Erp staying at the bottom of the podium despite a solid race and finishing 3rd.

It was then all about the front two riders. Lata started to charge on Valk with 3 laps to go for a great battle full of control on the challenging muddy track. With backmarkers coming into play, the fight got intense and the two riders had to be careful to not lose their speed. There was nothing between them but Valk managed to defend very well to keep his perfect score for the weekend with 1-1 while Lata finished second for 2nd overall, keeping his red plate safe in front of Valin and Valk.

**EMX250 Overall - Top 10 Classification:** 1. Cas Valk (NED, KTM), 50 points; 2. Valerio Lata (ITA, GAS), 42 p.; 3. Mathis Valin (FRA, KAW), 40 p.; 4. Ivano Van Erp (NED, YAM), 35 p.; 5. Saad Soulimani (MAR, YAM), 32 p.; 6. Maxime Grau (FRA, KTM), 27 p.; 7. Nico Greutmann (SUI, HUS), 25 p.; 8. Francisco Garcia (ESP, GAS), 24 p.; 9. Magnus Smith (DEN, YAM), 23 p.; 10. Ryan Alexanderson (AUS, KTM), 18 p

**EMX250 Championship - Top 10 Classification:** 1. Valerio Lata (ITA, GAS), 139 points; 2. Mathis Valin (FRA, KAW), 121 p.; 3. Cas Valk (NED, KTM), 114 p.; 4. Ivano Van Erp (NED, YAM), 92 p.; 5. Francisco Garcia (ESP, GAS), 83 p.; 6. Saad Soulimani (MAR, YAM), 74 p.; 7. Nico Greutmann (SUI, HUS), 58 p.; 8. Maxime Grau (FRA, KTM), 57 p.; 9. Alexis Fueri (FRA, FAN), 49 p.; 10. Magnus Smith (DEN, YAM), 45 p

### EMX125

In the first race, chaos ensued right from the get-go as several riders went down in the first turn including Dean Gregoire from VOS KTM Racing Team, but Filippo Mantovani grabbed the lead with a strong start, however his lead was short-lived as Fantic Factory Racing EMX125's Noel Zanocz swooped in around the outside at turn 2, and quickly started to pull clear from the solid 2nd, Gyan Doensen.

Meanwhile, Aaron Katona made a decisive move on Mantovani to go 3rd and RFME GASGAS MXJunior Team's Salvador Perez appeared at the top end of the pack and overtook Matonvani for 4th with the Italian moving down the ranks throughout the race.

Katona nearly lost his position on the treacherous terrain but saved it well although Perez seized an opportunity right after to overtake him. Katona wasn't finished and came back up to 3rd but then took a cross rut and crashed out of 3rd to finish 5th as Francesco Bellei from Dreams Racing took this opportunity to finish 4th.

Mano Faure from Yamaha Europe EMX125 MJC managed to push hard to overtake Katona for 4th on lap 8 but some mistakes made him go down to 6th and finished in this position. Zanocz controlled the race until the end to win in front of Doensen and Perez.

In race 2, Doensen made a strong start in front while Zanocz managed to get up to 3rd after few turns wasting no time on the tail on McCullough who tipped over to gift 2nd place to the red plate. Perez saw himself in 4th behind Mancini but managed to pass the winner in Trentino to get to 3rd on lap 2.

Meanwhile, Doensen began to pull out at the lead but Zanocz was on a mission to reduce the 5-seconds gap on lap 2. Jayson Van Drunen was a rider that seemed to like the conditions as storm on to 5th place until he crashed on lap 5. Doensen showed great control as he kept his 5-seconds advantage on Zanocz for a while but past mid-race the Hungarian began to work hard to get closer to the leader.

Brando Rispoli from TM moto Steels Dr Jack and Faure managed at that time to get themselves in the top 10 after an average starts as they finished 6th and 7th respectively, with Faure finishing 4th overall.

