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## S2 - S4 European Championship: Youry Catherine and Marco Malone takes the title

Castelletto di Branduzzo circuit welcomed the final round of the S2 - S4 European Championship. With the almost perfect weather conditions, Sunday became a day full of tension and emotions, but with some great Supermoto racing. In the S2 class Gazza Racing rider Youry Catherine took the overall victory in Castelletto and he won the 2021 Supermoto European championship. In the S4 class the victory went to Alessandro Morosi, but the 2021 European Cup victory went the FRT2 Racing rider Marco Malone.



### S2 Race 1

At 12:20 hours the first race for the S2 class in the Supermoto European Championship took place in perfect weather conditions. At the start it was Gazza Racing rider Youry Catherine who was fastest into the first corner of the track with right behind him KTM MTR rider Romain Kaivers and championship leader Andy Buschberger. In fourth it was L30



TM Factory rider Luca Bozza, followed by Mats Fredshoe. The teammate of Bozza, Steve Bonnal had a bad start and was in last place. In front it was still Catherine who was in the lead, but Buschberger had passed Kaivers and was on his way towards the young Frenchman from Gazza Racing, Buschberger pushed hard and in lap four he overtook Catherine in one of the slower corners and the back of the track and took over first position. Kaivers was still in first but the Belgian rider couldn't keep up the speed of the others and had to settle for third place in the race. In the meantime, Steve Bonnal was back in fourth place after passing Fredshoe. Luca Bozza had an unfortunate start of the race after crashing in the second lap but the Italian TM rider was soon back behind his teammate Bonnal. In front the battle continued between Buschberger and Catherine. Lap after lap the two championship leaders were battling each other for every meter of asphalt until the last lap of the race. In the sky section Catherine placed his final attack and passed Buschberger. The Austrian rider tried to pass the Gazza rider back in the next corner but lost control and crashed. Buschberger quickly restarted his race and was still in second place but the victory was out of sight. Youry Catherine finished in first, followed by Buscherberger and the top three was completed by Romain Kaivers.

### **S2 Race 2**

In the afternoon and in very good weather conditions the last race for the S2 class started in Castelletto. At the start Gazza Racing rider Youry Catherine pushed his Honda in first position into the lefthand corner of the circuit. Behind him it was Husqvarna rider Andy Buscherberger who was followed by KTM MTR rider Romain Kaivers. Fourth place was for L30 TM Factory rider Steve Bonnal in front of his teammate Luca Bozza. Straight from the start Catherine put the speed high and but Buschberger and Kaivers followed the fast Frenchman giving him no chance to get away. Bonnal and Bozza both were not far behind and together they started their chase towards the top three. Buschberger who was in second position had to take some risks to get passed Catherine, his main rival in the championship. In the sky section it went all wrong for Buschberger and he crashed. He quickly picked up his bike but couldn't prevent that he had to restart from fifth place

which wasn't enough for the European title. In front Catherine started pushing harder but Kaivers was all over the back of the Honda trying to overtake him in every section of the circuit. In the meantime Buschberger lost his rhythm and could not come any closer to Bonnal and Bozza giving him no other choice than to settle for fifth. In the last lap, Kaivers prepared his last attack in the off-road section but Catherine didn't make any mistakes and kept the door closed making him the winner in Lombardia and more important he took the 2021 Supermoto European Championship title in front of Buschberger and Kaivers.

#### S2 Classification Top Ten

CATHERINE Youry (FRA, Honda) Pts. 50,000 (25+25); 2. KAIVERS Romain (BEL, KTM) Pts. 42,000 (20+22); 3. BONNAL Steve (FRA, TM) Pts. 38,000 (18+20); 4. BUSHBERGER Andreas (AUT, Husqvarna) Pts. 38,000 (22+16); 5. BOZZA Luca (ITA, TM) Pts. 34,000 (16+18); 6. FREDSOE Mads (DEN, KTM) Pts. 30,000 (15+15); 7. KRASNIQI Mitja (SUI, TM) Pts. 28,000 (14+14).



#### S4 Race 1

The first race of the Sunday was for the S4 class. At the start it was L30 TM Factory rider Kevin Vandi who took the hole shot in the first tight left corner of the circuit followed by Spanish rider Alex Ruiz-Gimenez and his teammate Alessandro Sanchioni. Fourth position was for FRT2 Racing rider Marco Malone who is currently leading the European Cup. The two local riders Alessandro Morosi and Filippo Farioli got stuck at inside of the first corner and were in fifth and sixth place after the first lap. In the lead Vandi was trying to get



away but the other riders were also out for first place and this was the start of an intense battle for the lead with a group of six riders only a few meters away from each other. After a few laps Morosi and Farioili had passed Malone making him sixth in the race behind his main rivals. In the fourth lap Ruiz-Gimenez tried to take over the lead in one of the long fast corners but the Spanish rider pushed too hard and crashed giving the others the opportunity to pass him. Ruiz-Gimenez could restart his race from sixth place but the top five was already out of reach. With one competitor less, the problems for Vandi were not over as Farioili, who passed Morosi, was in full attack mode. A few laps later the young Italian rider took over first position from Vandi and started to put down some serious lap times giving the others no chance to attack him. Morosi had also passed Vandi and both local riders soon got a gap towards Vandi, Sanchioni and Malone who was still in fifth. Farioili finished in first place, followed by Morosi and last the spot in the top three was for Kevin Vandi who kept his title rivals behind him. Marco Malone is still in the lead in the Cup standing with an advantage of seven points which makes the second race the winning one.

