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Enduro European Cup: season finale in the Netherlands



After the races in Italy, Czech Republic and Poland, the Enduro European Championship stops in the Netherlands for the fourth and last round of the season.

A thrilling season finale in Hellendoor, 140 km east of Amsterdam, in which the FIM Europe President Mr Martin de Graaff participated.

Mr Martin de Graaff, FIM Europe President

“It has been a pleasure that my country hosted the final round of the Enduro European Championship. The race started with a prologue on Thursday afternoon, while on Friday and Saturday there were 12 special tests with great challenges in all classes. The very experienced organizer has done a great job with riders and teams. This has been a particular season due to the Covid-19 travel restrictions, but the Enduro and Rally Commission worked very well during the year in order to guarantee a fully calendar and is already working on the new one”.



Day1 - Three early champions

The first champions were already crowned on day1: Pyy Juupaluoma from Finland, Thibaut Passet from France and Jaromir Romancik from the Czech Republic.

In fact, the finale of the Enduro European Championship already started on Thursday evening with a Specialtest on the deep sand motocross track of the organizing Motorclub Nijeverdal Hellendoorn (MCNH). The winner was Krystof Kouble, who is still fighting for the title in the junior class and in the overall ranking. But this test counts only as the first of eleven of day1 and there he had to give up the lead to his Italian competitor Enrico Rinaldi.

In the under 21 class with the 125 cc bikes won the 18 years old Pyy Juupaluoma.

In the large two-stroke class over 250 cc, the win went to Thibaut Passet, securing the title. At the end of the day, the Beta rider had more than half a minute over the day's runner-up Lukasz Kurowski from Poland. Passet's direct opponent in the championship, Jiri Hadek from the Czech Republic, finished third and the French's lead grew to an unassailable distance.

In the class of four-strokes over 250 cc, Jaromir Romancik finished fourth in the day's classification, directly behind his rival in the championship, Tom Elwood from England. The day's win went to Belgian Dietger Damiaens ahead of Dutchman Wesley Pittens, who already had a bit of a home advantage because they are used to the sandy surface. Thanks to 24 points of advantage Romancik gets an early success.

Day2 - Decision on the very last day

Krystof Kouble from the Czech Republic finished the season as the new champion!

He had not won by the halfway point, but was already leading because his adversaries were making life difficult for each other. Especially his biggest competitor, the Italian Enrico Rinaldi, did not manage well at all. Towards the end of the day things went a little better, but the wrong lane choice in the last extreme test cost him almost half a minute and threw him back sixth in the overall standings. This ate up his points lead and Kouble was crowned the new champion.



The only consolation for Rinaldi is that he still managed to secure the title in the Junior 2 class.

This challenge shows that the European Enduro Championship is a forge for young talents: once again a junior won the overall standing, as it has been seen again and again in the last years.

Former senior champion Arne Domeyer reported back to the championship with two special tests wins in the Netherlands. But he finished third in the championship as he missed the race in the Czech Republic: ahead of him Andrea Belotti from Italy and Martin Gottvald from the Czech Republic.

In the women's category, Justine Martel from France did not do well on either day, but two third places were enough to take her the first championship title.

Maurizio Micheluz, on the other hand, had won his eleventh championship title in the 250cc two-stroke class and also became champion of the trade teams with the Italian team "Diligenti Racing".

In the Trophy challenge won the Czech Republic ahead of Italy and the Netherlands. In the Junior Trophy France won ahead of the Netherlands and Germany.



EMX 125 European Championship and EMX 250 European Championship: Lapucci and Van Erp win the EMX rounds in Teutschenthal

Rounds three and five of the EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing and EMX250 have concluded in Teutschenthal, Germany, with Team Yamaha Europe MJC's Ivano Van Erp and Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Nicholas Lapucci taking overall victories in their respective classes. While Lapucci extended his championship lead by 32 points over SM Action Racing Team YUASA Battery's Kevin Horgmo in the EMX250 class, in the EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing category we saw a brand-new championship leader as Fantic Factory Team Maddii's Haakon Osterhagen did not take part in the races due to a broken leg he picked up in late August, which allowed MRT Racing Team KTM's Valerio Lata to take the red plate.



EMX250

The first EMX250 gate drop saw Lapucci lead the way as he took the holeshot and got himself ahead of the rest of the field from early on. Jeremy Sydow of Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing was right there in second followed by Horgmo, Camden McLellan of No Fear/Jumbo BT Racing Team and Rockstar Energy Husqvarna Factory Racing's Maxime Grau.