Doensen had to pick up his pace after giving few looks over his shoulder and seeing Zanocz getting closer. With the race leader pulling again a little from the red plate, Zanocz looked like racing the smart race to keep his 2nd place and his lead in the championship with a good 2nd overall.

The path was free for Doensen to finish perfectly the race but then nervousity maybe kicked in and he tipped over in a cross-rut in the very last lap. Fortunately, his 19 seconds advantage on Zancoz was more than enough to get back to it and win the race to go 2-1 and win his first overall of his career. Perez rounded the overall podium with a convincing 3rd place in the race.

**EMX125 Overall - Top 10 Classification:** 1. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 47 points; 2. Noel Zanocz (HUN, FAN), 47 p.; 3. Salvador Perez (ESP, GAS), 38 p.; 4. Mano Faure (FRA, YAM), 29 p.; 5. Francesco Bellei (ITA, KTM), 29 p.; 6. Brando Rispoli (ITA, TM), 27 p.; 7. Freddie Bartlett (SWE, KTM), 27 p.; 8. Simone Mancini (ITA, FAN), 26 p.; 9. Jarne Bervoets (BEL, YAM), 23 p.; 10. Tom Brunet (FRA, KTM), 19 p

**EMX125 Championship - Top 10 Classification:** 1. Noel Zanocz (HUN, FAN), 124 points; 2. Gyan Doensen (NED, KTM), 116 p.; 3. Salvador Perez (ESP, GAS), 103 p.; 4. Mano Faure (FRA, YAM), 87 p.; 5. Francesco Bellei (ITA, KTM), 85 p.; 6. Simone Mancini (ITA, FAN), 75 p.; 7. Áron Katona (HUN, KTM), 75 p.; 8. Dani Heitink (NED, YAM), 64 p.; 9. Jarne Bervoets (BEL, YAM), 63 p.; 10. Brando Rispoli (ITA, TM), 54 p

### EMX65 / EMX85 European Championship North Europe zone

#### EMX Women' European Championship:

Poland hosted the first round of the NE zone and third for the Women



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First seasonal round for the EMX65 / EMX85 European Championship North Europe zone, last weekend back to the town of Oborniki for the inaugural race of the calendar together with the third round of the EMX Women' European Championship. The last time that the Polish city had an European race was in 2011: after almost 15 years, more than 100 riders faced two hot days with thrilling fights.

**EMX85**

2023 Champion Lucas Leok (Husqvarna) ruled both races with determination. The Estonian rider battled hard in qualifying with the Latvian Jekabs Hudolejs (GasGas), who unfortunately finished in the back because of a big crash. At the end of the heats the Latvian Toms Dankerts (Husqvarna) and the Estonian Aston Allas (KTM) shared the second and third position.

**EMX65**

Estonia dominated the event placing Johann Hansman (KTM) first in race 1 and Rasmus Naar (KTM) in race 2. Second position in the first heat for Ricards Jurcenko (Husqvarna) and third for Mikk Minkel Sepp (Husqvarna). Thanks to the second position in race 2 ahead of Mikke Lindstrom (Husqvarna), Hansman took the overall victory. Second overall Sepp, while third finished local rider Tymoteusz Dabrowski (Husqvarna).

**Women**

First round winner Lucy Barker (KTM) was back to win with two solid heats. Double second for Tyra Backstrom (GasGas) and double third for Barbara Aagaard Andersen (Yamaha). In 125cc class domination for Elsa Andresson-Lof (GasGas) ahead of Nellie Fransson (Yamaha) and Rosalita Eline Sund Hovind (Yamaha).