### S4 Race 2

The last race of this weekend and season for the S4 class started at 14:40 hours in sunny conditions. At the start it was L30 TM Factory rider Kevin Vandi who took the holeshot in front of Ruiz Racing rider Alex Ruiz-Gimenez and KTM MTR rider Filippo Farioili. Fourth place was for L30 TM Factory rider Alessandro Sanchioni with right behind him local rider Alessandro Morosi. European Cup leader Marco Malone started the race in sixth place. In front Vandi tried to get away but as in race one, all riders were very close together which made impossible to get away. In lap three, Ruiz-Gimenez and Farioili took over the lead from Vandi leaving him in third position. Things got worse for Vandi as also Morosi passed him in one of the fast corners and also his teammate Sanchioni was not far out. The battle for first place was on between Ruiz-Gimenez and the winner of the first race Farioili, who was out for his second win of the day. But both riders didn't count on Morosi who was on fire in race two. After Farioili passed Gimenez for the lead, the Spanish rider passed him

back the next lap, but one lap later both leaders were passed by Morosi. After this pass Morosi quickly got away for the rest and took the victory in race two and the overall victory in Castelletto. Gimenez finished in second in front of Kevin Vandi who passed Farioli after an mistake from the young Italian. Cup leader Malone had a difficult race and finished in sixth, which was just enough to take the 2021 European Cup title.

#### S4 Classification Top Ten

MOROSI Alessandro (ITA, Honda) Pts. 47 (22+25); 2. FARIOLI Filippo (ITA, KTM) Pts. 41 (25+16); 3. VANDI Kevin (ITA, TM) Pts. 40 (20+20); 4. RUIZ GIMENEZ Alex (ESP, Husqvarna) Pts. 37 (15+22); 5. SANCHIONI Alessandro (ITA, TM) Pts. 36 (18+18); 6. MALONE Marco (ITA, Honda) Pts. 31 (16+15); 7. YAHAYA Khairulamin (MAL, Husqvarna) Pts. 27 (14+13); 8. CRAVOTTO Giorgio (ITA, Honda) Pts. 23 (9+14).

### EMX 125 European Championship:

#### Van Erp secures second overall victory at Spanish round



Round five of the EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing championship has concluded in Arroyomolinos as Ivano Van Erp of Yamaha Europe EMX125 MJC went on to take the overall victory at the Spanish round of the series.



The European 125cc category delivered some interesting races for the huge crowd of Spanish fans that filled the grandstands around the intu-Xanadù Arroyomolinos circuit.

In the first EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing heat, it was Julius Mikula who got into an early lead ahead of Alexis Fueri of Fantic Factory Team Maddii, Scott Smulders of No Fear / Jumbo BT Racing Team and Karlis Alberts Reisulis of Yamaha Europe EMX125 MJC. Meanwhile the series leader Valerio Lata of MRT Racing Team KTM started in around 23<sup>rd</sup> position.

Nicolas Duhamel of Team VHR KTM Racing started well in fourth ahead of Kay Karssemakers of Husqvarna SKS Racing NL. Smulders was looking to take over the lead as Duhamel got into second.

Mikula then led Duhamle, Smulders and Edgar Canet from RFME GasGas MX Junior Team, as Van Erp got around Bobby Bruce of ASA United GasGas Racing Team for fifth. Lucas Coenen of 9MM Energy Drink Bud Racing Kawasaki also got around Bruce, as the Brit dropped down to sixth.

The action within the top 10 was extremely close, as riders traded positions and battled intensely. Meanwhile further down the field, Lata ran into some troubles just as he was getting back within the top 10 and as a result fell to 32<sup>nd</sup>.

Duhamel was another rider to crash, which allowed Canet to get all over the back wheel of Mikula and challenge the Czech rider for the lead. As Canet took over first position, Mikula came under more pressure from Van Erp who moved into second and set his sights on the win. It took three laps for Van Erp to make a pass for the lead.

Lucas Coenen picked up his pace as he started to make good passes to move up the order. The Belgian then caught up with Bruce and was able to get around him for third. It took a few laps, but Coenen also caught up with Canet and took second from the Spaniard with four laps remaining.

Van Erp went on to win the race ahead of Coenen and Canet.

In race two, it was Pablo Gutierrez who took the holeshot from Nicolo Turaglio, Lata and Smulders. Lata was keen on making up for the 18<sup>th</sup> place finish in race one as he was quick to get around Turaglio and move into second.



Bruce and Karssemakers started the race in ninth and 10<sup>th</sup>, while Sacha Coenen of 9MM Energy Drink Bud Racing Kawasaki also started well in fourth. His brother Lucas Coenen was inside the top 10 too, but later crashed and dropped way down the order.

Gutierrez continued to lead Lata by 5.153 seconds, as Smulders dropped a few positions and then later made a mistake which allowed Bruce to move up to sixth. The GasGas rider then picked up another position as Van Erp went off track. Xavier Cazal from Team VHR KTM Racing was the next right in his sights, and he was able to also pass him and get into fourth place.

As Lata took the lead, further down the order, Lucas Coenen began his comeback as he got himself into 14<sup>th</sup> place, while his brother Sacha Coenen was getting in the mix with Lata and Gutierrez, gaining ground on both riders ahead. The Kawasaki rider was on track for his first podium finish, but his day ended in a DNF.

Lata then got ahead by 4.458 seconds over Gutierrez as Bruce picked up his pace and caught up with the Spanish rider. He needed to push hard but ultimately was able to get the job done to finish the race second behind Lata who was the race winner.

With a 1-4 result, Van Erp bagged himself his second overall victory of the season, with Bruce placing second overall and Lucas Coenen securing his third consecutive podium after coming back to eighth place in the second race.

Despite not finishing on the podium, Lata still leads the championship with an 11-point advantage over Bruce. Karssemakers is third just five points behind.