Horgmo then got himself into second, as Sydow dropped from second to fourth in a single lap as McLellan also went through. Horgmo was looking to keep things close and not let Lapucci run away with it, as Rick Elzinga of TBS Conversions Racing Team joined in on the battle after making some good passes on the opening laps.

Liam Everts of Liamski KTM was one of the riders to go down as he dropped down to 22nd, while Eddie Jay Wade of Team VRT Nordpesca Holland went out of the race in the early stages of the race as he rode back to pitlane.

Back with the leaders, Elzinga was able to find a way through past Horgmo on lap five as the top three remained within 2.727 seconds.

Then it was on between Lapucci and Elzinga, as the Dutchman actively searched for every advantage over the Fantic rider. He made several attempts to pass but Lapucci was quick to react, keeping his 250 2-stroke out in front.

This fight for the win carried out until the chequered flag fell, with Lapucci securing the win as Elzinga crossed the line second just 2.511 seconds behind with Horgmo third and Hutten Metaal Yamaha Racing's Andrea Bonacorsi having a great ride to finish the race fourth.

In race two, it was once again Lapucci with the holeshot ahead of Horgmo and Sydow. Elzinga once again started further down the field but was already up in fifth position by the end of the opening lap.

Tom Guyon of Team VHR KTM Racing started the race much better than the opening race where he hit the gate. This time he was up in third as Lapucci and Horgmo battled for the race win.

Elzinga was pushing to get with the leaders but ended up on the ground and dropped back down to sixth place as Everts started to chase him down.

Haakon Fredriksen of Riley Racing got himself into third after passing Guyon. Though the focus was on the leaders as just 1.2 seconds separated Lapucci and Horgmo, as the Norwegian tried his best to find a way through. The gap then came down to just 0.640 seconds, but Horgmo could do nothing about it.

Bonacorsi then got himself into fourth after taking the position from Guyon, as the Frenchman dropped further down the field. Fredriksen was then forced out of the race as he pushed his bike back to pitlane, while Elzinga was searching to get around Everts for fifth.

In the end, a mistake from Horgmo cost him the chance to keep fighting for the win as Lapucci secured a 1-1 result, with Horgmo crossing the line second and Bonacorsi finishing third.

With two race wins, Lapucci took to the top step of the podium, while Horgmo occupied the second step and Bonacorsi making his first EMX250 appearance with third overall.

As it stands, Lapucci continues to lead the championship as we head into round six in France, while Horgmo remains 32 points behind.



EMX125

In the first EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing heat it was 9mm Energy Drink Bud Racing's Sacha Coenen who led Cas Valk of Husqvarna SKS Racing NL, Van Erp and Lata as a few riders got tangled up in the first corner.

Coenen immediately stretched out his lead to a couple of seconds as Van Erp kept close in second with Lata hanging back in third and watching the battle right in front of him.



Bobby Bruce of ASA United GasGas Racing was making his way up the order as he chased Kay Karssemakers of Husqvarna SKS Racing NL.

Then there was drama at the front of the field as Coenen crashed out of the lead. He did get going again but was down in 17th position. Van Erp inherited and was quick to edge out by 3.629 seconds over Valk and Lata.

Bruce was then finally able to get around Karssemakers for sixth place, while Lata was able to get around Valk to move into second place. The Italian then started to push for the lead as he got all over the back of the Yamaha of Van Erp.

In the final few laps of the race, we saw Lata trying everything to get around Van Erp and after several failed attempts he was forced to settle for second as Van Erp took his first ever EMX125 Presented By FMF Racing race victory.

In race two, it was once again Sacha Coenen who got the holeshot and was ahead of Ferruccio Zanchi of Team Yamaha Europe MJC, Valk and Lata.

Lata then went down out of fourth and re-joined the race down in 17th position. Several laps later the Italian crashed once again and eventually finished the race in 13th.

Back with the leader, Coenen was leading Zanchi, Bruce, Van Erp, Valk and Andrea Viano. Viano was having a great ride in sixth, though not long after crashed out of the position.

Then we saw another Coenen, this time Lucas Coenen of 9mm Energy Drink Bud Racing making his way up the ranks as he started to apply the pressure onto Valk, with the Kawasaki rider eventually taking fifth place from the Husqvarna rider. He then set his sights on more, as he was looking to pass Van Erp, who was pushed onto the back of Bruce.