**EMX85 top three**

1. Lucas Leok, EST
2. Aston Allas, EST
3. Toms Dankerts, LAT

**EMX65 top three**

1. Johann Hansman, EST
2. Mikk Minkel Sepp, EST
3. Tymoteusz Dabrowski, POL



**EMX Women top three**

1. Lucy Barker, GBR
2. Tyra Backstrom, SWE
3. Barbara Aagaard Andersen, DEN

**EMX Women 125cc top three**

1. Elsa Andresson-Lof, SWE
2. Nellie Fransson, SWE
3. Rosalita Eline Sund Hovind, NOR

**Moto2 European Championship, ETC and Stock:**

**mixed weather conditions throw up some surprise results at the Circuito do Estoril**



Rain, sun, then a bit more rain was the order of the day at the Circuito do Estoril, with debut winners emerging from the tricky conditions. Carlos Cano (SeventyTwo ARTBOX Racing Team) doubled up in the European Talent Cup, while Mattia Casadei (Team Ciatti - Boscoscuro) and Roberto Garcia (Fantic Cardoso Racing) shared the spoils in Moto2™.

Meanwhile, in the Stock race, Adrian Rodriguez (SF Racing) became a winner in the class for the very first time.

### **Moto2**

Race 1 was all about Casadei's wet weather dance to a commanding victory as the Italian sailed to his first 25 points in the class. 12 seconds was his advantage at the chequered flag over second place Jorge Navarro (Forward EEST Racing), the experienced Spaniard picking up a podium in his first outing, as Taiga Hada (GAS UP Racing Team) returned to the rostrum for the first time since 2021 with a well-earned P3.

Race 2 saw contrasting conditions emerge as a dry race unfolded, with Garcia producing a scintillating comeback to claim a debut win from P15. Casadei didn't have an answer for the Spaniard in the afternoon but a P2 - and 45 more points - sees him take the Championship lead into Round 3. Third place went to Alberto Ferrandez (Finetwork Team), that's his second podium of the season, with Alberto Surra (Team Ciatti - Boscoscuro) crashing out in Race 2 as the Italian endures a tougher weekend at the office in Estoril.

### **ETC**

It was wet, but it was a wonderful performance from Cano in the opening European Talent Cup race of the day as the young Spaniard proved a ray of sunshine amid the miserable Estoril conditions on Sunday morning. The #71 went from pole to the top step in Portugal with almost six seconds in his back pocket as Misano victor Marco Morelli (MLav Racing) settled for second, with Fernando Bujosa (Team Estrella Galicia 0,0) coming through the long lap penalty loop and some stiff competition for the final podium place. Victory saw Cano move to within 20 points of title leader Morelli, with a second race to come.

It was a case of same outcome, different circumstances in Race 2 as Cano made it a perfect Portuguese weekend with another win, but this time it was much closer than a few hours earlier. In the dry conditions, the top 10 crossed the line 0.9s apart in a brilliant ETC encounter that saw Jesus Torres (Team Estrella Galicia 0,0) and Valentine Perrone

(Frando Racing VHC Team) stand on the rostrum for the first time in 2024. After Morelli crashed out in Race 2, Cano tops the Championship heading to Barcelona.

### Stock

In the final race of the day, drama was delivered in spades. Rodriguez came from P4 to take a maiden Stock Championship victory in a restarted race, with Iker Garcia (Yamaha GV Racing) and Francisco Ruiz (DR Andifer Team) debuting on the podium in the class.

Having seen the track dry out after morning rain, the heavens opened once more after just three laps, with polesitter and then race leader Dino Iozzo (IUM Motorsports) highsiding and hitting the deck coming out of Turn 9. The red flags waved and the race restarted, but without the South African on pole as he and teammate Declan Van Rosmalen launched from pitlane after deciding not to go out with the rest of the field. That left Rodriguez unobstructed as he got the perfect launch, though Garcia, Ruiz and Alex Millan (Team Zivimotor) all took turns in the lead.

It was a tight-knit quartet until the final lap, when Rodriguez then posted the best race lap as he stole a march to victory, with Millan the one to lose out in an entertaining podium battle. Lorenzo Dall Porta (Yamaha GV Racing), Misano winner and current Championship leader, came home in a lonely P5 to preserve his lead.