Meanwhile at the front of the lead Sacha Coenen had a 13 second lead over Zanchi. Zanchi then dropped several positions as Bruce moved into second. Van Erp and Coenen followed.

On lap eight we saw Lucas Coenen take third from Van Erp and then he started to push to catch Bruce. With two laps to go Sacha Coenen had a comfortable lead over Bruce who was being pushed by Lucas Coenen, but the Brit managed to hold on to the position.

Sacha Coenen finally took a race win, with Bruce second and Lucas Coenen third.

In terms of the podium, Van Erp took to the top step of the podium with a 1-4 results, while Bruce finished second with a 3-2 result with Lucas Coenen celebrating his first podium finish with third overall.

With Osterhagen not taking part in the race, Valerio Lata has taken over the EMX125 Presented by FMF Racing championship lead, with Bruce just 3 points behind him as we head into round four in France next weekend.

Sidecarcross & Quadcross of European Nations



Two amazing days for the Sidecarcross & Quadcross of European Nations in Dardon Gueugnon, France.

Quads Qualifications

Group A was leaded from start till finish from the Irish team Mark McLernon. Behind him great battle for the second-best position but at the end Great Britain finished ahead of France and Netherlands.



Group B was again a great battle with Ireland, Great Britain and France. Unfortunately, the Irish rider Justin Reid, who was in the lead, did had a technical failure in the last minutes, so British Harry Walker won the heat.

In Group C Randy Naveaux from Belgium took the holeshot and drove away. Behind him great battle for the top 10 and at the end the Norwegian rider Christopher Tveraen finished second.

Nation	Points
Great Britain	3
France	5
Belgium	6
Italy	7
Ireland	7
Norway	8
Netherlands	8
Poland	12
Latvia	15
Czech Republic	17
Denmark	19
France-B	21
Lithuania	23
Slovakia	23

1st Race Quads (A+B)

It was the Italian rider Paolo Galizzi who took the holeshot and lead the race from start to finish. Behind him Joe Maessen from the Netherlands finished second. Great fight for the other top-5 positions.



2nd Race Quads (B+C)

Under heavy rain and difficult track conditions it was a real battle against the elements to survive. The Norwegian Christopher Tveraen was absolute the strongest. Leger for France was 2 and the top-3 was completed by Sansom from Great Britain.

3th Race Quads (A+C)

Tveraen (Norway), McLernon (Ireland) and Naveaux (Belgium) started excellent in this 3rd race. McLernon lose some position and the Italian Turrini manage to get the 2nd place.

Sidecars Time Practice

Time practice was as expected a battle between the Netherlands and Belgium. The current leader in the 2021 World Championship Vanluchene /Bax had an ignition problem, but after changing all electronic components, they could manage an ultimate fast lap at the end of the session, winning ahead Belgium and France.

Nation	Time
Netherlands	4.28,091
Belgium	4.30,778
France	4.37,604
Czech Republic	4.39,762
Italy	4.41,917
Switzerland	4.41,997
France-B	4.51,874

1st Race Sidecars (A+B)

Even if a good start of the Italian crew Pozzi/Ravera, in lap 3 Vanluchene/Bax took the lead followed by Veldman/Cermak. At the end team Vanluchene and team Veldman got

penalized and so the Czech team Cerny/Chopin won ahead of Sanders/Badaire and Bax/Janssens.

2nd Race Sidecars (B+C)

Despite the rain, the track remains well prepared. The Swiss team Heinzer/Betschart took the holeshot, but after a few laps Team Veldman/Cermak took the leadership and thanks to a good gap the win too. Heinzer/Betschart finished second and Vandaele/Smeuninx third.

3th Race Sidecars (A+C)

Bax/Janssens were the fastest, getting the holeshot and drove easily to the finish. The Suisse Heinzer/Schelbert made their nation proud and finished second.

Bajas European Championship: Baja TT Capital dos Vinhos de Portugal



Second challenge of the season for the the Bajas European Championship with the well-known Baja TT Capital dos Vinhos de Portugal.



The race took place in the centre of Portugal, along the Spanish border, in an area of long plains and great wine production next to the largest water mirror on the Iberian Peninsula, the Alqueva Lake.

The race started with a Specialtest prologue 5,5 km long and continued on Saturday and Sunday with a route of 144 km per day.

The winner:

Moto - Mario Patrao, POR

Quad - Luis Pimenta, POR

SSV - Alexandre Pinto, POR